

**Sabira Stahlberg**

# **Hugo's history**



*Lecti*

book studio

## 6 Modern life

One of the most important tasks of our family is to keep an eye on people. 'Why? They have nothing to do with the climate,' asks our neighbour. He does not know that people at first influenced the climate without knowing it. They did not understand that the factories and firewood they were burning created heat. The more people in the world, the more forests were burnt down.

When it gets warmer the ice melts and the sea level rises. The weather becomes unstable. Formerly the changes happened slowly, but now the weather changes quickly.

When the animals and plants started to die, our family knew that something was going on. The neighbour did not understand. He believed it was again some epidemic. 'We must contact our relatives around the world,' said the worried family. 'They may be able to explain what is happening. It surely concerns the whole Earth.' The family asked the relatives and received replies, which scared them all.

The forest was dying in some places.  
Others had no forest at all,  
because it had been cut down.  
'The trees were sent to the saw mills,' relatives said.

'Our forest has been cut down for firewood,'  
other relatives informed.  
'People need more wood than previously.'  
'The forest near us has been burnt down,  
because people dig mines into the ground,'  
some relatives said.  
'We must know more about those people,'  
said Uncle Hugh. 'We don't know everything yet.  
What are they really up to?  
I can't believe it is that bad.'  
Uncle Hugh asked even more relatives  
and they gave alarming replies.

'They are building factories here,'  
said the city relatives. 'The city has grown  
and the factories are now in the centre.  
They are letting out smoke and soot.  
We are sweating in town, because the smoke  
and soot lie like a cover over our heads.  
It is difficult to breathe.'  
'We hardly survive,' said the countryside family.  
'The weather is bad here, too.  
It is warm and the winters are mild,  
but it rains too much.'  
'We wish to move to a place,

where the weather is more stable.  
We are fed up with the temperature changes,'  
cried some relatives.  
'But the soil has started to thaw  
and the grain is growing better.  
There are lots of mice and voles,  
which live on the grain.'

'The weather is really awful with rains  
and flooding,' said one branch of the family.  
'The rivers are full of water.  
It looks as if the sea is coming closer to our house.  
We feel that the water tastes like acid.'  
'They just imagine things,' said Uncle Hugh.  
'The forest has changed,' said the family.  
'We no longer eat the same things as earlier.  
There are new trees and many animals  
have disappeared.'  
'Where shall we move?' asked Hugh's sister.  
'Nowhere,' replied the family.  
'We must stay here to collect all information  
we can find. Nobody knows how  
the factories affect the climate.  
When we have enough knowledge,  
we can make a decision what to do.'  
'Unless we starve to death before that,'  
mumbled Uncle Hugh.  
'We have managed so far,' the family said.  
We'll find a solution,  
we just need to understand what it is all about.'

**At the coast where Hugo lives,  
climate is changing.  
He and his family fulfil  
a very important task,  
and neither hurricanes nor volcanoes  
can stop them.**

**Get to know Hugo's great family  
and all crazy neighbours  
from the Ice Age until today!**

**A book for everybody who is  
interested in our environment.**



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