

# The Super Safe Environment Compound

by Elinor Cook

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A play for secondary school students focusing on Food Security - the access to healthy food and optimal nutrition for all.

## Cast

Teenager 1  
Teenager 2  
Teenager 3  
Teenager 4  
Soothing robotic voice  
Futuristic Teenager 1  
Futuristic Teenager 2  
Futuristic Teenager 3  
Futuristic Teenager 4  
Indonesian Farmer  
Indonesian Mother  
Indonesian Children (as many as you like)  
Green Teen 1  
Green Teen 2

You can increase or decrease the cast as you wish – just split the lines accordingly. So, for example, you can have more than four teenagers if you like.

The whole class can get involved, even if they don't have a speaking role: devising and performing the adverts, creating the atmosphere of the futuristic world, the destruction of the rainforests etc.

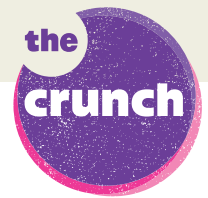
## Setting and Style

Set in the current day and then jumps into the future. We also see an Indonesian Family and their reaction to the events taking place in the play. The style lends itself to the students creating their own sound and representing things in the futuristic world through physical theatre.

## Sound and Movement

Alex Parson's original music and sound effects are provided for your use. It is clearly marked in the script where to use the music or sound cues; however, feel free to add your own spin on things or incorporate the pupils' own live sound effects.

Take a look at Movement Director Robin Guiver's movement videos for ideas and starting points.



**SFX 1: CLOCK TICKING 1.MP3**

*Four Teenagers are sitting in the dark, watching television – they peer at the audience as if it is a screen. Behind them is an ‘American Style’ fridge.*

**SFX 2: TV ADVERTS FOR JUNK FOOD, FIZZY DRINKS ETC. – USE SUGAR SUGAR SUGAR.MP3**

*Silently they pass a big bowl of sweets between one another.*

**SFX 3: THUNDER-CLAP! – USE THUNDER AND WIND.WAV**

*Movement sequence: Thunder storm. Lots of bangs, crashes and wallops. But the teenagers remain motionless, so enthralled are they by the television adverts and their bowl of sweets. The following lines are delivered in a dopey monotone*

**Teenager 1:** Raining...

**Teenager 2:** Stormy...

**Teenager 3:** Good thing we didn't leave the house today..

**Teenager 4:** Yeah...

**Teenager 1:** Yeah...

**Teenager 3:** Yeah...

**SFX4: CLUNK! - USE METAL CAN.WAV**

*A tin of baked beans is dislodged by the clamour of the storm – it falls onto Teenager 1's head. All of a sudden, things get a little strange....*

**SFX 5: CLOCK TICKING ACCELERATING, UNTIL IT'S JUST A BUZZ OF NOISE – USE CLOCKS SPEED UP.WAV  
THEN 13 CHIMES.WAV**

*Someone can play the clock physically (or it can just be a sound effect) Eventually it chimes, loudly, thirteen times. Teenager 1 opens the fridge door – They all gasp! The inside of the fridge has transformed into a lift!*

**Teenager 1:** What the...?

**Teenager 2:** Wow! Cool!

**Teenager 3:** Should we get in?

**Teenager 4:** I don't know...

**Teenager 2:** Definitely!

**Teenager 1:** What are we waiting for?

*The teenagers clamber inside – it's a bit of a squash... They bicker amongst themselves until the sound of the lift announcement interrupts them...*

**SFX 6:** Lift announcement (soothing robotic voice)

Welcome to the Super Safe Environment Compound!  
Time - 6pm  
Date - 11th July 2050

**USE ELEVATOR.WAV then adding in 'live' announcements**

**Teenager 3:** What did she just say?

**Teenager 2:** Shh. Listen...

**Lift Announcement:**

Temperature – 38 Degrees Celsius!

But you don't need to worry about that – you're in a perfect temperature controlled environment, designed to emulate the perfect Spring Days of Yore!

*Movement sequence: going down in the lift.*

**Teenager 2:** This is too weird...

**Lift:** You have arrived at your destination. Goodbye. Oh and Happy Consuming!

*The lift arrives. The doors open.*

*The teenagers gasp.*

*Music: Futuristic, electronic, metallic*

**SFX 7: A GENTLE SEASIDE BREEZE, THE LAPPING OF WATER – USE SFX 7 SEA BREEZE.WAV**

*The teenagers explore their environment with excitement. Apart from Teenager 4 who hangs back a little reluctantly.*

**Teenager 1:** Where ARE we?

**Teenager 2:** Look at this place.

**Teenager 3:** Can you feel that breeze – like we're at the seaside?!

**Teenager 2:** I can hear water.

**Teenager 4:** But it's just an illusion... We're underground.

**Teenager 1:** It smells like the best supermarket bakery in the world!

**Teenager 4:** But -

**Teenager 2:** Wait – who are they?!

*The Futuristic Teenagers arrive – on shiny travelators. No one walks unnecessarily in 2050. They are also noticeably fatter than our teenagers.*

MUSIC: TOO HOT IN 2040.MP3 or SFX TRAVELLATOR.WAV

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** What are you guys doing *walking*?!

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** That is SO last century!

**Teenager 4:** Um... What are those things?

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** These are our super-convenient travelators, obviously! Why don't you hop on? You'll exhaust yourselves moving your legs up and down like that!

**Teenager 4:** Um, it's called walking....

**Teenager 3:** (No wonder they're so chubby...!)

*Our Teenagers hop on the Travelators and whoop with excitement  
They move together on the Travelators, the Futuristic Teenagers pointing things out  
while our Teenagers laugh and exclaim and take pictures with their phones.  
Food everywhere! The teenagers grab at everything they can and start eating hungrily.*

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** Over here, you have your state of the art vertical farms.  
For vegetables and stuff, not that I really eat a lot of them. They're for the old people.

They all laugh.

**Teenager 2:** Look at all those coloured lights!

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** You can grow anything you like under those.

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** And those are the latest hot thing - Pill Popping Pop-Ups!  
For Busy People with Places to Be.

**Futuristic Teenager 4:** They've got every flavour you can imagine!

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** Happy Meal flavour!

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** Mint Chocolate ice-cream flavour!

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** Hawaiian Pizza flavour!

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** Talking of which, over there is the best street in the town: Deep Pan Avenue!

**Teenager 1:** A whole AVENUE devoted entirely to pizza?!

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** Personally I prefer Burger Boulevard.

**Teenager 3:** Wow....

**Futuristic Teenage 3:** And MY favourite is the Soda Stream – look. There it is!

**Teenager 2:** A whole river of fizzy pop!?! In the middle of a mall?!

**Teenager 3:** Life in 2050 is amazing! In fact, it's perfect!

**SFX 8: SCORCHING HEAT, SIZZLING, INSECTS BUZZING ETC –  
USE SENEGAL INSECTS AND BIRDS.WAV**

**Indonesian Mother:** Uh, excuse me?! Over here in Indonesia, it's a pretty different story...

*Action sequence: Rainforests getting razed to the ground. Trees tumbling.  
People running out of the way.*

**SFX 9: SAWS WHIRRING, TREES CRASHING TO THE GROUND - USE TREE FELLING.WAV**

**Indonesian Farmer:** There's no more land for me to work on here. I'll have to go to the city to make money.

*Action sequence: The Indonesian Farmer and his family move to the city – it's hot, sticky, crowded.  
A scene of nightmarish migration unfolds.  
The teenagers, underground, are completely oblivious to what is happening outside this protected environment.*

**Future Teenager 1:** I'm starving after all this explaining. I've probably burned, like, a zillion calories.

*A food vending machine appears the second the teenager claims they're hungry.  
The teenager presses a button and out pops a perfectly formed burger.  
Our teenagers gasp in amazement.  
He/she takes a few bites and frowns.*

**Future Teenager:** Hmm, it doesn't taste *exactly* how I like it.

*He/she discards the burger.  
Two Green-Teens appear, waving placards angrily. The Green-Teens are wearing exercise clothes and look very fit and healthy, especially compared to the Futuristic Teens.*

**Green Teen 1:** Pick that up immediately! You ordered it, you eat it!

**Green Teen 2:** Don't you realise what all this convenient food is doing to our planet?

The Futuristic Teenagers yawn at them.

**Teenager 1:** Um, who are they?

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** Oh ignore them.

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** It's the Insect Brigade.

**Teenager 2:** The who?

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** The Green Teens. They're all into saving the planet and stuff. Boring. And they eat insects.

**Green Teen 1:** Insects are sustainable!

**Futuristic Teenager 4:** Insects are DISGUSTING!

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** Yeah! Weirdos...

**Green Teen 2:** There's a price to pay when everything's this shiny and artificial, you know.

**Green Teen 1:** This mindless consumption actually costs the earth.

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** Yeah, yeah – get back to your millipede burritos!

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** Your griddled grasshoppers!

**Green Teen 1** (*to one of our teenagers*): Ask them what an Orangutan is. Go on.

**Teenager 1:** That's a weird question – why wouldn't they know what an Orangutan is?!

**Green Teen 2:** Ask them what a lark is.

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** Uh...

**Futuristic Teenager 2:** Um...

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** Uh...

**Teenager 2:** Wait – you actually *don't* know what an Orangutan is?!

**Futuristic Teenager 1:** I've managed perfectly well without Orangutans and larks,  
thank you very much.

**Green Teen 1:** That's hardly the point, is it!?

**Futuristic Teenager 3:** Who needs Orangutans?! Who needs larks?!  
We have Pill-popping Pop-Ups.

Our teenagers all start clutching their stomachs.

**Teenager 1:** Oof, I'm starting to feel a bit sick.

Movement sequence: crowded cities, infectious diseases, suffering.

**Indonesian Mother:** Since we moved to the big city, the kids just keep getting sicker and sicker.

The Indonesian children lie down in exhaustion.

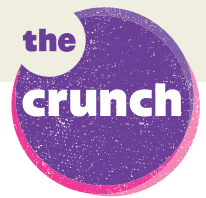
**Teenager 1:** I think I just want to go home.

**Teenager 2:** I don't like it here. Those bright lights are giving me a head-ache.

**Teenager 3:** Those pills have a horrible after-taste.

**Teenager 4:** I miss real sunlight -

**Teenager 2:** And real birdsong.



**Teenager 3:** It's all so fake and shiny and sickly.

**Teenager 1:** How could you have let this happen to the world?

**Green Teen 1:** We didn't.

**Green Teen 2:** You did.

*Silence as this sinks in.*

**SFX 10: THUNDER-CLAP - USE THUNDER AND WIND.WAV**

*Wind starts whistling past the teenagers. It gets stronger and stronger, louder and louder. They have to cling on to each other to keep their balance.*

**Futuristic 1:** Oh bother, a simulated storm.

**Futuristic 2:** They do this sometimes to aerate the passages. Such a pain.

**Futuristic 3:** Hold onto something, won't you?

**SFX 11: CLUNK! – USE METAL CAN.WAV**

*A tin of something falls onto the head of Teenager 1*

**SFX 12: CLOCK TICKING MANICALLY FAST – USE FAST CLOCKS THEN 1 CHIME.WAV**

*The teenagers are tugged away from the futuristic lair underground.*

*The clock strikes thirteen.*

*The Futuristic teenagers keep talking but it sounds distorted, under-water – like waking up from a dream.*

*The teenagers land with a bump back in front of the television.*

*Stunned silence*

**SFX 13: TELEVISION (SUGGEST THIS SFX IS PERFORMED LIVE)**

*Television: Orangutan habitats in Indonesia are under severe threat, as more and more rainforests are destroyed in order to make room for palm-oil plantations.*

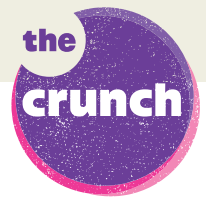
**SFX 14: THE TELEVISION IS EXTINGUISHED IN A BUZZ OF ELECTRICITY - USE TV EXTINGUISH.WAV**

**Teenager 1:** We can't let that happen to the world. We CAN'T.

They all leap up.

**Teenager 2:** I don't want to be fat and complacent and rely on a travelator to get around.

**Teenager 3:** I don't want to get my food from a machine.



**Teenager 4:** I don't want to live without fresh air, without Orangutans and birds.

**Teenager 1:** I don't want to forget about the rest of the world...

They look at the bag of sweets they were eating from earlier

**Teenager 1:** The more sweets we eat, the more sweets we want -

**Teenager 2:** And the more sweets we want, the more the earth gets destroyed to make them for us...

They look at the bag of sweets

**Teenager 4:** Anyone fancy a millipede burrito?

**Teenager 2:** Hmm, I'll settle for a vegetable curry, actually.

**Teenager 1:** Yes!

**Teenager 3:** I'll peel the vegetables.

**Teenager 2:** I'll do the rice.

**Teenager 1:** But no way am I doing the washing up!

SFX 14: A BIRD SINGING - USE BIRDSONG.WAV

*A single bird flies past.*

*They all watch it for a moment.*

**Teenager 1:** It doesn't have to be too late...

*They all nod.*

*They all shake hands.*

SMUSIC: TOO HOT IN 2050.MP3

**The End**