

Fiction

Susanne Weber/ Susanne Göhlich

Land unter bei Samuel

SAMUEL IS SWAMPED

160 pp	Hardcover
Format	14.3 x 21.5 cm
ISBN	978-3-7478-0014-0
February 2020	EUR 10.99
Age	8 years and older

Samuel is an inventor. For every problem he finds a solution. A dinotransformer, for example, that protects him from the annoying Bela on the playground at school. But one problem remains: Kiribati. This far-flung island nation in the Pacific will soon be swallowed by the steady rise of the sea level. But couldn't the right invention solve this, too? Samuel is certain that something can be done here.

A book about environmental activism from a child's perspective.

CONTENT

It isn't easy to start at a new school, and that's especially true for nine-year-old Samuel. His sisters has been in a terrible mood ever since she started wearing braces and Samuel made a comment about them, and as a rule lets out her frustrations on her younger brother. And at recess, Bela reigns, who annoys Samuel every chance he gets. He tries to stay close to the custodian, Mr. Komischke, because then Bela doesn't dare pick on him. Komischke signs Samuel up for a self-defense class, but unfortunately Bela shows up for it too. During the class, though, Samuel notices that Bela isn't nearly as confident as he acts on the playground. Imagination and creative thinking are important for self-defense, and Samuel has those.

When Samuel uses the bathroom during class one day, he notices water running from the girls' bathroom out into the hallway. From his father, who is a climate researcher, he knows that it's important not to waste water. Samuel wants to stop the water from running, but the door is locked and his sister is stuck inside there. She doesn't know how to stop



the toilet from flushing continuously. At that moment Bela walks by. With the help of a spontaneous invention of Samuel's, the three of them together manage to solve the problem. They form a bond and the continual fighting between Samuel and his sister finally comes to an end, too. The three realize that wasting water isn't the only environmental issue at their school, and together they organize an environmental demonstration and found an environmental club.

THE AUTHOR

Susanne Weber was born in 1977 in Oldenburg, Germany. She studied German and Romance studies and was an editor for a publishing company for several years before she began to write her own children's books. With her board book *Die Eule mit der Beule* ("The Owl with a Bump") she immediately found great success. Susanne Weber lives in Berlin with her husband and their two sons.

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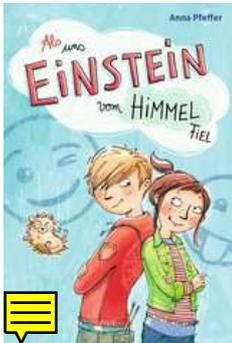
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THE ILLUSTRATOR

Susanne Göhlich was born in Jena in 1972. She was already designing posters and drawing her own stories while she studied art history. These days, Susanne Göhlich illustrates a large number of children's books and stories. In between, she draws for magazines and designs posters. Her favourite thing to do is designing new characters, and she also writes and illustrates her own picture books.

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