**Speech to the 1980s**

Imagine this: It’s a hot summer day, but the air is thick, like you’re breathing through a wet towel. You can’t escape the heat; it’s everywhere. The sky is an odd shade of yellowish-brown, like a rotten banana, and the trees are choking. You try to take a deep breath, but it stings your lungs. You look around, and the streets are empty. People are hiding indoors, waiting for the storm to pass. This isn’t a scene from a horror movie- this is the world I come from—2060.

I’m not here to scare you, though. I want to show you what could happen if we don’t change things now. The world you know today, with its busy cities, its lush forests, its beautiful rivers, its flowing oceans—they are all part of our fragile ecosystem. They are held together by choices that people make every single day. Choices you will soon be asked to make. Let me tell you about one of those choices.

When I was younger, I remember standing on a beach. The sun shone through the canopy of palm trees, but there was something wrong about the sand—it didn’t feel like it used to. It was rough and gritty, but not from the ocean. It was plastic—broken bits of plastic bags, bottles, and wrappers that had washed ashore. I picked up a plastic bottle. It was crumpled and faded from years of being tossed around in the waves. It could have been recycled. It should have been. But it wasn’t.

In 2060, we don’t see just a bottle. We see millions of them, floating in our oceans, trapped in the soil, choking the animals. A small plastic bottle, what seemed like a miniscule choice, but one that took hundreds of years to break down. That’s the problem. It wasn’t always like this. Back in the 1980s, we had the chance to change the course. We didn’t know it then, but each can, each bottle, each piece of paper we recycled was creating a thread in a tapestry. It’s hard to see it now, but every choice counts.

Picture a world where everything you throw away gets reused, where those same bottles turn into new ones instead of floating in oceans or lying around in toxic landfills. Picture an ocean where fish swim freely, not dodging plastic waste. Picture a world where the air you breathe is clean, where animals can co-exist with humans. You can make this a reality. You are not alone, look at all the people around you. Act now, before there is no world to call home.