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by  
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by  
(Names of Subsequent Writers,  
in Order of Work Performed)

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Name (of company, if applicable)  
Address  
Phone Number

CHAZ  
THE FRIENDLY CROCODILE  
OF DUMFRIES

AN EDUCATIONAL ANIMATED SHORT FILM SCRIPT  
FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

BY

MILLER CALDWELL

NETHERHOLM

EDINBURGH RD

DUMFRIES DG1 1 JX

SCOTLAND

TEL. 01387 263998

MHCALDWELL@BTOPENWORLD.COM

EXT EDINBURGH CITY CONTEMPORARY DAY

A POLICE CAR WITH SIREN WAILING AND LIGHTS FLASHING SPEEDS THROUGH THE CITY AND TURNS INTO POLICE HQ LOTHIAN AND BORDERS. A VIEW OF THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS GOES CLOSE ON TO THE TOP FLOOR WINDOW, OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE.

INT POLICE HQ LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE DAY

CHIEF CONSTABLE DAVID STRANG SITS AT HIS DESK AND INTRODUCES THE STORY.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF  
CHAZ, THE FRIENDLY CROCODILE.  
I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THE SUBJECT  
OF VANDALISM, GRAFFITI AND LITTER  
BEING ADDRESSED IN SUCH AN  
IMAGINATIVE WAY, THROUGH  
ANIMATION.

CUT TO:

SCENE OF GRAFFITI ON TOWN WALL AND RUBBISH LYING AROUND.

DAVID STRANG (V/O)

WHILE WE KNOW THAT THE VAST  
MAJORITY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE ARE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE,  
THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY WHO  
SPOIL WHERE THEY LIVE BY DAMAGING  
PROPERTY OR LEAVING LITTER.

CUT TO: TOWN HIGH STREET DAY

OLD MAN PICKS UP CAN AND PLACES IT IN A BIN. YOUNG SCHOOLBOY DOES THE SAME. A YOUNG WOMAN WITH A PRAM STOPS TO PLACE A PLASTIC BAG IN THE BIN.

DAVID STRANG  
THE MESSAGE OF THIS CHARMING  
STORY STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF  
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR  
ENVIRONMENT.  
EVERYONE, HOWEVER YOUNG CAN MAKE  
A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THEIR OWN  
TOWN, VILLAGE OR CITY. (CLOSE UP)  
WE WANT PEOPLE TO BE PROUD OF  
WHERE THEY LIVE.

EXT WEST AFRICAN NIGERIAN SWAMP DAY

AT A SWAMP POOL IN CENTRAL NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA, LIVES A FAMILY OF CROCODILES. ALL ARE FROLICKING IN A POOL SURROUNDED BY LUSCIOUS VEGETATION, EXCEPT A YOUNG CROCODILE CALLED CHAZ WHO SITS ALONE, SAD AND OSTRACIZED.

EXT SWAMP NIGERIA DAY

CUT TO: BRANCH OVERHANGING THE POND GIVING CHAZ SOME SHADE. A SWALLOW ALIGHTS ABOVE CHAZ AND SEES HIS SADNESS.

SWALLOW

I COME FROM THE OLD RIVER NITH  
WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY  
DOON HAMERS, WHO LIVE WITH THEIR  
KIN AND THEIR KITH.

THE CROCODILE STIRS. SEES THE BIRD ABOVE HIM AND LISTENS INTENTLY.

CHAZ

BUT IS THERE A RIVER QUITE WIDE  
AND QUITE DEEP, WITH PLENTY OF  
FISH FOR MY SUPPER AND LONG GRASS  
FOR MY SLEEP?

SWALLOW

THE PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY BUT THEIR  
TOWN IS QUITE DIRTY  
THEY CALL THEMSELVES DOON HAMERS  
AND THEY ALL LIKE TO PARTY  
BUT THE RIVER NITH IS WIDE WITH  
MUCH FISH  
YOU WILL BECOME VERY POPULAR,  
THAT IS MY WISH.

CHAZ SMILES AND THINKS. HE LOOKS BACK AT THE FROLICKING CROCODILES IGNORING HIM. HE LOOKS UP AT THE SWALLOW.

CHAZ

THEN DUMFRIES IS WHERE I MUST  
STAY  
FOR FRIENDS ARE NEEDED FOR US ALL  
TO PLAY

(MORE)

(CONT'D)  
NO MATTER HOW NEAR OR FAR, FAR  
AWAY

EXT CHAZ SWIMS FROM THE RIVER IN NIGERIA TO THE OPEN SEA  
DAY.

EXT THE ATLANTIC OCEAN DAY

HE PASSES ROUND WEST AFRICA (MAP) THEN SEES FISHING BOATS  
OFF THE PORTUGUESE COAST.

EXT THE ATLANTIC DAY

HE SWIMS ON AND SEES SPANISH DANCERS ON A CLIFF TOP.

EXT IRISH CHANNEL DAY

THE WATER BECOMES COLDER AND COLDER. (MAP) CHAZ SHIVERS.  
HE SWIMS UP THE IRISH SEA AND INTO THE SOLWAY ESTUARY  
(MAP).

EXT SOLWAY COAST DAY

HE ARRIVES AT THE NITH ESTUARY AND SWIMS PAST FIELDS TO THE  
TOWN OF DUMFRIES.

EXT DUMFRIES DEVORGILLA BRIDGE DAY

HE SETTLES UNDER THE TOWN'S DEVORGILLA BRIDGE. AS HE  
RESTS, A SMALL BOY, MURRAY AGED 5, ARRIVES AT THE  
RIVERBANK. MURRAY APPROACHES THE CROCODILE CAREFULLY.

MURRAY  
 HELLO MY NAME IS MURRAY  
 I HOPE YOU REALLY WON'T BITE  
 IF YOU DON'T, THEN I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND  
 AND I'LL MEET YOU HERE EACH NIGHT.

CHAZ  
 I WAS BORN WITH NO TEETH  
 YOU'VE NO NEED TO WORRY  
 SO I ASSURE YOU, YOU'RE SAFE  
 NOW YOU'RE MY FRIEND, MURRAY.

MURRAY  
 YOU COULD BE USEFUL TO US AND DO A FEW JOBS  
 LIKE CLEAN THE RIVER OF RUBBISH OF PRAMS AND  
 MOBILES AND KNOBS

CHAZ NODS HIS AGREEMENT

EXT River Nit CENTRE OF TOWN DAY

CHAZ SWIMS INTO THE TOWN CENTRE CLEARING THE RIVERBED OF  
 PRAMS, MOBILES, BICYCLES, SHOPPING TROLLEYS, A CAR NUMBER  
 PLATE, A SKIPPING ROPE AND A FOOTBALL. HE SCOOPS THE  
 ARTICLES ONTO THE RIVERBANK.

EXT RIVER BANK DAY

POLICE COLLECT THE RECOVERED GOODS AND ARE DELIGHTED TO  
 HAND THEM OVER TO HAPPY OWNERS. A POLICEMAN APPROACHES CHAZ  
 AND POINTS TO THE CAUL.

POLICEMAN  
 OUR WINTER FLOODING IS A PROBLEM  
 AS YET IT IS UNSOLVED  
 WHY NOT DREDGE THE RIVER BED?  
 I'M SURE YOU COULD BE INVOLVED

EXT BELOW THE CAUL ON THE NITH AT DUMFRIES DAY

CHAZ SWIMS OVER THE CAUL AND STARTS TO DREDGE THE RIVERBED  
 ON THE OTHER SIDE. GREAT BURSTS OF BROWN MUD COME UP AND  
 ARE SWEEPED DOWN THE RIVER OUT TO SEA.

EXT TOWN CENTRE RIVER BANK DAY

ON THE BANKS, THE TOWN'S COUNCILLORS CHEER AS THEY SEE THEIR FLOODING PROBLEM SOLVED.

EXT TOWN CENTRE AT NIGHT

THE STREETS ARE LITTER SREWN. BOTTLES AND CANS EVERYWHERE AND PATCHES OF DRIED CHEWING GUM SPLATTER THE PAVEMENTS.

NARRATOR (V/0)

EARLY EVERY MORNING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF TWO AND THREE, CHAZ LEAVES THE RIVER AND THE TOWN HE GOES TO SEE. HIS SHARP CLAWS SCRAPS THE STREETS, CHEWING GUM WILL VANISH AND WITH HIS TAIL HE WIPES AWAY, GRAFFITI WORDS TO BANISH.

CHAZ IS SEEN WALKING DOWN THE HIGH STREET, SCRAPPING CHEWING GUM FROM THE STREET, WIPING GRAFFITI FROM A WALL WITH HIS TAIL AND SCOOPING UP RUBBISH INTO THE BINS.

EXT DEVORGILLA BRIDGE DAY

MURRAY

THE TOWN IS LOOKING MUCH BETTER  
BUT THERE'S MUCH MORE THAT YOU  
CAN DO  
FARMERS UP THE RIVER HAVE SOME  
PROBLEMS FOR YOU TOO

EXT UPPER RIVER NITH FARMING LAND DAY

CHAZ SWIMS ALONG THE RIVER

NARRATOR(V/0)

AT LAMING TIME EACH YEAR, FARMERS  
COUNT THEIR DWINDLING FLOCKS  
EXPOSURE TO RAIN AND FROST CLAIM  
SOME, FOR OTHERS, HUNGRY HAWKS.

CHAZ FINDS THREE LAMBS IN THE WATER AND SAFELY RETURNS THEM WITH HIS SNOUT, TO THEW FIELD. HE THEN REPAIRS THE FENCE BY RAISING THE BARBED WIRE.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
 SOME HAVE FALLEN INTO THE RIVER  
 GOING THROUGH A FRAGILE FENCE BUT  
 CHAZ SCOOPS UP MANY, THUS SAVING  
 FARMERS PENCE.

EXT UNDER DEVORGILLA BRIDGE DAY

CHAZ LIES ON THE RIVER BANK WATCHING BOYS AND GIRLS ROWING  
 IN COXLESS PAIRS UP AND DOWN THE RIVER. HE IS VERY SAD.  
 TEARS FALL FROM HIS EYES. MURRAY ARRIVES TO SEE HIM UPSET.

CHAZ  
 AT LAST I FEAR, I KNOW MY TEETH  
 INDEED ARE NOW GROWING.  
 THIS PUTS AT RISK THE BOYS AND  
 GIRLS WHO USE THE NITH FOR  
 ROWING.

MURRAY  
 THEN HOME IS WHERE YOU NOW SHOULD  
 GO TO SPEND YOUR FUTURE DAYS.  
 BUT THANKS TO YOU DEAR CHAZ,  
 WE'VE LEARNED TO MEND OUR WAYS.

EXT NIGERIAN SWAMP DAY

NARRATOR (V/O)  
 CHAZ RETURNS AT LAST TO THE NIGER  
 AND HE'S HAPPY TO GREET ALL HE  
 MEETS  
 HE SPEAKS OF HIS TIME IN COLD  
 SCOTLAND AND THE DAYS HE CLEANED  
 UP THE STREETS.

THERE IS MUCH HAPPINESS BACK AT THE SWAMP AS THEY SEE CHAZ  
 RETURN FROM HIS TRAVELS AND HE IS MADE THE CENTRE OF THEIR  
 ATTENTION IN THEIR NATIVE POND.

EXT DUMFRIES TOWN CENTRE DAY



MURRAY IS STANDING BEFORE A LARGE NUMBER OF PUPILS FROM THE LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND POLICEMEN.

MURRAY  
THIS TALE IS MORE THAN A STORY  
IT'S A LESSON TO LEARN THIS DAY  
KEEP YOUR TOWN AND RIVERBEDS TIDY  
IT'S GOOD THAT THEY LOOK THIS WAY.

THE CROWD CHEER.

MURRAY CONT'D  
(CLOSE ON)

FOR IF YOU DON'T, REMEMBER  
THEN GUESS WHAT YOU WILL FIND? PAUSE.  
A CROC WITH LONG SHARP TEETH WILL HAVE YOUR  
NAME IN MIND.

CHAZ  
CLOSE UP

A FULL FRONT SHOT OF CHAZ. CHAZ THEN OPENS HIS MOUTH REVEALING ROWS OF SHARP WHITE TEETH AND A BRIGHT RED TONGUE. HE OPENS HIS MOUTH WIDE. HE CLOSES HIS MOUTH WITH A LOUD CRUNCH. THERE IS A SCREAM OF A CHILD.

INT EDUCATION HEAD OFFICES EDINBURGH RD DUMFRIES

WE SEE THE DOOR PLATE OF THE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION, THE DOOR OPENS. MR FRASER SANDERSON IS AT HIS DESK.

FRASER SANDERSON  
WE ALL RECOGNISE THE CONCERNS  
WHICH SOCIETY IN GENERAL HOLDS  
ABOUT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN ITS  
VARIOUS FORMS - VANDALISM,  
LITTER, EXCESSIVE NOISE,  
INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOUR. WE ALSO  
APPRECIATE THE NEED TO INSTILL IN  
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, AT AS EARLY A  
STAGE AS POSSIBLE, A SET OF  
VALUES WHICH INCLUDE RESPECT FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR OTHER  
PEOPLE.

FRASER STANDS UP AND WALKS ROUND THE DESK. HE PICKS UP A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL POEM. HE SHOWS IT TO CAMERA.

CONT'D

THE INNOVATIVE APPROACH TAKEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS POEM GIVES ADDED WEIGHT TO THE MESSAGE WITHIN IN AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS WILL BECOME VERY EFFECTIVE IN THE CLASSROOM.

CLOSE ON

ARE YOU NOW READY TO MAKE THE PROMISE?

INT THE PROMISE DOCUMENT

WE SEE A CERTIFICATE WITH A CHILD'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED. THE TOWN IS ALSO COMPLETED. WE SLOWLY REVEAL EACH LINE AND SEE THE SIGNATURES OF A PUPIL, PARENT, CLASS TEACHER, MURRAY AND FINALLY CHAZ. ITS A SIX WAY AGREEMENT.

YOUR PROMISE TO CHAZ

THE FRIENDLY CROCODILE

I, .....

WHO LIVE AT .....

..... \*

..... \*

PROMISE TO KEEP MY PLAYGROUND, THE BUSES, THE STREETS OF  
OUR TOWN .....

AND THE TOWNS I VISIT, CLEAN. I WILL NOT DROP LITTER.  
INSTEAD I WILL PLACE LITTER IN A BIN AND IF THERE IS NO BIN  
HANDY, I WILL TAKE THE LITTER HOME.

I ALSO PROMISE NOT TO WRITE ON WALLS, SEATS, BUS SHELTERS  
OR ANY PUBLIC PLACE. NO GRAFFITI AT ALL.

I REALIZE THAT IT IS WRONG TO SWEAR, NO MATTER HOW MUCH  
SWEARING I HEAR.

I WILL NOT SWEAR WHEN I SPEAK AND WILL NEVER SWEAR AT  
ANYONE.

I PROMISE NOT BE A BULLY AND I WILL REPORT ANY BULLYING  
THAT I SEE TO MY TEACHER, A POLICEMAN, A PARENT OR ANY  
OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE UNITED  
KINGDOM WILL JOIN ME IN MAKING THIS PROMISE AND AS A  
RESULT, WE WILL HAVE CLEANER TOWNS AND HAPPIER PEOPLE IN  
OUR COUNTRY.

SIGNED BY PUPIL.....

SIGNED BY PARENT .....

SIGNED BY CLASS TEACHER .....

SIGNED BY MURRAY .....

Scratched by CHAZ.....

FADE OUT