



Read-Aloud Joyful Green

2



It was a normal day in Trashville, when suddenly the mayor smelled something strange—like rotted cabbage and tuna fish milkshakes.

She looked out her window. Garbage was piled high in the streets. All the city's landfills had been filled to the brim. There was nowhere left for the garbage to go.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

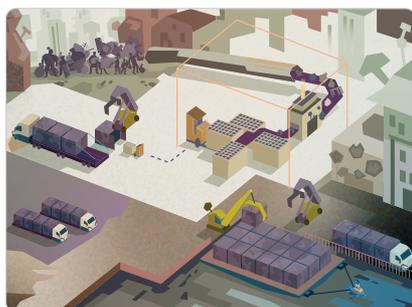
3



So the mayor called her advisors to the chambers and together they came up with a plan:

"We'll put all our trash onto a boat. Then we'll simply sail the boat—and all that garbage—someplace far away. Then it won't be our problem anymore!"

4



The citizens of Trashville got to work.

They gathered all their trash and smooshed it down into cubes. Then they loaded the cubes into bins. The bins were loaded onto trucks, before they were finally delivered to a tugboat out on the docks.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

5



With a mighty groan, the tug set off, piloted by its brave captain—Captain Bob.

The first stop was the city of Neighborville. But as Captain Bob drew near, a voice called out: “Don’t come here with your trash! Our own landfills are already full! We have no room for yours.”

6



And so Bob kept on. The next city he came to was the city of Not-My-Problem.

But as he steered toward shore, a voice cried out, “Don’t think about coming here. Sure, we have room in our dumps, but they’re for us alone. Go take your garbage someplace else!”

7



So Captain Bob wandered the oceans, taking his boat from city to city. But everywhere he went, it was the same story. No one wanted Trashville’s trash.

8



Eventually, Captain Bob came to a place he'd never been before. It was a lush, beautiful land with no smog or smoke—a city by the name of Joyful Green.

9



When Bob arrived, a crew of workers jumped on board and started unloading every speck of garbage from his ship.

One of the city's council members introduced herself. "We've heard all about your trash problem. Why don't I show you around our city while our clean-up crew finishes their work?"

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

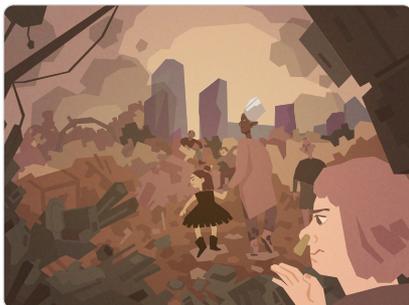
10



Happily, Captain Bob agreed. Bob was amazed by what he saw. Everything was so clean. The air was fresh; there were trees everywhere; and their rivers were clear as glass.

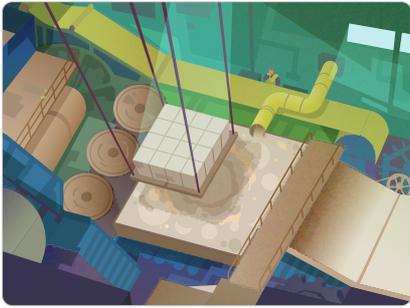
"Where's all your garbage?" Bob wondered aloud.

11



"Our city once was a lot like yours," the council member explained. "Trash was everywhere and the air was full of smoke. Finally we decided enough was enough. We needed to start using less and be thoughtful about what we threw out."

12



“From then on, we didn’t just throw away old paper products. We recycled them by pulping them down and sending the pulp to a mill to get rolled and pressed.”

13



“We melt and shape used metals into bricks. That way we can easily stack and store them. When we want to make something later, we melt the bricks down again!”

14



“In fact, almost everything in Joyful Green gets reused or recycled. Organic waste gets turned to dirt. A worn-out coat becomes a skirt. Former landfills can become a park. Even this climbing wall was made from recycled plastic.”

“Incredible!” Captain Bob exclaimed.

“Trashville could be like Joyful Green too,” the council member said.
“You can do what we did.”

Ask: “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

15



When Captain Bob returned to Trashville, the mayor listened to his story with wonder. Was it possible? Could Trashville be more like Joyful Green? She looked out her window again. Perhaps it was time to make a change.