

Learning by Ear – Climate Change

Episode 03

Text: Victoria Averill

Editing: Johannes Beck

CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- JOSHUA (15)
- MR BENSON – JOSHUA'S FATHER (40)

Scene 2:

- JOSHUA (15)
- LORNA (16)
- MRS KIMAU – SCIENCE TEACHER & LORNA'S MOTHER (45)
- CAROL (14)

Scene 3:

- JOSHUA (15)
- LORNA (16)
- CAROL (14)
- ALEX (15)

Intro:

Welcome to Learning by Ear and Episode Three of our radio drama about climate change.

Unless the schoolchildren take action, it looks like the thermal electrical power station planned for Dhowville will go ahead. But when Josh sees his father's livelihood is being seriously affected by climate change he becomes determined to help. But where does the group start?

Find out more as we listen to Episode Three.

Scene One: on the beach by the sea

SFX ATMO: STORMY SEAS, THUNDER

1. JOSHUA: **(shouting)** Hi Dad, I'm here to help you pull
the boat ashore. Throw me the line!

2. MR BENSON: **(shouting above sound of waves)** Thanks
Josh. Be quick, the wind's really picking up.
There's a big swell coming in.

3. JOSHUA: Yup, I'm ready.

SFX: **THUD OF ROPE IN THE WATER**

Got it! I'll pull you in now.

**(lots of grunting and groaning as the boat
is heaved onto the shore)**

4. MR BENSON: **(sigh)** That was a tough night, and look, not much to show for those 12 hours sat out there. And where has this weather come from? We don't usually get these tropical storms at this time of year.

5. JOSHUA: Dad, there's hardly any fish here. What's going on?

6. MR BENSON: I'm not quite sure, Josh. There just aren't the fish anymore where I've been used to fishing for the last 10 years. They seem to be heading out to much deeper water and of course I can't get out there rowing on my own.

7. JOSHUA: Fish heading out to deeper water. Why?

- 8. MR BENSON:** I wish I knew. The guys at the fish market talk about global warming and the seas warming up. Wish I understood more but of course I didn't go to school. What I do know, is that there's something wrong with the sea, and the fish.
- 9. JOSHUA:** How come there's still fish at the market, then?
- 10. MR BENSON:** That would be from the big trawlers. They've all got large motors and can reach miles offshore to find the fish. I have to say, Josh, I'm a bit worried.
- 11. JOSHUA:** Mmm.
- 12. MR BENSON:** Anyway, let's get this lot packed away before the storm really closes in, and then you must get off to school.

SFX: BOXES BEING CLOSED

SFX: STORM BUILDING UP

Scene Two: in the street, then inside a driving car

**SFX ATMO: RAIN, CARS DRIVING PAST IN RAIN
GOING THROUGH PUDDLES**

13. JOSHUA: **(to himself)** I hate walking to school when it's
like this. If only we had enough money for a
car, or even a bus.

**SFX: CAR DRIVING PAST AND SPLASHING
THEN STOPPING**

14. JOSHUA: Oh god! Just what I needed. I am totally
drenched!

15. LORNA: Hey Josh, it's me, Lorna. Get in. We can give you a lift to school.

16. JOSHUA: **(running, breathless)** Thanks Lorna, thanks Mrs Kimau. I'm totally soaked.

SFX: **OPENING, CAR DOOR, CLOSING DOOR**

SFX ATMO: **DRIVING INSIDE CAR, WINDSCREEN
WIPERS**

17. MRS KIMAU: You've set off very early to school today, Josh.

18. JOSHUA: Well, I was helping my dad bring in his boat and the fish - not that there was many fish to speak of.

19. LORNA: Why not?

- 20. JOSHUA:** Over the last few years he's been catching fewer and fewer.
- 21. MRS KIMAU:** That sounds like another consequence of climate change, Josh. The oceans and seas are warming up. It's becoming very difficult for fishermen like your father.
- 22. JOSHUA:** But why do warmer waters mean less fish?
- 23. MRS KIMAU:** It's the cold water currents that bring in a lot of the nutrients for the fish to feed on. So when the waters get warmer, the fish go in search of the colder water and of course that means swimming to where the sea is deeper, much further away from the land.
- 24. JOSUA:** Ah, I see. And my dad can't get to the deeper waters.

25. MRS KIMAU: Scientists also blame El Niño.

26. LORNA: I've heard of El Niño. Don't people think El Niño is responsible for the freak weather we've been having and for destroying the coral reefs?

27. MRS KIMAU: That's right. El Niño is basically a change in the water current in the ocean off Latin America from cold to warm. This happens briefly every year, but sometimes the warmer currents last much longer, are more pronounced and have worldwide consequences on the weather.

28. LORNA: And that's called the El Niño effect, right?

29. MRS KIMAU: Exactly! You can see the effect in Dhowville where the warm currents have killed off much of the coral. Another reason why the fish have disappeared: they've lost their breeding habitat.

30. LORNA: And it's all thanks to us contributing to the greenhouse effect. It makes me so angry especially when I think about that power plant.

31. MRS KIMAU: True, but you know there are so many other contributing factors.

32. JOSHUA: This car we're in for starters. And what about all the planes bringing in all the tourists to go to the beach? They use a lot of kerosene and probably produce huge amounts of greenhouse gases.

33. MRS KIMAU: Planes are possibly the worst emitters of greenhouse gases. As well as producing carbon dioxide by burning jet fuel, they also emit two very toxic oxides of nitrogen as well as water vapour. And because they're flying so high – near to or even *in* the stratosphere, scientists think they cause even more damage.

34. JOSHUA: It's just wrong. Look at my dad. He's never even been on a plane, he doesn't own a car and he rarely uses the bus, but he's the one suffering due to global warming and other people's irresponsible behaviour.

35. MRS KIMAU: You're right, Josh. That's why we in Africa seem to have the most to lose from climate change. However, at the same time we have the most to gain from making an effort to look after our environment.

36. LORNA: We need to set up this task force, without further delay.

37. JOSHUA: A Climate Change Task Force? I like that idea.

38. MRS KIMAU: I'll give you the phone numbers of people to go and talk to. An environmental scientist would be a good start.

39. JOSHUA: Let's have a meeting at lunch. Ah, look! There's Carol already in the playground.

SFX: **CAR ENGINE TURNING OFF, DOORS
OPENING**

SFX ATMO: **PLAYGROUND SOUNDS**

40. CAROL: Hi guys. Look how soaked I got. Everywhere is flooded. Can you believe this rain in January?

Scene Three: School canteen

SFX ATMO: CANTEEN – STUDENTS EATING

41. LORNA: So Carol, Alex, are you up for the task force? Do you want to try and stop this power plant going ahead?

42. CAROL: Count me in. I'm fed up of seeing these companies get away with this type of behaviour.

43. LORNA: Good! Alex?

44. ALEX: I don't know. I mean, right up until last week I didn't believe in any of this climate change, stuff. And even though I can see what's happening around us and think it is true, it would mean me fighting against my dad, and that would be hard.

45. JOSHUA: It's a dilemma, Alex, because if your dad and his business partners go ahead with the power plant, he'll stand to gain financially. But then, look at my dad who is facing ruin, to a large extent because of the changing climate.

46. CAROL: Hey guys - you have to look at the bigger picture.

47. ALEX: What do you mean?

48. CAROL: It's not just about us. It's about our children and their children. If we don't start protecting the environment, there won't be much of a future for them.

49. CAROL: Exactly. We can't reverse the damage that's already been done, but we can give people accurate information and suggest ways to mitigate the climate change.

50. LORNA: Yes – you need to move around the country, right, but don't take a plane or use your own car – or go on public transport, for instance. Limit your greenhouse gas emissions.

51. ALEX: I tried to explain to the head of the National Power Board that there were alternatives to bunker fuel or diesel, but he didn't want to know.

52. JOSHUA: Of course he didn't. Environmentally friendly options aren't always the easiest or most straightforward. They take thought, time and sometimes compromise.

53. ALEX: **(sigh)** Ok, I'm in. I'm not going to be popular though.

54. LORNA: To be honest I don't think we are going to be popular with a lot of people, but that shouldn't stop us!

END OF EPISODE THREE

Outro:

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today.

This series about climate change is written by Victoria Averill.

Join us next time when our group meets up with an environmental scientist whose predictions for the climate are all doom and gloom.

And Carol is the first to experience the scare tactics of supporters of the power plant.

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Goodbye for now and thanks for listening!