



GO GREEN!

Join the green team and learn how to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

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illustrated by
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Contents

The Birthday Party	4
What Happens to Our Trash?	6
Go Green in the Countryside	8
Love Our Planet	10
Time to Go Green!	12
Reducing Carbon Emissions	14
Climate Change	16
Why Should We Reduce?	18
Why Do We Reuse?	20
Reuse in Action	22
Why Do We Recycle?	24
The Recycle Cycle	26
Second Chance at Life	28
Make It Green	30
Eco Action Outside	32
The School Lunch Challenge	34
The Green Team at Home	36
Energy Matters!	38
Water Warriors	40
Transportation and Pollution	42
The Big Eco Festival	44
Glossary/Find Out More	46
Index	48

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The Birthday Party

The children have had a great time at Anjali's birthday party. They played party games like scavenger hunts and musical chairs, and there were lots of great prizes. Afterward they had a water balloon fight.

The party food was delicious, with plenty of treats for everyone. And Anjali loved unwrapping all her presents. All in all, it was a lot of fun but now there's a HUGE mess! And that has made the children stop and think . . .



What a mess!

*Great present,
but so much
trash!*

▲ Fred the Ted

This teddy bear is a great gift today, but what will happen to him in the future? Follow his journey through the book.

▲ Plastic toys ▲

Plastic toys cannot be recycled and usually end up in landfills or polluting our oceans. Cheap plastic party favors are usually not made from the kind of plastic that will ever biodegrade.



*We left
a lot of food.*



*What happens to
all the garbage?*

▲ Balloons

Balloons can be great fun at a party, but it's important to never let them go outside. They eventually return to land or into the sea. Many animals, birds, and fish mistake them for food and this can kill them. Most balloons are not easily biodegradable and last for years.



▲ Food waste ▲

Did you know that about one third of food that is produced in the world for humans to eat is wasted? All that food we throw away could be used to feed other people. Also, if we didn't waste so much, we could cut back on the resources we need to produce our food—such as energy, water, and land.

What Happens to Our Trash?

Anjali's party was just the beginning for these children. Next, they wanted to know what happened to those sacks filled with food and paper plates. Noah told them about a book from school that said our trash and garbage are taken to landfill sites. These are big holes in the ground where our waste is dumped.

TAKE ACTION!

Go green in your own home! Sort all your waste before it goes into the trash. If your family members do not recycle, introduce the idea to them.

Incinerator ▲

The alternative to putting trash in landfill sites is to burn or incinerate our waste. Energy or electricity can be generated from the heat that is created.

STOP AND THINK!

Once a landfill site is full, it is covered with a clay or plastic liner followed by a layer of soil. Grass is often planted on top to make it look good. However, underground all kinds of things are happening. As food waste decomposes, it creates methane gas. This can be extracted and burned to create energy. Other gases and toxins that are made can be harmful as they leak into the surrounding air, water, and soil.

Many households mix household waste with recyclable materials. All of this counts as household waste and it will go to landfills or be incinerated.

Trash bags

Some plastic trash bags can take up to 1,000 years to degrade. We can buy degradable trash bags that break down fully and harmlessly.

Landfills

- ♻️ Some food will degrade in weeks, but plastic and glass may be in landfill sites for thousands of years.
- ♻️ Aluminum cans take 80 to 200 years to break down in landfills, but these could be recycled.
- ♻️ Disposable diapers can take 250 to 500 years to decompose.
- ♻️ Paper will take just 2 to 6 weeks to decompose, but it could easily be recycled.
- ♻️ An orange will decompose within 6 months.
- ♻️ A banana peel will be gone in a month.