



Greta was not always a brave hero, famous all over the world for her determination. Before starting her mission in front of the Swedish Parliament, she was a wary, quiet, shy girl. The kind of student who doesn't speak in class and sits to one side, somewhere up the back. Nothing particularly exciting had happened in her life, or at least nothing that would make you think that one day she would convince hundreds of thousands of children to follow her example.

But environmental issues had always interested her. She was just a little girl when she first heard people

talking about them. At eight years of age, she found out that the planet's climate was changing irreversibly.

At school, her teachers often reminded the children that in order to save electricity it was important to turn off the lights every time they left a room, and that they shouldn't waste water or food. All these suggestions made Greta curious, and she asked them a simple question: "Why?"

They explained that people were changing the climate with their behaviour.

To Greta, this immediately sounded quite serious. If it was true, then we should all be really worried. You didn't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that this was a big problem. Even to her, as a little girl, it sounded horrifying. And yet, unbelievably, the grown-ups didn't seem too worried. This was the biggest worry of all!

How was it possible that none of the grown-ups she knew were doing anything to fix the problem that was staring them in the face.

Why were other, less important issues being discussed on television, in the papers and on the internet,