



Sophia 2021 - inspiring ocean care through children's stories

Goals for the year

Sophie decided to write stories that she could share with younger children. The first was called 'Ocean Tears' which she also illustrated. The story is through the eyes of a baby turtle Tiffany and a woman, Cora, who is trying to change its life. She explored various stages the ocean was experiencing. Tiffany the turtle eats microplastics. As she's struggling to breathe, her home is being destroyed and she sees other animals in their plight. Cora finally finds her and takes care of her.

The second story 'Home' uses the same perspective of an animal's point of view, this time around the idea of littering.

The third story was written for more mature readers because it involves a penguin suiciding at the end because she feels there is no hope left in the world for any new environmental change. Sophie read her stories to younger students at her school, and visited her mum's and sister's schools to read the first two stories to the children in Year 2. She complemented this by handing out leaflets about the concepts in the stories to students in Year 6 and 7.

Challenges

At first Sophia didn't really know what to do her project on, but the YEC staff helped to guide her and she went with the idea of microplastics, with other topic ideas to move onto if she wanted. At first, Sophia wasn't very motivated, but as she got into it, she found it was more fun and exciting. She realised it was a really good opportunity and totally immersed herself in the process.

Future plans

Sophia met a Mayor at an event, and decided she would like to try and get her story published. She will continue refining her stories in readiness.