

TRANSLATION

Stirring up panic

John: Gross!

Michael: What happened?!?

J: Jellyfish, there are jellyfish... I felt a jellyfish, here on my shoulder, it almost went in my eye... gross!

M: Calm down... I'm not seeing any jellyfish, I checked several times before we jumped in the sea. Did you get stung?

J: No, but I definitely felt it, soft and slippery... ugh!

M: Hold on... is it that white and shiny thing over there?

J: Yes, that thing, goodness let's go, I've had enough of the sea for today, I'm sick of it!

M: Oh come on, don't be such a drama queen! Are you sure it's a jellyfish? All I'm seeing is a plastic bag...

J: ...Really?

M: Definitely, look look, it's torn and wrinkled, and it has letters printed on it...

J: But it's still gross! How annoying! It still gave me a fright. Anyways, as long as it's not a jellyfish...

M: Believe me, I'm not sure what I prefer. A week ago the southern wind brought in so much plastic with it, every colour, a whole palette.

J: This isn't even a sea anymore. It's now a hotchpotch of rubbish!

M: Just like vegetable soup. Every year it gets warmer, and every year there are more jellyfish. I don't blame you for thinking that it was a jellyfish.

J: First you make fun of me and then you say that I had a point. Great!

M: Sometimes I think, we are a damned generation. We can access the whole world through our phones - but outside of the screen, all you find is rubbish! It's our parents' fault, and their parents too.

J: I mean, I know a few cool people our age who tend to leave rubbish behind after they've had a barbecue...

M: You have a point. But at least nowadays people are more conscious. Take what happened last week for example. As far as I know, young people never used to go on strike and miss school to protest in the streets against climate change.

J: You can barely call it a strike, we had our school's blessing. But still, more people were needed. Weren't we just four people?

M: You're right. Plus two politicians who just came for media exposure...

J: Idiots!

M: I know, right. It was supposed to be our protest. In Europe however, there were large crowds in the streets, so much so that the streets had to be closed... And here we had nothing. We need to change our strategy...

J: Wow! So, leader, what should we do? What's your manifesto so you'll get my vote?

M: Forget leaders and votes! I'm not sure exactly. We need to panic, just like that Swedish girl said. We need to create a huge panic, a real one. We need to organise a huge protest, but we shouldn't involve our school. This has to be our protest.

J: Let's do it! I'll tell my cousins who live in Valletta about it too, and we'll decide on the date.

M: And I'll tell my Gozitan cousins about it. And watch how fast word will spread.

J: Panic all over Malta.

M: As it should be. Let's go!

SOURCE TEXT

Panik ta' veru

Ġanni: Jaqq, jaaqq!

Mikiel: Xi nqala'?!?

Ġ: Il-bram, hawn il-bram... Xi brama misset miegħi, hawn fuq spallti, għal ftit ma ġietx f'għajnejja... jaaaqq!

M: Ikkalma ħi... Jien ma rajtx bram ta, ħarist fuq li ħarist qabel ma nżilna. Tniggiżt?

Ġ: Le, imma ħassejtha żgur, hekk, ratba, iżżellaq... uffa!

M: Stenn... dak t'hemm, abjad ileqq?

Ġ: Ija dak, dik, ommima tlaqna, daqshekk baħar għal-lum, tqazziżt!

M: U ajma kemm int għageb! Ġert li brama dik? Jien borża tal-plastik qed nara...

Ġ: ... Veru jew?

M: Ija mela, araha, kollha tikmix, imċarrta, bl-ittri miktubin fuqha...

Ġ: U jaqq mhux xorta jaqq! Xi dwejjjaq! Xorta tatni qatgħa. Insomma, l-aqwa li mhux brama...

M: Emminni, ma nafx x'nippreferi. Il-ġimgħa l-oħra kien riħ isfel u tgħidx kemm daħal plastik, kull kulur, tavlozza sħiħa.

Ġ: Mhux baħar dan. Soppa taż-żibel sar!

M: Minestra. Kull sena jishon iktar, u kull sena jidhol iktar bram. Ma ntikx tort li ħsibtha brama jiġifieri.

Ġ: L-ewwel tidhaq bija mbagħad ittini raġun. Tajba wkoll!

M: Kultant noqgħod naħseb, aħna ġenerazzjoni mišhuta. Imbasta għandna aċċess għad-dinja kollha bil-mobile - lil hawn mill-iskrin, imbarazz biss issib! Tort tal-ġenituri tagħna, u ta' qabilhom...

Ġ: Ifhem, jien naf erba' ħelwin tamparna li għandhom ħabta jħallu ż-żibel warajhom wara xi fenkata...

M: Mitt darba u elf. Imma tal-anqas illum hawn iktar kuxjenza. Hu tal-ġimgħa l-oħra pereżempju. Safejn naf jien qatt ma kienet din li ż-żgħażaġh jagħmlu strajk u flok imorru skola, jipprotestaw fit-triq kontra t-tibdil fil-klima.

Ġ: Bilkemm tista' ssejjaħlu strajk, tal-iskola tawna permess. Xorta waħda, kien hemm bżonn ġew iktar nies. Mhux erba' qtates konna? M: Minnu wkoll. U xi żewġ politikanti li ġew għar-ritratt...

Ġ: Purċinelli!

M: Hux. Protesta tagħna kienet suppost. Fl-Ewropa imma, fit-toroq kien hemm folol kbar, tant li t-toroq għalquhom... U hawnhekk brodu. Irridu nibdlu l-istrateġija...

Ġ: Isa! X'se nagħmlu, mexxej tagħna? X'se tipproponi ħa nivvutalek?

M: U ħallik minn mexxej u mill-vot! Boqq, ma nafx eżatt. Irridu nippanikjaw, kif qalet dik l-lżvediza. Mel'ejjew noħolqu panik, panik ta' veru. Norganizzaw protesta ikbar, imma ma ngħaddux mill-iskola. Il-protesta trid tkun tagħna.

Ġ: Ejja! U navża lill-kuġini tal-Belt, u niftiehm fuq data.

M: U jien lil t'Għawdex. U ara kif il-kelma tixxerred malajr.

Ġ: Panik ma' Malta kollha.

M: U mela xiex. Tlaqna!