





STORY 2: The Treehouse Party

Jay was having a birthday, and he decided he wanted to have a party in his new treehouse. On Saturday, Jay's friends arrived—Misa, Rickey, Rachel, and Desmond. Everyone was excited to have a party in Jay's treehouse.

They all climbed up and into the treehouse and put on party hats. First, Jay opened his presents, and then they decided to have cake and ice cream bars. After singing "Happy Birthday" to Jay, everyone unwrapped his or her ice cream bar. Rachel put her wrapper into the trash bag Jay's mom had put up in the treehouse. But then Desmond crumpled his wrapper up in a ball and threw it out of the tree as far as he could.

"I bet no one can throw a wrapper farther," he bragged.

So it became a contest. They all rolled the ice cream wrappers into balls and threw them as far as they could toward the front of Jay's house. Misa's went the furthest.

As the children finished their ice cream bars, they dropped their sticks out of the treehouse and watched them bounce through the branches and onto the ground. As the last stick hit the ground, the children heard a voice call out, "Hey, who's up there?"



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"We are," answered Jay, peering down at the woman below. "It's my birthday party."

"Well, that's very nice," the woman said as she climbed up the steps. "It's very nice to have a party up here, but you are making a mess down there!"

"Hello, Mrs. Harvey," said Jay as he recognized the woman. Mrs. Harvey came by his house every Saturday to pick up the newspapers his family saved all week. He never knew why Mrs. Harvey picked up the newspapers, but he liked to help her put the papers into her truck.



"Hello to all of you," said Mrs. Harvey. "And happy birthday to you, Jay. Now tell me why these sticks and paper wrappers are all over the ground?"

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"We were playing a game," answered Rachel.

"That's very nice," said Mrs. Harvey. "But who do you think is going to pick up all this trash?"

The children just shrugged their shoulders. They didn't know who picked up litter on the ground.

Mrs. Harvey continued, "There's no one to pick up your trash. So what do you think it would look like out here if everyone just threw trash on the ground?"

"I guess it would look pretty messy," Desmond answered.

"And it probably wouldn't smell very nice," said Rickey.

"And the birds and animals that live out here probably wouldn't like it either," Misa said. "It would take up their space and might make them sick."





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"You're right," Mrs. Harvey said happily. "We shouldn't litter for all those reasons. All our trash should be put in trash cans, or in trash bags," she said picking up the trash bag in the treehouse.

"Okay," they all said together, and they started to put all their napkins and the wrappings from Jay's presents into the trash bag.

"Wait just a minute!" exclaimed Mrs. Harvey, looking at all the trash in the treehouse. "Why do you have so much trash?"

The children looked at one another and once again shrugged their shoulders. They didn't know why they had so much trash.

Mrs. Harvey began counting crumpled up napkins. "Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen! Thirteen napkins for five little people," she exclaimed. "That's very wasteful, you know."

Jay knew exactly what she meant. "Paper is made from trees," Jay explained to his friends. "So when we waste paper, it means more trees have to be cut down to make more paper."

"But we can always grow more trees," said Rickey.

"You're right," Mrs. Harvey agreed. "But do you know how long it takes for a tree to grow big?"

The children stared at Mrs. Harvey with blank faces.

"Years!" she answered. "It takes years to grow trees. So if we cut them all down for paper, we won't have any trees for a long time."

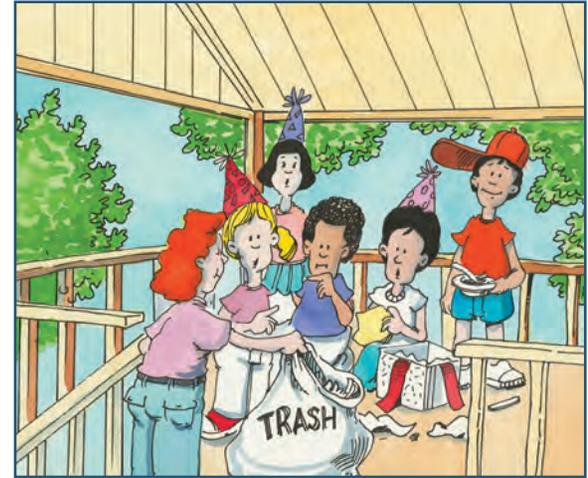
"We don't want that to happen," said Misa. "We like trees. But we're just little kids. What can we do not to waste paper?"

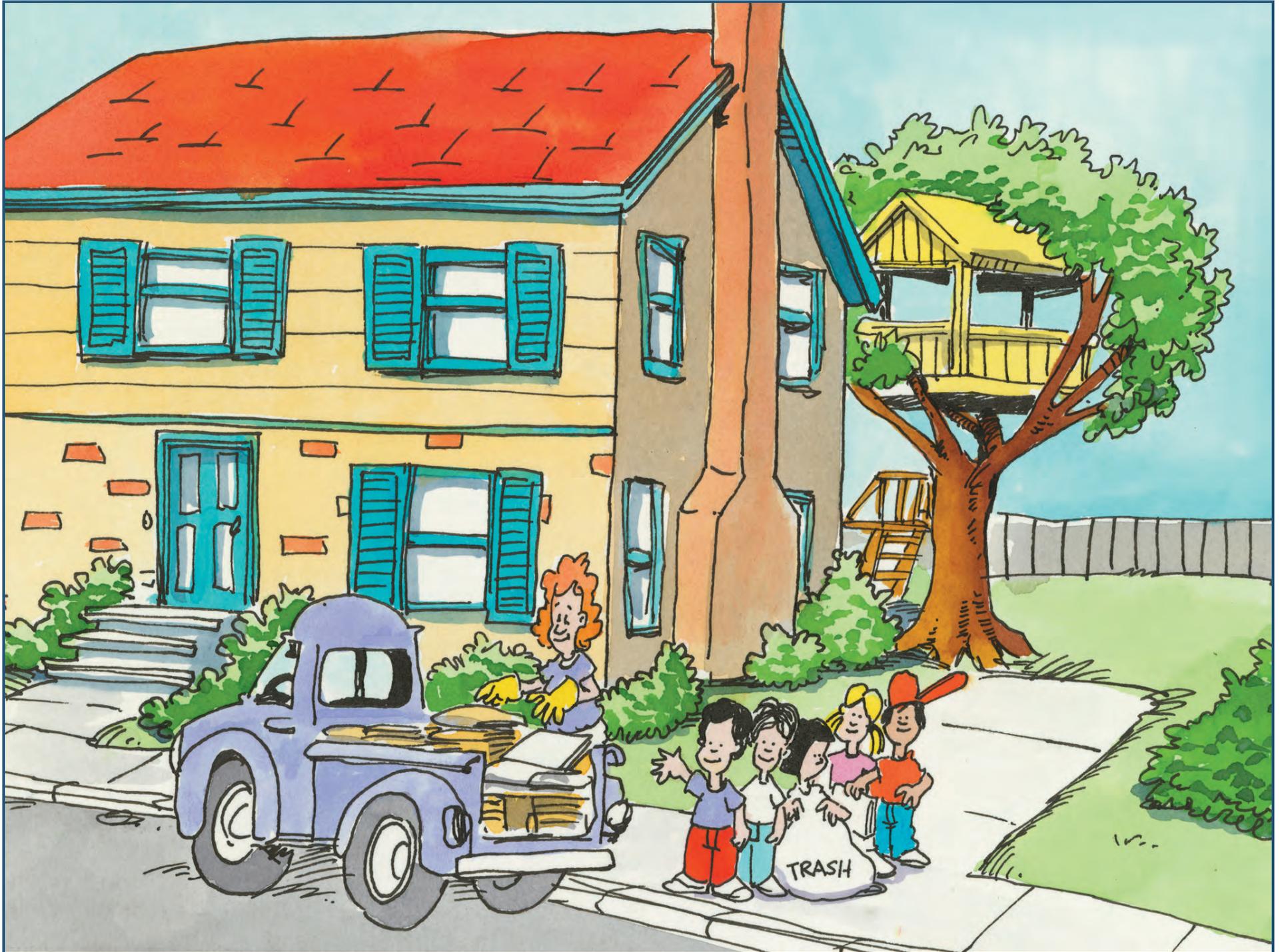
"Lots," answered Mrs. Harvey. "First, you can use only the paper you really need, like napkins and paper towels. Don't use two when one will do."

"Second, don't throw away paper that can be used again for something—like these boxes that Jay's presents came in and these ribbons and bows. They could be used to wrap presents another time or two."

"And these hats could be used for another birthday party," Jay said.

"You've got the idea," said Mrs. Harvey. "And don't use a paper product if something else will do," she continued. "For example, often you can use a cloth towel instead of a paper towel, and a glass or plastic cup that you can wash instead of a paper cup that you have to throw away."







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The children were excited. "We can all do those things," said Rachel, "if they will help save trees."

"Good," replied Mrs. Harvey. "Now I've got to go put the newspapers Jay's family saved into my truck."

"Why do you pick up our newspapers every week?" Jay asked.

"Well," said Mrs. Harvey, "that saves trees as well. I take the newspapers to a recycling center where they are made into new paper. Instead of cutting down trees to make new paper, we can use newspaper over and over to make paper. And that saves a lot of trees!"

The children followed Mrs. Harvey down from the treehouse and helped her put the newspapers into her truck. Then they started picking up the litter all over Jay's front yard.

As Mrs. Harvey drove away in her truck, she called to them, "Remember, don't waste paper, and don't litter. It's not good for the environment!"

The children waved goodbye to Mrs. Harvey as they stuffed the last pieces of litter into the trash bag.

