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## Trash Island

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Trash Island is an interactive book aimed at fostering environmental awareness. I knew I wanted my project to be interactive, and through several drafts and ideas, a book was formed. I find interactive books and movies to be really engaging and memorable, and memorability was something I was really focused on for this project. I wanted to create something that would cause people to think, cause them to question what they know, and overall leave a lasting impression. I intended this book to be a call to action of sorts, spurring thought into action concerning the current state of our natural environment, and broadening interests in STEM.

This book is intended for audiences twelve and up, as it is written with the impression that readers are conscious of the current environmental status. I think that providing a source for readers to get to know their surrounding world and their impacts upon it could lead to big things in the science world. It is becoming increasingly obvious that something needs to change, we need only begin to make a small difference ourselves. By illustrating the weight that our pollution and conservation of the natural environment carry, providing a cue to action regarding the sciences is integral should we hope to have a decent future.



Figure 2. Petey the Puffin and his very many friends.

This project came to life with the help of Taney Kurth, an English professor at the University of Iowa. Taney helped edit and supported book ideas throughout the ideation process, where the book transitioned from one plot line to another. Taney and I met nearly weekly for book revisions and updates, and provided constructive feedback when I realized the initial draft of my book didn't feel right. The final draft of this book works in a non-linear fashion, wherein your decision points drive the narrative of the book. Though there is only one ending, there are several opportunities of varying length to get there.

This book was intended to be presented at a reading at the Iowa City Public Library, prior to the Coronavirus. At this current time, I had the opportunity to do an Instagram live, where 30-some of my friends were able to join me in this book reading. In the future, this book will be made available to Taney's classroom, as well as it will be made available for purchase on Amazon. Copies of Trash Island will be donated to Iowa City libraries at the first chance. I hope to continue to donate copies of my book to libraries in Minnesota, namely my hometown of Burnsville, to continue and foster thought in others. This book will also be a great talking point for me in future dates as I discuss my time spent at the University of Iowa. From this project, I learned a lot about problem solving and the issue resolution process that comes with self-publishing. I have also learned the process of creating something tangible, and navigating new ways to write and format the ideas that I have to share. This experience was invaluable and I am so glad I was given the opportunity to see it come to fruition.

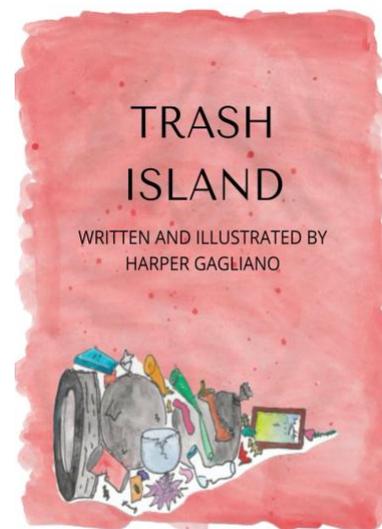


Figure 1. This is the final book cover for Trash Island.

