

April 2012

click



opening windows for young minds

**Reduce,
reuse,
recycle**



From the publisher of Cricket®
www.cricketmag.com

Click & the Kids

story and art by Meg McLean



Amy



Martin



Click



Liz
(the sitter)



a worm

Mmm. Great picnic,
Amy! These are
really good carrots.

Thanks. They're
from our vegetable
garden. Would you
like to see it?





See, here are the carrots, and those are the beans. The corn is . . .

Oh NO! Somebody dumped some garbage over here. Look—apple cores, peanut shells, grass. . . . Hey, that looks like the graham cracker I didn't eat at snack time!

Now that's what I call a picnic!



Oh, don't worry. That's supposed to be there. It's for the garden.

You put garbage in your garden?



No. This is compost, not garbage!



My mom says
it's like food for
the garden. The
plants love it.
Look how big and
green they are!

What's compost?



Did you
help make
it, Amy?

Yes. First we made this wire
holder. Then we put in layers
of stuff like leaves and grass
and pine needles and leftovers
from the kitchen. We add
things every day.

leftovers



grass



pine needles



leftovers



grass



leaves





So, whatever comes out of the garden that you don't need—like leaves and old vegetables and my carrot top—can go right back into the garden to help it grow!

Right! Compost is a way of recycling.



Now let's go back and finish our picnic.

Hmm. There's more than vegetables in this garden.



The Shocking Truth about ENERGY

by Loreen Leedy



Hi there! My name is Erg,
and I'm pure **energy**!

Everybody loves a powerhouse like me. In fact, people want more and more **energy** every day. That's because I make everything happen.

I'm a big fan
of Erg's!



I can't do a
thing without
Erg!



Energy
can be

HEAT

or

LIGHT

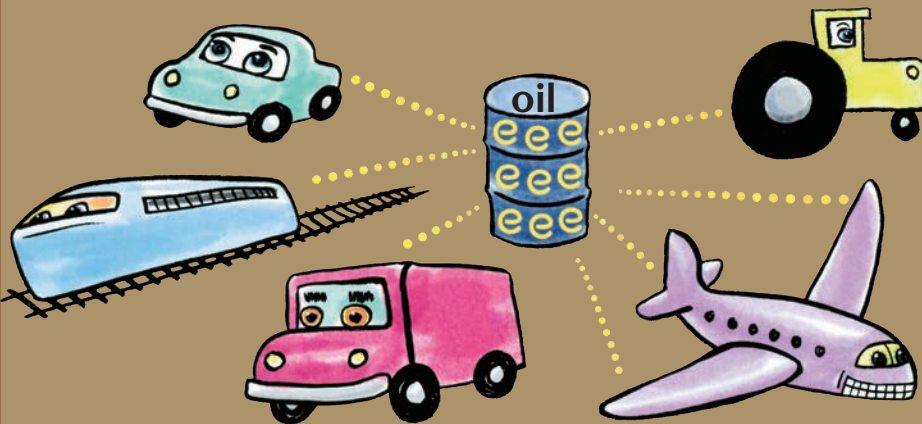
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SOUND

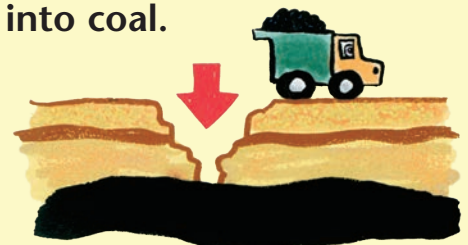
Energy can change as
fast as lightning!



Most vehicles run on fuels made from oil.



Trees and plants were
buried and slowly turned
into coal.

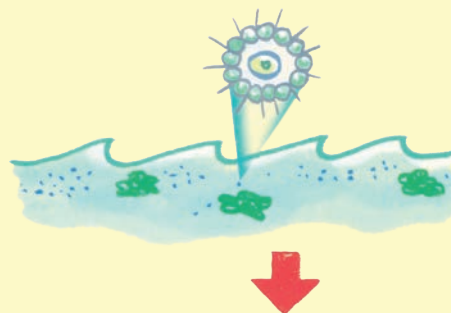




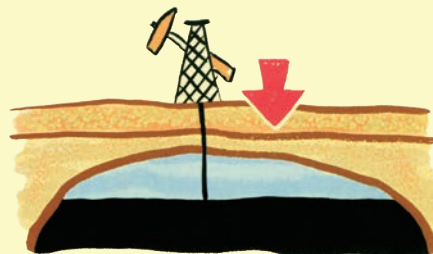
You can't create or destroy **energy**, but you can change it to another form.

Fuel is stored **energy** that can be burned. Fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas, and coal, are jam-packed full of **energy**.

Fossil fuels come from prehistoric plants and animals that lived hundreds of millions of years ago.



Algae and plankton living in the ocean became oil and natural gas.



It takes a long time for fossil fuels to form!



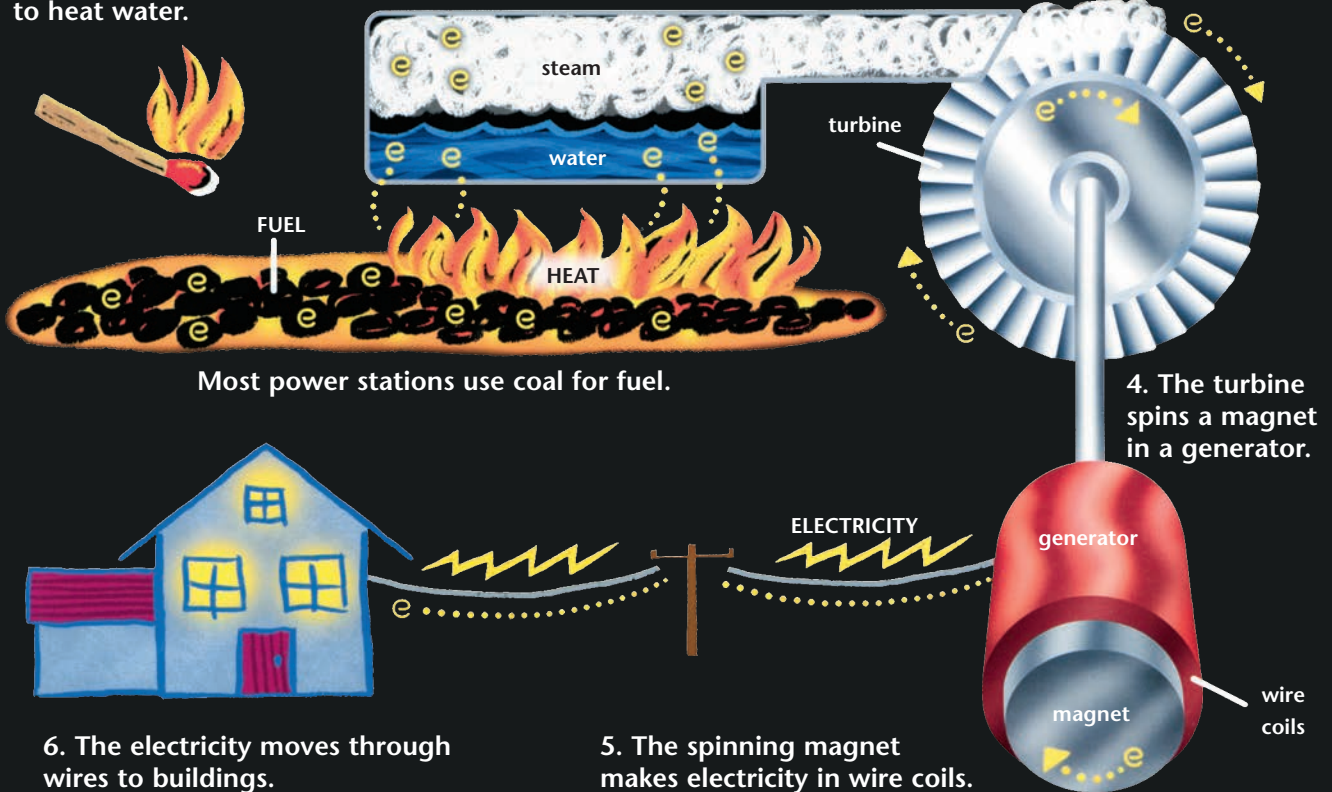
People dig or drill fossil fuels out of the ground and burn them to make electricity.

Here's how power plants generate electricity.

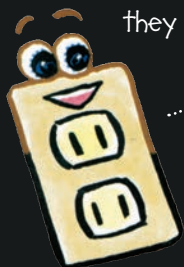
1. Fuel is burned to heat water.

2. Hot water becomes steam.

3. Steam makes a turbine spin.



When someone needs power, they plug into me!



People use electricity:

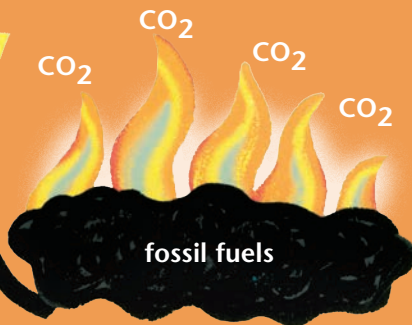


The **energy** changes from fuel to heat to motion to electricity.

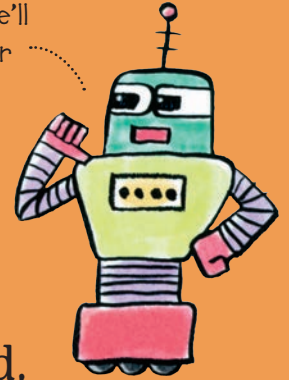
And to keep all of us running!



Fossil fuels contain a great deal of **energy**. But they cause pollution. And they are not renewable.



Sooner or later fossil fuels will run out, and we'll have to switch to other forms of power.



There's another problem with fossil fuels. When they are burned, they release carbon dioxide (CO_2).

The extra carbon dioxide in the air traps more of the sun's heat, which raises Earth's temperature.

A warmer Earth means:



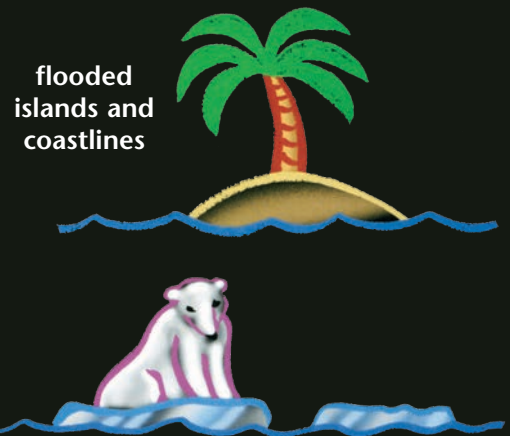
a longer dry season
with more wildfires



stronger storms and
more heat waves



crop failures




flooded
islands and
coastlines

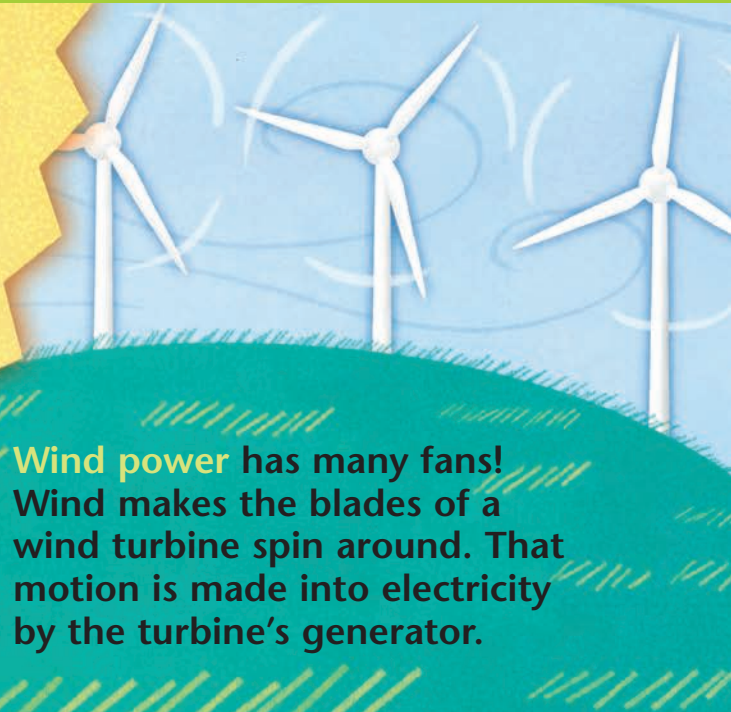
melting ice at the poles

Many people want to stop warming up Earth, so they want to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

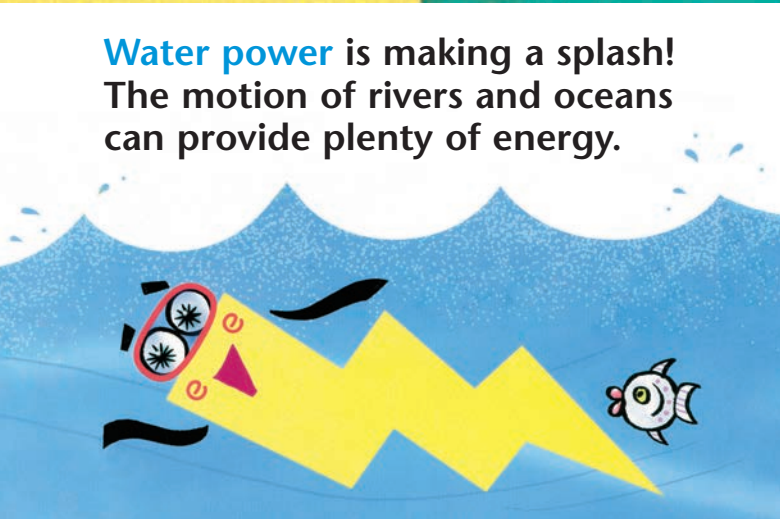
Here are some cleaner, renewable forms of energy we could use instead.



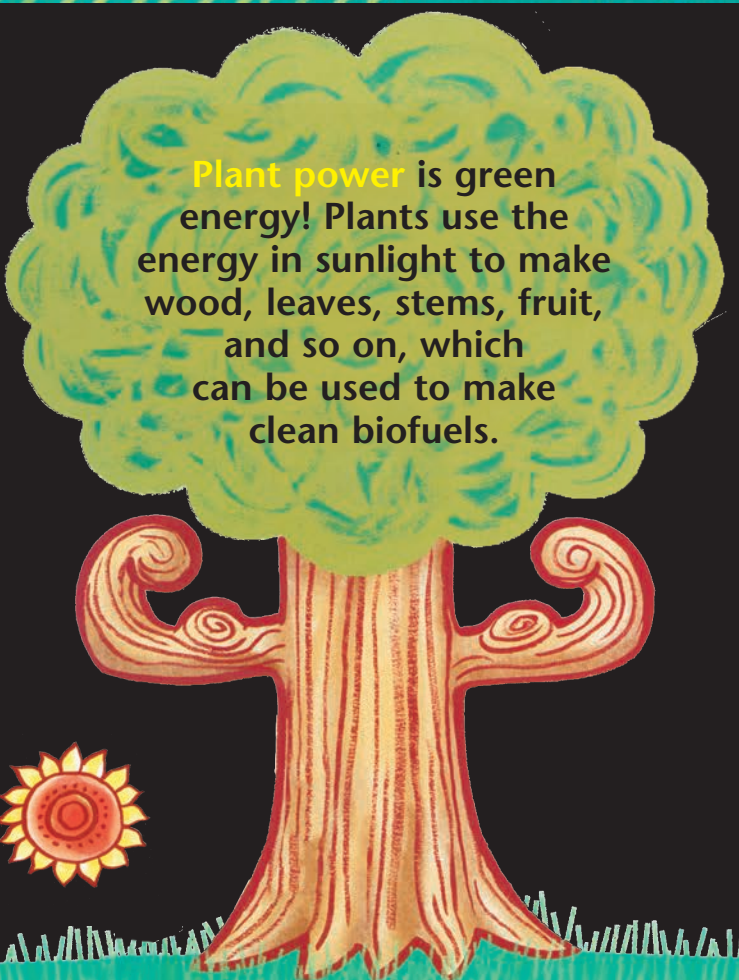
Solar power is a bright idea! We can turn light and heat from the sun into electricity.



Wind power has many fans! Wind makes the blades of a wind turbine spin around. That motion is made into electricity by the turbine's generator.



Water power is making a splash! The motion of rivers and oceans can provide plenty of energy.

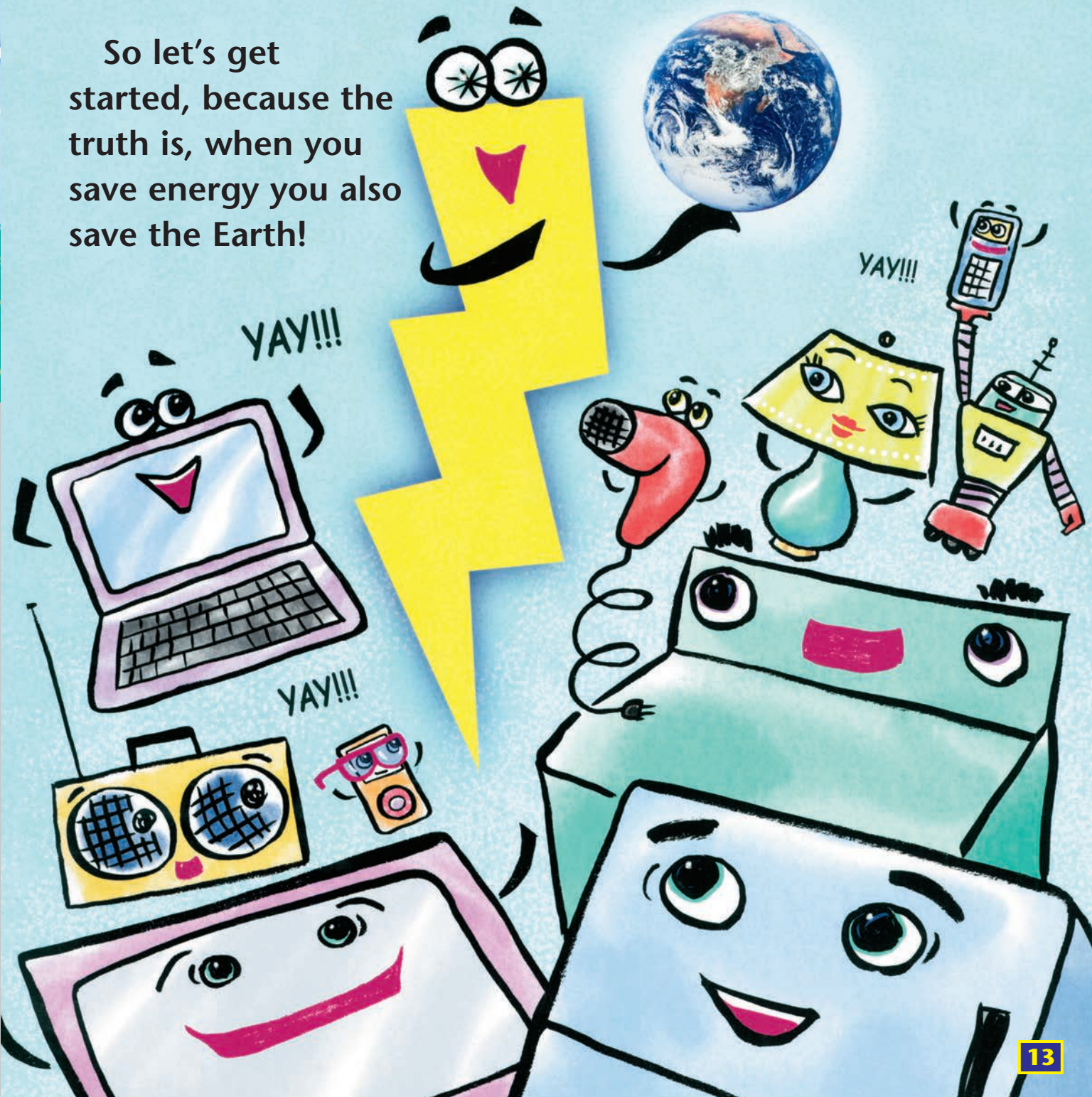


Plant power is green energy! Plants use the energy in sunlight to make wood, leaves, stems, fruit, and so on, which can be used to make clean biofuels.



We can also reduce the total amount of energy we use. Saving energy saves money too. Energy costs money, and nobody wants to throw money away!

So let's get started, because the truth is, when you save energy you also save the Earth!



Which house uses less energy?

art by Claude Martinot





Go to www.clickmagkids.com/trythis to find out how you can save energy in your home.



Yo Wants to Know

by Lea and Alan Daniel

“Our Red Wiggler worms just got delivered,” says Grandpa.

“So that’s why you are working on their new home,” says Yo.



I've already drilled holes in the bin," says Grandpa, "and cut cardboard to go in the bottom."

"My book says to put in lots of shredded paper and some dirt," says Yo.





“Next comes water,”
says Grandpa.



“And
mixing
everything
up,” says Yo.

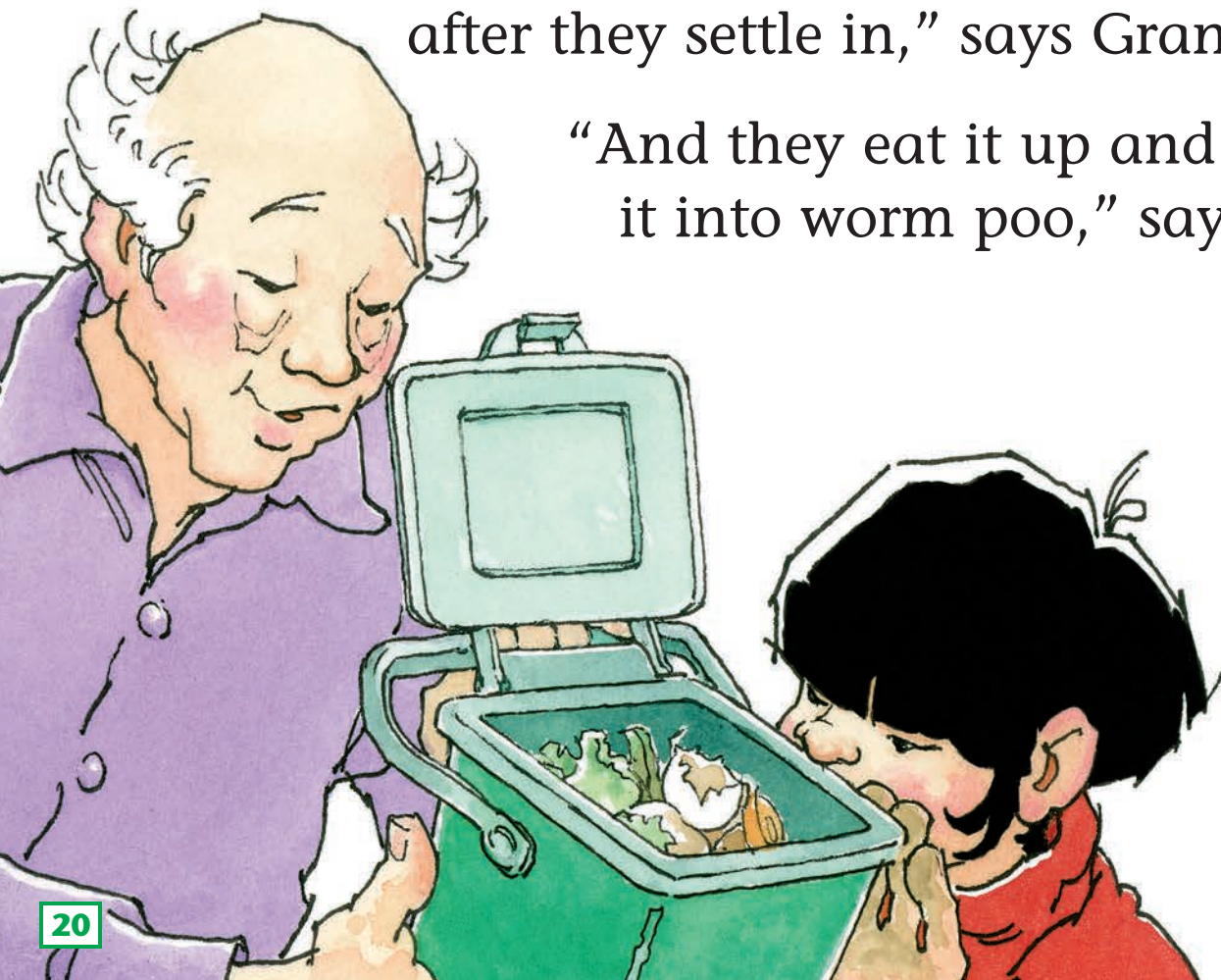
“Now for the
worms,” says Yo.
“They really are
wigglers.”





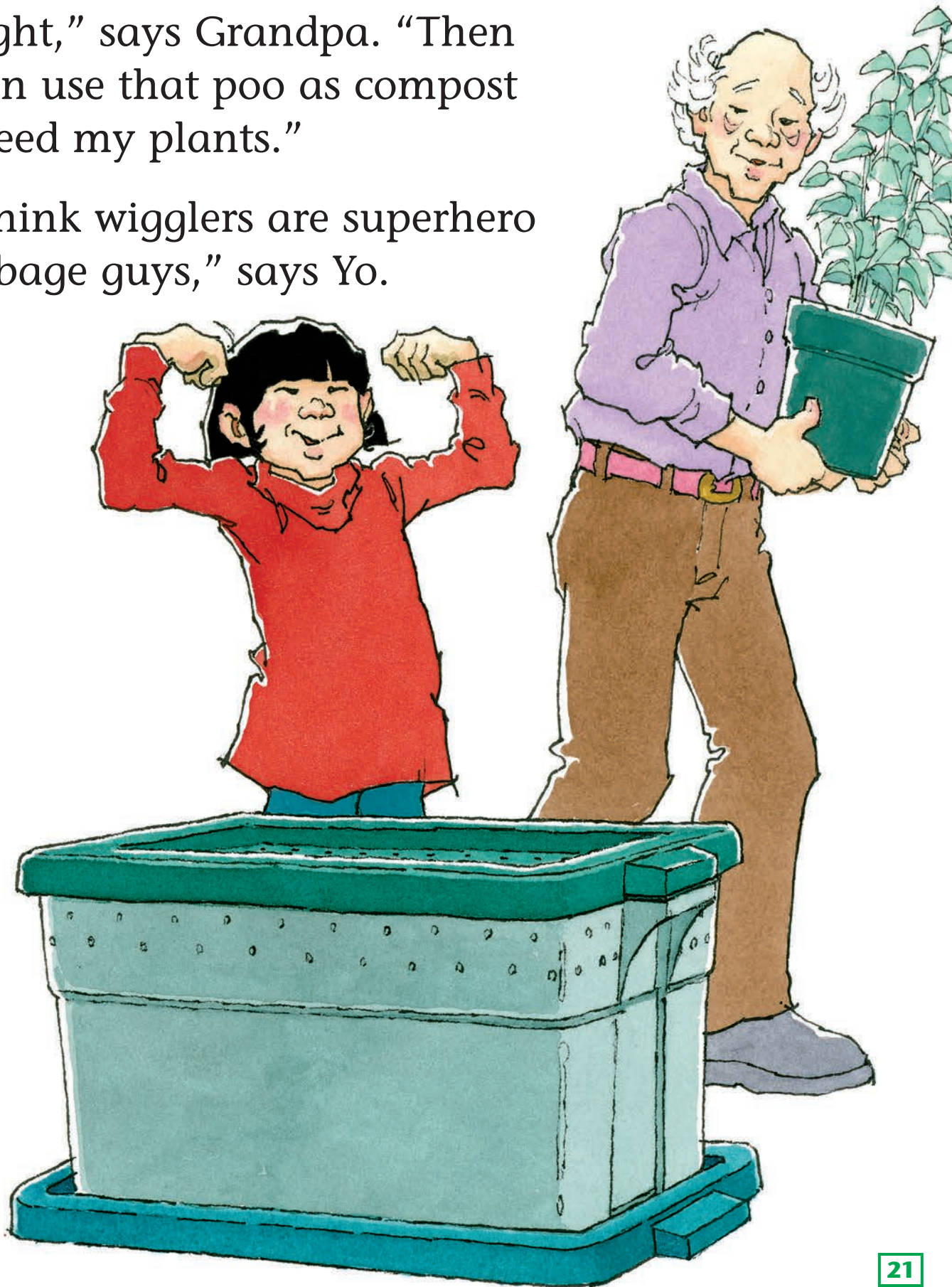
“I have food scraps to feed them after they settle in,” says Grandpa.

“And they eat it up and turn it into worm poo,” says Yo.



“Right,” says Grandpa. “Then I can use that poo as compost to feed my plants.”

“I think wigglers are superhero garbage guys,” says Yo.

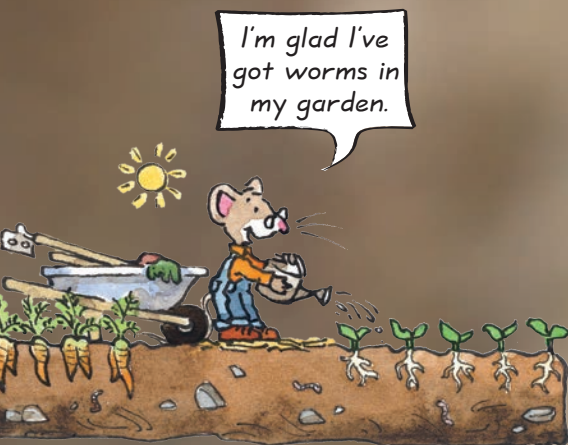



Nature's Recyclers

Have you ever helped rake up a yard? Just a few trees can drop huge piles of leaves that fill many, many bags and bins.

Imagine how many leaves fall in a forest. Who cleans up all those leaves?


Nature's recyclers collect waste and dead things that would otherwise litter the earth. They reuse the stuff or break it down into tiny bits that other living things need.





Turkey vultures easily eat food that would make other animals sick. By eating rotting meat, they help keep diseases from spreading.

Why don't the vultures get sick? Special strong acids in their stomachs kill the bad parts. The vulture's bald head helps protect it too. Messy food and germs would get stuck in feathers, but a bald head is easy to keep clean.



Earthworms don't have teeth, but some kinds can eat their weight in dead leaves every day. The leaves go through the worm's body and come out as fertilizer. Everywhere you find good soil, you'll find earthworms.



Dung is another name for poop, and that's just what **dung beetles** eat! Some farmers depend on dung beetles to keep the pastures where their cattle graze—and poop—clean.



Mushrooms are fungi. They can't make their own food the way plants do. Instead, they break down tree stumps and other dead wood to soak up the plants' nutrients. They use some of the nutrients themselves and return the rest to the soil.

You can't see teeny **bacteria** without a microscope, but they're everywhere—even living inside you! Some bacteria cause diseases, but others break down food and other once-living things into tiny bits that plants and animals can use.



We use crude oil to run our cars and planes, to heat and cool our homes, to make plastics for bottles and toys, and more. In the United States, we use more than half a million gallons of crude oil every single minute.

The oil gets pumped from underground and carried where it's needed by ship, truck, train, and pipeline.



Sometimes an accident happens, and oil spills, leaving a stinky, sticky mess.

Oil does not mix into the ocean. It spreads quickly, covering the water and beaches.



See for yourself.

Half-fill a clear cup or jar with water. Add a couple of spoonfuls of vegetable oil.

Vegetable oil isn't smelly and poisonous the way crude oil is. But like all oils, it does not mix with water. Instead of blending with water the way juice would, it floats on top of the water.

If you stick your finger into the cup, the oil will stick to it.



Crude oil spilled near a shoreline makes it unsafe for people to fish or boat or swim. And plants and animals that live in or near the water can get sick and even die.

One of the reasons why oil spills cause so much damage is that they are very hard and expensive to clean up.





Oil sticks to fur, feathers, and skin. When an animal tries to clean itself, it may swallow the oil and get sick.



Rescue workers try to clean as many oil-soaked animals as they can, but finding the animals is hard and cleaning takes a lot of time.



Cleaned animals cannot be returned to their old homes. They are moved to clean, oil-free places.

Nobody likes oil spills. If we all use less crude oil, less oil will need to be moved and we'll have fewer accidents to clean up.

I'm glad to see the sweaters are keeping you warm.



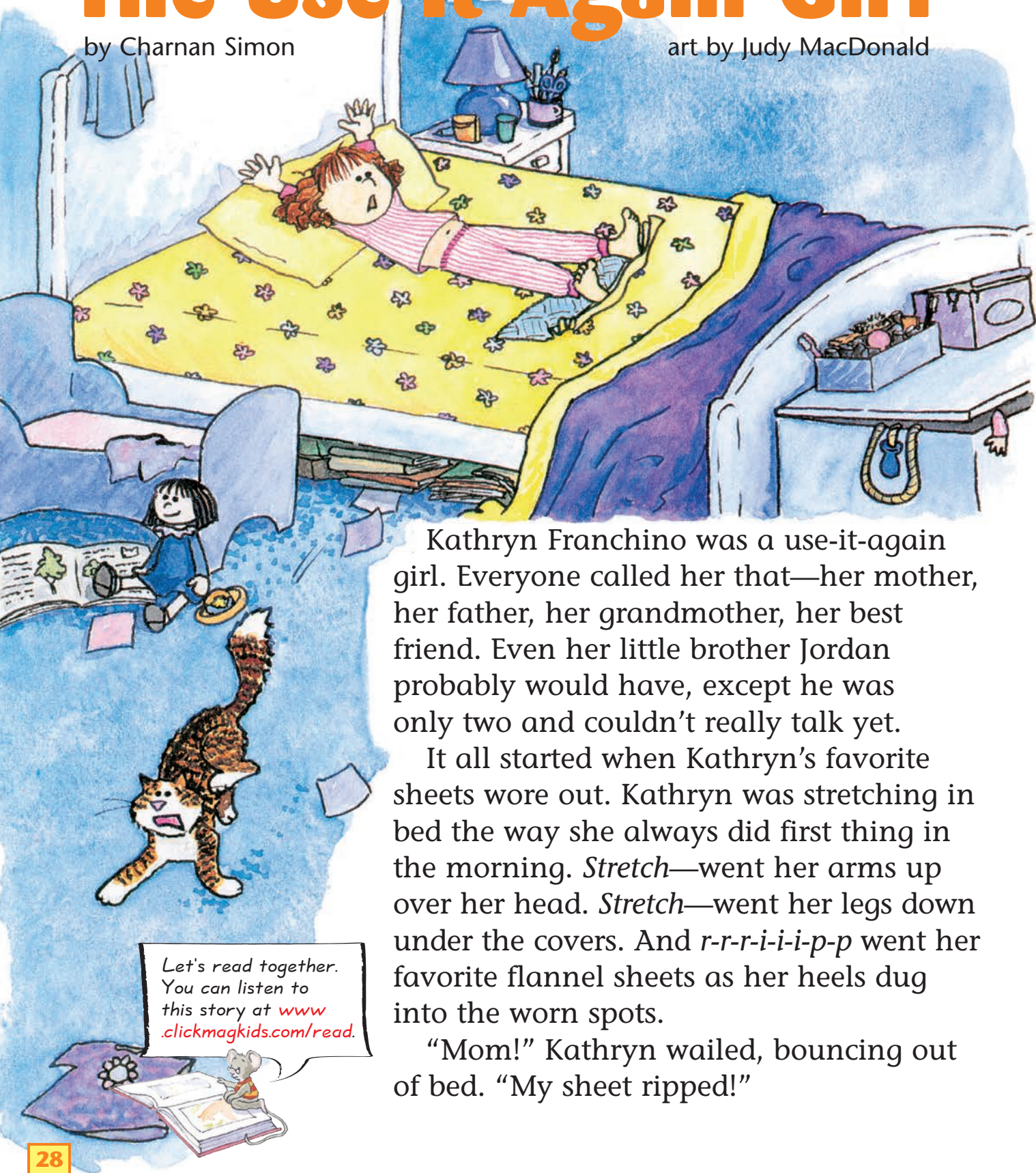
An oil-soaked bird cannot fly or swim or keep itself warm. Even after being cleaned, these penguins must wear sweaters to stay warm until their feathers recover.



The Use-It-Again Girl

by Charnan Simon

art by Judy MacDonald



Kathryn Franchino was a use-it-again girl. Everyone called her that—her mother, her father, her grandmother, her best friend. Even her little brother Jordan probably would have, except he was only two and couldn't really talk yet.

It all started when Kathryn's favorite sheets wore out. Kathryn was stretching in bed the way she always did first thing in the morning. *Stretch*—went her arms up over her head. *Stretch*—went her legs down under the covers. And *r-r-r-i-i-i-p-p* went her favorite flannel sheets as her heels dug into the worn spots.

"Mom!" Kathryn wailed, bouncing out of bed. "My sheet ripped!"

Her mother came in to look. “So it did,” she said. “Look—even the top sheet is all frayed and worn through. I’m not surprised—you’ve had these sheets since you were three. I guess it’s time to toss them and buy new ones.” She gathered the sheets off Kathryn’s bed and headed out the door.

“Wait a minute!” Kathryn scrambled after her mom. “I love these sheets! Don’t throw them away! Can’t you sew them back together?”


Kathryn’s mom held up the sheets. “See how worn they are, all the way down the middle? There’s nothing left to sew, except around the edges.”

“Well, then,” said Kathryn. “Let’s save the edges.”

Her mom smiled. “What exactly do you want to save the edges for?”

Kathryn hesitated. “I could use some pieces for when you make me dust my room,” she said. Dustcloths weren’t very exciting, though, so she thought some more. “And I could put some in Miss Kitty’s basket. I could even make sheets for Polly’s bed,” she said, pointing to the baby doll who had her own little bed next to Kathryn’s big bed.





"You could help me make a little pillow for Polly, too," Kathryn added. "And maybe a bigger pillow for my own bed!" she finished triumphantly.

Her mom laughed. "Those are good ideas," she admitted. She held out the sheet to Kathryn. "Here—you might as well go ahead and finish tearing this in half."

Kathryn took the sheet. Cautiously, she tore a little bit.

"Go ahead," her mom urged. "Tear it all the way through."

Kathryn wasn't sure about this. Usually her mom didn't like her to tear things up. She tore a little more, then stopped again.

"Go on," her mom laughed. "Let 'er rip!"

Kathryn took a big breath, gathered the sheet in both hands, and pulled. *R-r-r-i-i-i-p-p!* She tore all the way from one end of the sheet to the other. It made a very satisfying sound.



"This is fun!" Kathryn said.
"What next?"

Her mom showed her how to keep tearing until she had a pile of soft dustcloth-sized pieces. She tore bigger pieces for Miss Kitty's basket and for Polly's sheets, which her mom hemmed on the sewing machine. Together, they cut and sewed a tiny pillow for Polly and a bigger one for Kathryn. When they were done, Kathryn looked around her room happily.

"This was a good idea," she told her mom. "I didn't have to throw away my favorite sheets, and I have all these brand-new things in my room, without having to go to a single store."



Kathryn's next project was an oatmeal box. She was just in time to stop her father from tossing the empty box into the trash after Saturday morning breakfast. "Wait!" Kathryn told her dad. "Don't throw that away! I can cover it with construction paper and glitter and keep my beads in it." And that's exactly what she did.





Then there were the magazines. Kathryn's family recycled all their old magazines, but it still seemed like a waste of good pictures to Kathryn. So one rainy Sunday afternoon, she sat down with a big pile of magazines and her best scissors. She cut out one pile of people pictures, one pile of animal pictures, and one pile of car and truck pictures.

Then Kathryn helped Jordan glue the pictures on some old computer paper and put them in a scrapbook. "See, Jordan," she said, pointing. "Here's a red car. Can you say red car?"

Pointing and crowing over the pictures kept Jordan busy for over half an hour. "That's a long time for a two-year-old!" said Kathryn's dad.

There was no stopping Kathryn now. She stuffed old socks with catnip to make toys for Miss Kitty. She cut a slit in the plastic lid of an empty coffee can and made a piggy bank for herself. She helped Jordan plaster stickers all over the box her new tennis shoes came in, and gave it to him to store his blocks. Every place she looked, she found something she could use again!



“Mom, you need to teach me how to make a quilt,” Kathryn announced one day. She finished the orange she was eating and dumped the peels into the compost bucket under the sink. Kathryn liked thinking that even her orange peels could be used again, to help make their garden grow better next summer.

“Make a quilt!” her mother exclaimed. “Whatever made you think of that?”

"Everyone makes quilts in books about the olden times," Kathryn explained. "And the kids never have to throw away their favorite clothes, because their moms cut them into pieces and make them into quilts. I hate it when you give away my old clothes. So we should make them into a quilt."

Her mother looked at Kathryn and shook her head, smiling. "You really are a use-it-again girl, aren't you," she said. "The only problem is, I'm not like the moms in olden times. I've never made a quilt in my life. I wouldn't have a clue where to begin!"

Kathryn took another orange and began peeling it. "Well," she said calmly. "I guess it's time we both learned, isn't it?" And that's exactly what they did.





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Be sure to include your name, age, and address. Artwork must be signed by a parent or legal guardian, authorizing us to feature it on our website.

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Carefully remove the takeout pages. Each player needs a marker to use on the game board. Buttons or dried beans work well, as long as each player has a different color, so it's easy to tell the markers apart. Players will also need a die to throw and about 20 small pieces of trash, such as bottle caps, packing peanuts, or crumpled scraps of old newspaper.

Each player puts a marker on the HOME space and takes one piece of trash. Place the rest of the trash on Earth in the middle of the game board.

The first player rolls the die, moves his or her marker the number of squares the die shows, and adds or removes a piece of trash from Earth as directed. Then it is the next player's turn.

Keep taking turns until all the trash is removed from Earth. The player who cleaned up the most trash wins.



Home



You walk to the park instead of driving.
Remove a piece of trash.



You put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat.
Remove a piece of trash.



You throw a plastic water bottle into the trash.
Add a piece of trash.

You put your empty cereal box in the recycling bin.
Remove a piece of trash.



You buy a card made of recycled paper.
Remove a piece of trash.



You put the newspaper in the recycling bin.
Remove a piece of trash.



You leave the refrigerator door open while you decide what to eat.
Add a piece of trash.

You add your apple core to the compost pile.
Remove a piece of trash.

Reduce

Reuse





You bring a reusable bag to the store.
Remove a piece of trash.



You grab a pile of paper napkins when you need only one.
Add a piece of trash.

You turn off the light when you leave the room.
Remove a piece of trash.



You drink your juice from a reusable cup.
Remove a piece of trash.



You draw on both sides of your paper.
Remove a piece of trash.



You let the water run while you look for a cup.
Add a piece of trash.



You give your outgrown clothes to your little cousin to wear.
Remove a piece of trash.



You reuse an old toy instead of buying a new one.
Remove a piece of trash.



Recycle



BEATRICE BLACK BEAR

The World's Greenest Photographer

By John Grandits

Illustrated by Brian Flocka



Hey, kids. Visit me at www.clickmagkids.com/bworld.

A really cool way to help the environment is to have a house with a green roof —



not just the color green, but a roof with plants growing on it.



Imagine a park on top of a tall city building. It has bushes and shrubs and flowers and even a couple of trees! These plants help clean the air and soak up rainwater that could flood city sewers.



The plants on this roof keep the house very cool. That saves on electricity. And it looks nice too!



My cave has a green roof too!