



Theme: Sustainability (Grades 3-5)

Pre-Visit Activity #2 Just a Dream

Overview:

The students will listen to the story *Just a Dream* by Chris Van Allsburg. Walter is a litterbug who thinks the future is going to be filled with great inventions. Walter wishes he could visit the future and when he falls asleep one night, his wish comes true. But the future is not what he'd imagined. When Walter returns to the present, he is changed and so are his dreams.

Objectives:

- Students will learn how their actions affect others and our environment.
- Students will help the environment by planting seeds.
- Students will learn the importance of caring about our environment.

Materials:

- *Just a Dream* by Chris Van Allsburg

Activity:

1. Read the storybook *Just a Dream* to the class.
2. After reading the book, discuss the main idea and theme.
3. Have the students brainstorm ideas of how they can become more environmentally conscious.
4. Working in small groups, have each group plant a bean seed in a cup.
5. They can make the pot/cup out of newspaper.
6. Make observations about the bean seed daily in a journal.
7. Measure the growth daily and chart it on a graph.
8. Compare and contrast the bean plants from each group.
9. Once the project is complete, plant the cups outside at school.
10. Have students draw a picture of a greener Earth.

Suggested Reading:

1. *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children* by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac. Traditional Native American tales and related activities dealing with aspects of the environment.

2. ***Eco-Wolf and the Three Pigs*** by Laurence Anholt. Eco-Wolf knows it's important to give Mother Nature respect. Unlike the three big, bad pigs, and their pesky polluting plans...
3. ***Shelterwood*** by Susan Hand Shetterly. Sophie learns from her grandfather how to take care of trees in the forest.
4. ***The Lorax/El Lórax*** by Dr. Seuss. The Once-ler tells the story of the Lorax, who tried to protect the Truffula Trees.
5. ***The Wump World*** by Bill Peet. The Wumps are very frightened when the Pollutians come from space and take over their lush green planet. While the Wumps hide underground in caves, the Pollutians build great cities, but will the Wump world be destroyed forever?
6. ***The Wartville Wizard*** by Don Madden. Wartville is being buried in trash until one tidy old man realizes he has the power to get rid of all the trash forever.
7. ***Michael Recycle*** by Ellie Bethel. The town of Abberdoo-Rimey has a garbage problem, until Michael Recycle, a new kind of superhero, comes to the town with a plan.
8. ***Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug*** by Ellie Bethel. Litterbug Doug is lazy, wasteful, messy, and hates recycling. It's up to Michael Recycle to show Doug the error of his ways before it's too late.
9. ***The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore)*** by Stan and Jan Berenstain. When careless citizens pose a threat to Bear Country's environment, Brother and Sister Bear form the Earthsavers Club.
10. ***Just a Dream*** by Chris Van Allsburg. Walter is a litterbug who thinks the future is going to be filled with great inventions. Walter wishes he could visit the future and when he falls asleep one night, his wish comes true. But the future is not what he'd imagined. When Walter returns to the present, he is changed and so are his dreams.