

## **A story by Charlie Sockett, age 8**

Once upon a time the best explorers in the world, Dave, George and Beatrix were on holiday in Mexico. One day Beatrix said 'lets go to the Marianas Trench'. They all agreed. When they got there, they got into a submarine and started the decent. They saw so much life. It was awesome. At 500m deep in the twilight zone they saw a plastic bag and other plastic waste. They pressed clean up mode on the submarine and it was all cleared from around them in a jiffy. At 1125m they saw a shard of light which seemed to shoot out of nowhere and then silence! They went deeper and deeper. They saw more flashes and then a world of Krakens appeared. Some looked as if they had fainted. The team looked closer and could see that the krakens had eaten tonnes of plastic. It was horrible so the team pressed clean up mode again. When they got to 3737m deep, they started seeing little venus fly trap type creatures that trapped krakens instead of flies. As they got deeper the creatures got bigger and bigger. The team managed to navigate through the traps until they got caught by a sneaky vine which attached to the back of the submarine. Beatrix quickly put the submarine into chainsaw mode and cut the trap to pieces. Dave thought it was time to go back but Beatrix and George were too excited and descended further. They were flabbergasted to see plesiosaurs teleporting around. The plesiosaurs didn't seem bothered by the submarine, but the team noticed they were teleporting away from something which was worrying. All of a sudden, a mosasaur charged the plesiosaurs right in front of them! To their horror it then turned and started charging at the submarine. Dave shouted, 'go up!' but Beatrix went down deeper instead. Dave and George both yelled at the same time 'What are you doing?'. Beatrix was a trained explorer though and knew what she was doing. As the submarine went down the pressure got too much for the mosasaur, so he gave up the chase. The team were now almost at the bottom of the trench. They couldn't see anything apart from rocks. They agreed it was time to go back. Dave was nervous. As they ascended, they saw the mosasaur but it didn't bother them this time because it knew they were too smart. Everyone was relieved but suddenly the submarine was hit from the side. It was a megalodon! Beatrix hit the extra rocket boost mode and the craft went faster. As they got higher there was too much oxygen for the megalodon and he returned to the deep. They were nearly at the top. The team couldn't wait to tell everyone about their journey into the Marianas Trench. George didn't think anyone would believe them. Beatrix wanted to do it all again and get some samples for evidence, but Dave's face looked pale. 'Lets just finish our holiday first' he said.