

# Tina and the Green City



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Tina and the Green City is part of the Tunza Environmental Series for Children sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

“Tunza” means “to treat with care or affection” in Swahili. UNEP hopes to inspire caring for the Earth through creative literature that sparks the interest and awareness of children, their parents and teachers.

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THIS IS OUR OWN PARK  
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN!





Tina's favourite thing to do was listen to her grandmother's stories about the time before now. In Grandmother's world, people lived in green meadows and forests; children played with the birds and animals, and splashed in clear streams.

"Why wasn't I born then?" Tina asked Grandmother one night. "I want so much to live where the air's clean and flowers grow!"

Grandmother looked at Tina solemnly. Then she said, "If you want something badly enough, you can make it happen."



When morning came, Tina dashed to school. As usual, the dirty air made her throat raw. As usual, she dodged cars across the highway and hurried past burned-out buildings, filthy vacant lots, and a deserted park.



That afternoon at her after-school club, Tina announced, “I’m sick and tired of not being able to play outside! Let’s clean up the park across the street so we can use it.”

Some of the children laughed as Tina pulled on rubber gloves and grabbed a big garbage bag. But Paulina said, “I’m with you! Let’s go!” In a few hours they collected hundreds of cigarette butts. Dozens of beer and soda bottles and cans. Old shoes. Hubcaps. A broken doll.



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