

Project Waste Reducer Play

Scene 1: Mom, Dad, Maria, and Billy sitting around the table eating dinner (4 people)

DAD: What did you do in school today, Billy?

BILLY: We learned about garbage, Mom.

MOM: Garbage? I don't think that's a great subject for the dinner table, Billy.

BILLY: Oh, but it is. Mrs. Mason says each person makes over 2 kilograms of garbage everyday.

MARIA: I don't make 2 kilos of garbage a day. I'll bet you make more garbage than I do.

BILLY: Bet I don't. Lets have a contest.

MARIA: Whatever. Fine. Bring it on.

DAD: Stop fighting kids! *(Billy and Maria glare at each other, Dad sighs)*

That *is* a lot of garbage. I know, why don't we make it a family project to reduce the amount we make everyday?

MOM: That's a good idea. We could all separate things that could be re-used or recycled.

BILLY: Could we Mom? Could we?

MOM: We'd all have to work together.

DAD: Does everyone agree?

MARIA: I guess so.

BILLY: Ya!!

Scene 2: The next morning, Maria and Billy are eating breakfast. (3 people)

BILLY: Now remember Maria, separate your food scraps because those can be composted...and drink containers because you can recycle those... and don't throw out things like yogurt containers because we can re-use those...

MARIA: I can't remember all that. Who cares about garbage anyway? I'm too busy.

BILLY: But it's important!

MOM: He's right Maria, if we don't do something about the garbage, we're going to have serious problems.

MARIA: Like what?

MOM: For one thing, we'll run out of space to put it all!

BILLY: It really hurts the land, animals and water too.

MARIA: But our garbage ends up at the dump, it's not like we just throw it in the water!

MOM: That's true, but chemicals from the garbage can leak into the ground water that runs into the lakes and rivers. Isn't that right Billy?

BILLY: You got it mom!

MARIA: Well it's not like I can do much about it anyway. I'm just one person.

Scene 3 (3 people)

DAD: Hey kids - it's getting late. Your lunches are on the counter.

MARIA: Thanks Dad.

BILLY: Oh no, he packed our lunches in plastic bags!

MARIA: So what?

BILLY: We can't recycle those. And if we throw them in the dump they won't break down for almost 1000 years!

MARIA: *(rolls her eyes)* Oh brother! ... Here he goes again.

DAD: Wow, the bags will just sit in the landfill polluting away, for 1000 years?! You're right Billy, we should really start using re-usable containers instead.

BILLY: Ya, and maybe tonight, I'll just clean these bags and we can use them again too!

DAD: Good idea. Then we don't have to throw them out!

MARIA: Fine, have it your way, as long as *I* don't have to wash them.

Scene 4: The family is headed out the door to school. (4 people)

DAD: Let's all walk together this morning. My office is right by your school.

MOM: That's a good idea! I'll come too.

MARIA: But I don't want to walk to school today. It's soooo far.

BILLY: Maria, you lazy bones, it only takes about 10 minutes.

MARIA: But I'm tired.

MOM: If you're really tired honey, I guess I could drive you.

BILLY: How can you say such a thing mom?

DAD: What do you mean Billy? Don't talk to your mom like that!

BILLY: It's such a waste of gas to drive! I thought we were trying to *reduce* our waste.

MARIA: I might have agreed to producing less garbage, but I never said anything about not driving!

BILLY: But that should be part of it too! It's just a different kind of waste. The more we drive, the more nasty pollution that's pumped into the air.

MOM: You're right again, Billy.

DAD: Ok kids, grab your backpacks, we're walking.

MARIA: But dad...

Scene 5: On the way to school. (4 people)

MOM: Just wait here a second, I'm going to pick up a coffee.

MARIA: Can you get a large mocha-choco delight for me too please mom?

MOM: Ok.

DAD: And I'll have a hot chocolate please.

MOM: Sure honey. Do you want anything Billy?

BILLY: No thanks. I didn't bring my re-usable mug.

MARIA: Your re-usable mug?!

BILLY: We'll ya! Mrs. Mason said that almost 150 *billion* disposable cups are thrown out in North America every year.

DAD: Wow, really? That's a lot. I guess I've never thought about it before.

MARIA: Well...So what?

BILLY: It kills about 50 million trees to produce all those cups! If everyone just brought their own mug to fill at the coffee shop, then we wouldn't have that problem.

MOM: And we'd produce a lot less garbage, right Billy?

BILLY: You got it, mom!

DAD: I think I'll hold back on the hot chocolate for now. I'll bring my own mug next time.

BILLY: That's right dad!

MARIA: *(rolling her eyes)* Whatever.

Scene 6: That day after school... (4 people)

MOM: Hey Billy, you mentioned composting this morning. I've been thinking about it, and I think we should get a composter for our backyard.

DAD: That's a good idea honey.

BILLY: Could we mom? Could we, pleeeeeease!!

MARIA: Compost is that big smelly pile of rotten food that some people have, right? Yuck!

DAD: Well it can be smelly, if you don't take care of it properly, but it's a great way to reduce our waste. And that's what we're trying to do, remember?

MOM: If we start composting, we can convert all our kitchen scraps, like fruits and veggie peels into good fertilizer for our garden!

DAD: I could even throw in some of that yard waste! There's a whole bag of leaves and grass sitting there from last fall.

BILLY: Ya! Let's compost it all! It's so much better than letting it rot at the dump!

MARIA: Grrrr! You people drive me crazy! This whole waste-reduction is soooo much work.

MOM: Well, most worthwhile things do involve *some* work.

MARIA: But it seems pointless!

DAD: Every little bit makes a difference Maria.

BILLY: And it's not that hard if you think about it. Take that shirt you threw out this morning.

MARIA: Ya, what about it? It was too small.

MOM: Maybe you could give it away instead. Or sell it at a garage sale.

BILLY: The more stuff that's reused, the less stuff that rots at the dump!

MARIA: I guess so...

*Scene 7: A few minutes later, Maria's friend Fran comes over.
(2 people)*

FRAN: Hi, Maria. Want to go to play ball?

MARIA: OK, Fran, but first I have to go through my garbage can.

FRAN: Go through your garbage can????

MARIA: Ya. I want to find the old shirt I threw out this morning.

FRAN: OK... some people sure are weird.

MARIA: It's not weird. Our family is trying to reduce our waste! You want a healthy planet, don't you?

FRAN: Well, sure, I guess.

MARIA: Come on! It's time to do something about it!

THE END

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MOM: The flowers will love it! And we'll be reducing our waste, because all that stuff won't have to go to the landfill!

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MOM: Well, most worthwhile things do involve *some* work.

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