

FISH

Hello, good morning, good evening and good **afternoon**.

Thank you for asking for my point of **view**.

As a fish I've swim, swum and **swam**
for twenty-five years in the water of this **land**.

And twenty-five more I'd like to **pursue**

If I keep on dodging a hook or **two**.

I grant my perspective may differ from **yours**,

But in these rivers and streams and along these **shores**

Plastics are permanent I'll say that to **start**,

They never go away, they just break **apart**.

Macro and micro (that's smaller than **small**)

So many pieces on beaches you don't see them at **all**.

With rivers and lakes on their shores all **around**.

We fish think they're food and just gobble them **down**.

When fish eat plastics red, green, yellow and **blue**

And then you have fish sticks for dinner — now that plastic's in **you**.

Even the medicines and make-ups you wash down the **drain**,

Seep into the water we live with and invade the food **chain**.

And don't get me started on the nets that come **free**

And drift all around as marine **debris**.

They travel over the water on the waves as they **float**,

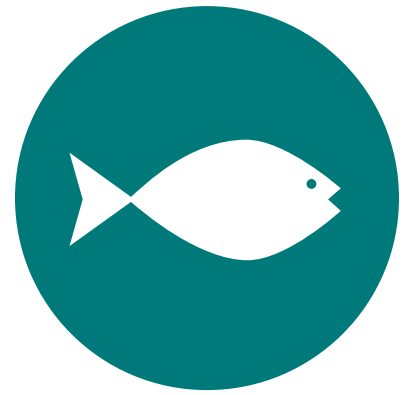
And they don't catch any fish — just a passing **boat**.

The ramifications are startling no doubt that it's **true**,

And if we want it to stop —

That stop *starts*

with **you**.



**ME
AND**



A PLAY IN POETRY BY DAVID DANIEL



**Sea
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KAYAKER

I've paddled and explored every inch of these **shores**
And seen *miles* of debris that can't be **ignored**.
Watershed rains wash debris into **lakes** —
Where we picnic and play for goodness **sake**.
All kinds of debris now float in the **water**
And keeping it clean is getting harder and **harder**.
Bottles of detergent we use to clean our **clothes**,
foam coolers and cup holders that fell out of **boats**,
Abandoned tarps and crates on the shores are **strewn**
Even a few silvery deflated birthday **balloons**.
Margarine tubs and old yogurt **cups**,
Forks and spoons and — gasp — even cigarette **butts!!**
And the bags. The bags.
O the bags that are **there**,
The shore, the trees —
Plastic bags **everywhere!**
Look, I'm sorry, I don't mean to make you **sad**
But if you love this land, you should be **mad!**
There's so much more work to be **done**.
It's the kind of work where we need most **everyone**.
There are people and groups working **diligently**
But this much work —
It takes a **community**.



**ME
AND**



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CRANE

Salutations and regards from your wing'ed watery **friends**
I'm here to provide you with all the odds and the **ends**
About the things you don't want, and things you throw **away**
Like plastic water bottles and the mask from **yesterday**.
I regret to inform you, well, all of us **really**,
That those "disposable" things, really **sincerely**,
Can stick around for twenty years or more, and cause great **strife**.
Twenty to thirty years! Why that's all of my **life**!
They don't break down they merely wait and they **wait**.
Speaking for the animals — plastic gets in our **way**!
When we sleep, we play, we hunt, we **eat**.
I've tangled and mangled my wings, feet and **beak**.
I know I'm an animal and you're a person, that's **true**,
But we all need clean water no matter the **who**.
Water's what we share with every living **thing**,
Let's put our hands together —
Or, your hands and my **wing** —
And let us promise each **other**
We will look out for the **other**.



**ME
AND**



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KID

Where do I start?

No, really, **where?**

With all this trash and these toxins

I really am **scared**.

Not scared that I'll eat it or drink it,
though I'm scared of that **too**,

But scared that the problem's so big

What can *one* kid **do**?

The world is covered in plastic

it's been found **everywhere**.

With so much trash in the world,

it's like nobody **cares**.

I'm just one kid,

what can I **do**?



**ME
AND**



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