

I Spoke but you Didn't Hear Me

I Spoke, but you didn't hear me.
I swam along the reef.
My flippers reflecting sunlight.
The coral reefs danced like little rainbows.
My friends swam along with me.
But this time there were others with us.
You could see through them.
They looked like ghost bags.
My friend and others breathed them in.
It flowed through her lungs.
And she fell down.
Her pulse was gone.

I spoke, but you didn't hear me.
You were the one who dropped it on the ground.
You were the one who made my friends fall down.
You were the one who made her fall.
You were the one who killed her.

I spoke, but you didn't hear me.
Or they ignored me.
There were others who walked by.
Who could have saved my friends.
They could have picked up the plastic.
Children skipped down the beach.
Couples played in the ocean.
Splashing and playing around.

I spoke, but you didn't hear me.
Some people saw the ghost bags.
But they ignored it.
Because they thought
It wasn't theirs,
So why should they pick it up?

I spoke, but you didn't hear me.
More ghost bags joined us.
Some people screamed out saying it was plastic.
That's a weird name for something so dangerous.
I went to go talk to some of the plastic.
It smelt like food.
It felt like I should eat it.
It smelled good.

I spoke, but you didn't hear me.
But something beat me through it.

Someone bent down.
They stretched their fingers.
And they took it.
They placed it in a tall square that had a red lid.
Then I was forced out of my haze.
That thing could have killed me.
But instead you were the one who saved my life.
But if there was more people like you,
My friend would have been saved.
But instead she died.
All because of what you threw away.

Explanation:

This poem is called I spoke, but you didn't hear me it was inspired by the message of Laudato Si' and it is a desperate call to protect and care for our land, I chose to write this from the perspective of a sea turtle, because they are the animal that is most affected by pollution, especially plastic waste. Through this view I wanted to show the emotional and physical impact humans and their actions have had on wildlife.

My poem connects to the themes of the competition, because it highlights the beauty of our world. The first lines show imagery of the coral reefs and turtles having fun and swimming freely. It reflects the theme of local biodiversity, as sea turtles are native to Australian waters and they are part of our ecosystem. The main issue, plastic pollution, directly relates to the challenge of our lifestyle choices, showing how thoughtless actions like littering can cause death for the wildlife.

I also touch on the importance of our waterways, using the ocean not just as a setting, but as an environment under threat. Finally, the moment when a person chooses to remove the plastic from the water shows how an individual action for positive change can make a huge difference, even if small.

This poem is my way of giving a voice to those who can't speak for themselves. It's a strong reminder that the Earth is crying out for us to take change, just as Laudato Si' teaches us- and it's time that we listened to it.