

Miss Fox's Class Goes Green

by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Anne Kennedy

When Miss Fox shows up at school riding her bicycle, Mouse asks, 'Do you have a flat tyre?' 'No,' Miss Fox tells her students. 'I am going green!' Soon the teacher's enthusiasm for recycling is infectious and everyone in the class wants to be involved. This is an engaging story with colourful illustrations that make a serious subject accessible, funny and inspiring.

Teaching Tips

- Ask students to bring in some household rubbish, such as glass (not broken!), plastic, metal, cardboard, Styrofoam, and junk mail. Invite students to pass around the rubbish samples and ask them where they think rubbish goes after it's thrown away.
- Give each student a piece of paper and explain to them how paper is made—raw materials (trees), chemicals, fuel, processing. Ask them to consider smarter alternatives to throwing paper away after using it.
- Explore what paper becomes at a recycling plant and provide examples of what wood pulp can be turned into, eg newspaper, greeting cards, toilet paper, packing or building materials.
- Encourage students to think of what gets recycled in their community; they may not be aware that vehicles, whitegoods and other large appliances are also recycled.
- Organise students into small groups and show them pictures of items that can be recycled, eg bicycle seats, handlebars and tyres. Ask them to think of alternative uses for these items and to compile a list of possible usages.
- As a class, develop a plan to reduce personal waste as well as classroom waste. Ask students to consider what they could do without and what could be reused.
- Invite students to write about or draw ways in which they could reduce their waste, then to list their ideas on a 'Waste Away!' classroom display board.

Further points for discussion:

- Ask students how much garbage their family produces each week.
- Remind students what colour their bin lids are and ask them what goes in each bin.
- Invite students to read the signs on containers in the classroom and to determine which are recyclable.
- Ask students what day their local council collects the garbage.
- Invite students to list actions that can damage the environment then narrow the list down to garbage disposal.