

Unit 8: The Global Warming Myth?

The Story of Greta Thunberg

Keywords

acknowledge	advocate	alternative	dispute	extraordinary
flood	initial	prisoner	prospect	theory

Chapter 1: The Beginning of a Movement

In Sweden, a very pretty country that cares a lot about nature, there was a girl named Greta Thunberg. Greta was not like other kids her age. She cared a lot about nature and was very worried about climate change. Even when she was very little, she knew about the problems that were affecting our Earth. Many grown-ups knew about these problems too, but they didn't do much about them. Greta started to fight and become an **advocate** for the Earth when she was still in school. In class, she learned about how bad climate change is. It can cause huge **floods** and harm the places where animals and plants live. This made Greta very sad. She knew that climate change was not just a **theory** in books. It was a real problem that could harm her and everything living on Earth. Greta decided to do something. Instead of going to school, she sat in front of the parliament with a sign that read, "School Strike for Climate".

Greta's strong actions quickly got the attention of the people who make the news. Many people who write news stories came to see the brave young girl. She was trying to change things that have always been the same. Greta talked to them very clearly and with a lot of belief. She told them it was very important to act now. She said that people need to start living in **alternative**, better ways that don't hurt the Earth. Greta told everyone that we could stop the bad things from happening because of climate change if people, especially the leaders, decided to do something.

As more time passed, other students started to notice Greta sitting alone. They came from schools close by and even from far away in other countries. They saw that what she was doing was important and decided to help her. Her protest, which began with just her, grew bigger. Students from all over the world began to **acknowledge** how important Greta's protest was. They saw that it was important to do something about climate change, and they wanted to help.

Chapter 2: Spreading the Message

Greta started sitting in front of the government buildings and it affected lots of young people. They began to stand up for the Earth just like she did, asking for help for our planet. These young people who stand up for this cause were really worried about the future. They saw the chance that huge **floods**, fires, and giant storms could happen more often. Many students in different cities began to miss school on purpose to get noticed. News people started watching them. These students wanted us to use different kinds of energy that don't hurt the Earth. They wanted less CO₂ from cars and places that make things, and they wanted the leaders to care more about the Earth. They were really sure about what they needed because they understand the Earth's troubles well.

But there was also some arguing about their actions. Some people didn't think skipping school to make a point was the right way to go. They also doubted if what the young people wanted could actually work. Some said that the problem of climate change was really big and difficult, and we needed better ways to fix it than what the kids were suggesting. Even with these hard times, the push for change kept getting bigger, powered by the amazing drive of Greta and the young people who agreed with her.

Chapter 3: A Global Icon

As more people across the world listened to Greta, they realized this was a huge and important cause. It wasn't just a small thing that would go away quickly. It was a powerful push for young people to fight for their future. They didn't want to be like **prisoners**, stuck with a bad future they didn't pick. They were willing to change a lot, to tell a new kind of story, and to build a world that's good and looks after the Earth.

Greta's big trip began with just one **initial** step, not going to school for some time. It turned into a very strong push that made many people want to act on climate change. Her **extraordinary** work had an effect that spread far from where she first sat down with her sign. Greta got to travel to big meetings all over the world. There, she talked boldly, not like someone who was a **prisoner** of fear or doubt. She spoke up for big shifts to take care of our world and for using different kinds of energy that don't damage the air or water. In her speeches, Greta used real science and also talked about what she felt inside. She **advocated** for the world's leaders to understand that if we don't quickly change to **alternative** energy, the future might look really bad.

Greta's thoughts got through to many more people than just Earth-loving people. Her message spread to songs, TV, and people everywhere began to **acknowledge** how important it is to protect our world. All sorts of people, from students to politicians, began discussing ways to live without harming the Earth.

Her ideas gave a lot of hope and showed that the young can do huge things. Greta Thunberg showed it doesn't matter your age when you want to change the world. She proved that young people don't have to wait until they're adults to lead; they can start improving things right away.

Chapter 4: Opposition

Greta Thunberg's journey as a climate activist has brought her global attention. This attention has resulted in both support and criticism. As Greta speaks out about climate change, she faces challenges from people who disagree with her. Some of these people are in powerful positions, such as leaders of countries or big companies. They argue that Greta's view on how to solve climate change is not practical. They say the world can't change so quickly to stop using oil and gas. Some critics also believe that a young person like Greta should not be telling adults what to do.

Despite these challenges, Greta continues to be an **advocate**. She responds to criticism by saying that she is sharing what scientists have found about climate change. Greta believes it is important to listen to science and act to protect the Earth. She says that it is not just her opinion, but what research shows about the dangers of not acting on climate change.

Greta also faces personal attacks. Some people try to make her feel bad by making fun of her age or how she speaks. Greta has a condition called Asperger's syndrome, which means she sees the world a little differently. Some people try to use this against her. However, Greta says that Asperger's is her "superpower" because it helps her stay focused on her goal of fighting climate change.

Greta's way of dealing with criticism is to stay focused on her message. She does not spend much time responding to personal attacks. Instead, she continues to talk about the need for action to prevent more damage to our planet. Greta shows that being young does not mean you can't make a difference. She encourages other young people to learn about climate change and to speak up in their communities.

One important lesson from Greta's experience is that speaking out about big problems like climate change can be hard. You might face criticism or people might not take you seriously because of your age. But Greta's story shows that it is important to keep talking about what you believe is right. By staying focused on her message and not giving up, Greta has inspired many people around the world to take action on climate change.

Greta Thunberg's experience as a young climate activist shows both the power of speaking out and the challenges that come with it. Despite facing criticism and personal attacks, Greta remains focused on the importance of fighting climate change. Her dedication has inspired a global movement of young people who are also raising their voices for the planet. Greta's story teaches us that no matter your age, you can contribute to big changes in the world by standing up for what you believe in.

Chapter 5: Looking to the Future

As Greta Thunberg keeps on making waves, we can tell she might really change things around the world. What she began by skipping school to sit in quiet protest where the Swedish leaders work has grown a lot. Her message to help the Earth has spread far and wide.

Greta has made people **acknowledge** that we need to find new ways to fix the Earth's problems. It's not just about cutting down on greenhouse gases; it's about changing how we live to care for our world better. Not everyone agrees on the best way to do this, and there are a lot of **disputes** about it. But most people think we need to work together to improve things.

Looking to the future, the work Greta's doing gives us hope. The **prospect** of a cleaner and healthier Earth gets stronger every time someone joins in to support this cause. Greta's shown us that we can make the world better, but we have to keep going, be brave, and be open to new ideas.

Greta Thunberg's story is about more than just fighting for the environment; it's about the power of young people, the need to keep going, and how much one person can do to change things. Her story keeps encouraging us to do our part for the Earth, telling us that we're not stuck with the future as it is—we all have a part in what happens next.

Questions

1. What was Greta Thunberg's initial action to protest against climate change?
 - A) Writing a book
 - B) Sitting in front of the parliament with a sign
 - C) Starting an online campaign
 - D) Giving speeches in schools
2. What was the message on Greta's sign during her protest?
 - A) "School Strike for Climate"
 - B) "Stop Pollution Now"
 - C) "Save the Earth"
 - D) "Act Now for Our Future"
3. What impact did Greta's actions have on other students?
 - A) They were discouraged from taking action.
 - B) They joined her in acknowledging the importance of climate change.
 - C) They protested against her.
 - D) They ignored her efforts.

4. What does the word “advocate” mean in the context of Greta’s story?
 - A) To ignore
 - B) To oppose
 - C) To publicly support
 - D) To research

5. What did Greta advocate for in her speeches?
 - A) Strict laws against pollution
 - B) Banning all cars
 - C) Closing down factories
 - D) Quick change to alternative energy

6. What meaning does “prisoner” have in Greta’s story?
 - A) Being trapped in a situation
 - B) Being in actual prison
 - C) Feeling liberated
 - D) Working as a guard

7. What aspect of Greta’s work is described as “extraordinary”?
 - A) Her academic achievements
 - B) Her ability to travel
 - C) Her skills in writing
 - D) The far-reaching impact of her actions

8. What is the “prospect” mentioned in the text regarding climate change?
 - A) A new law to be passed
 - B) The likelihood of a healthier Earth
 - C) Greta’s future career
 - D) A new environmental organization

9. What was the primary setting of Greta’s initial protest?
 - A) In a school
 - B) At a climate conference
 - C) On a television show
 - D) In front of government buildings

10. What is the main theme of “The Story of Greta Thunberg”?
 - A) The importance of education
 - B) The power of young people in driving change
 - C) The challenges of political leadership
 - D) The history of environmental movements

Vocabulary Review

acknowledge: to accept or admit that something is true or that a situation exists

Example: *Students from all over the world began to **acknowledge** how important Greta’s protest was.* (Chapter 1)

advocate: supporter; to speak in support of an idea or action

Example: *Greta started to **fight** and become an **advocate** for the Earth when she was still in school.* (Chapter 1)

alternative: refers to one or more things available as another possibility or choice, often a more sustainable or less harmful option

Example: *She said that people need to start living in **alternative**, better ways that don't hurt the Earth.* (Chapter 1)

dispute: a disagreement or argument

Example: *Not everyone agrees on the best way to do this, and there are a lot of **disputes** about it.* (Chapter 5)

extraordinary: very unusual or remarkable

Example: *Her **extraordinary** work had an effect that spread far from where she first sat down with her sign.* (Chapter 3)

flood: an overflow of a large amount of water beyond its normal limits, especially over what is normally dry land

Example: *It can cause huge **floods** and harm the places where animals and plants live.* (Chapter 1)

initial: existing or occurring at the beginning

Example: *Greta's big trip began with just one **initial** step, not going to school for some time.* (Chapter 3)

prisoner: a person legally held in prison as a punishment for crimes they have committed or while awaiting trial; metaphorically, it can refer to someone trapped in a situation

Example: *They didn't want to be like **prisoners**, stuck with a bad future they didn't pick.* (Chapter 3)

prospect: the possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring

Example: *The **prospect** of a cleaner and healthier Earth gets stronger every time someone joins in to support this cause.* (Chapter 5)

theory: an idea that tries to explain something, often something we can't see

Example: *She knew that climate change was not just a **theory** in books.* (Chapter 1)