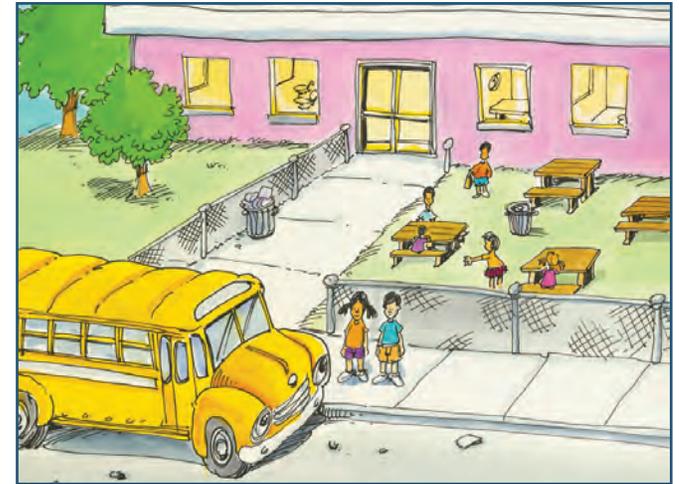




STORY 2: Bernie is Back

It was a cold crisp day, and Bernard Bartholomew Omnibus III stood happily next to the playground at school waiting to take the children back home. He looked wonderful! His metal body was clean and smooth, and his new bright yellow paint shone in the sun. His tires were patched and plump, and his leather seats newly padded and repaired. He now used cleaner fuel to run, and when he drove down the road, he no longer went klatter kabang kabang, but hummed a pleasant little tune.

The school bell rang, and Bernie watched as all the children emptied from their classrooms into the yard for lunch. Patti waved and Bernie flashed his headlights. Patti had told everyone that Bernie was not junk but was valuable natural resources that should be conserved. Bernie was happy that he had been fixed up so that the natural resources in him were not wasted, but he was not happy about what he was seeing right now.



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All the children and teachers were outside in the lunch area, but all the lights were left on in the rooms. Bernie began honking his horn loudly. The children stopped rustling their lunch sacks and stared at Bernie.

"Why's he doing that?" Joe asked, covering his ears.

Patti knew something was wrong. Many of the kids followed her over to Bernie. She looked right up at him and asked, "What's up?"

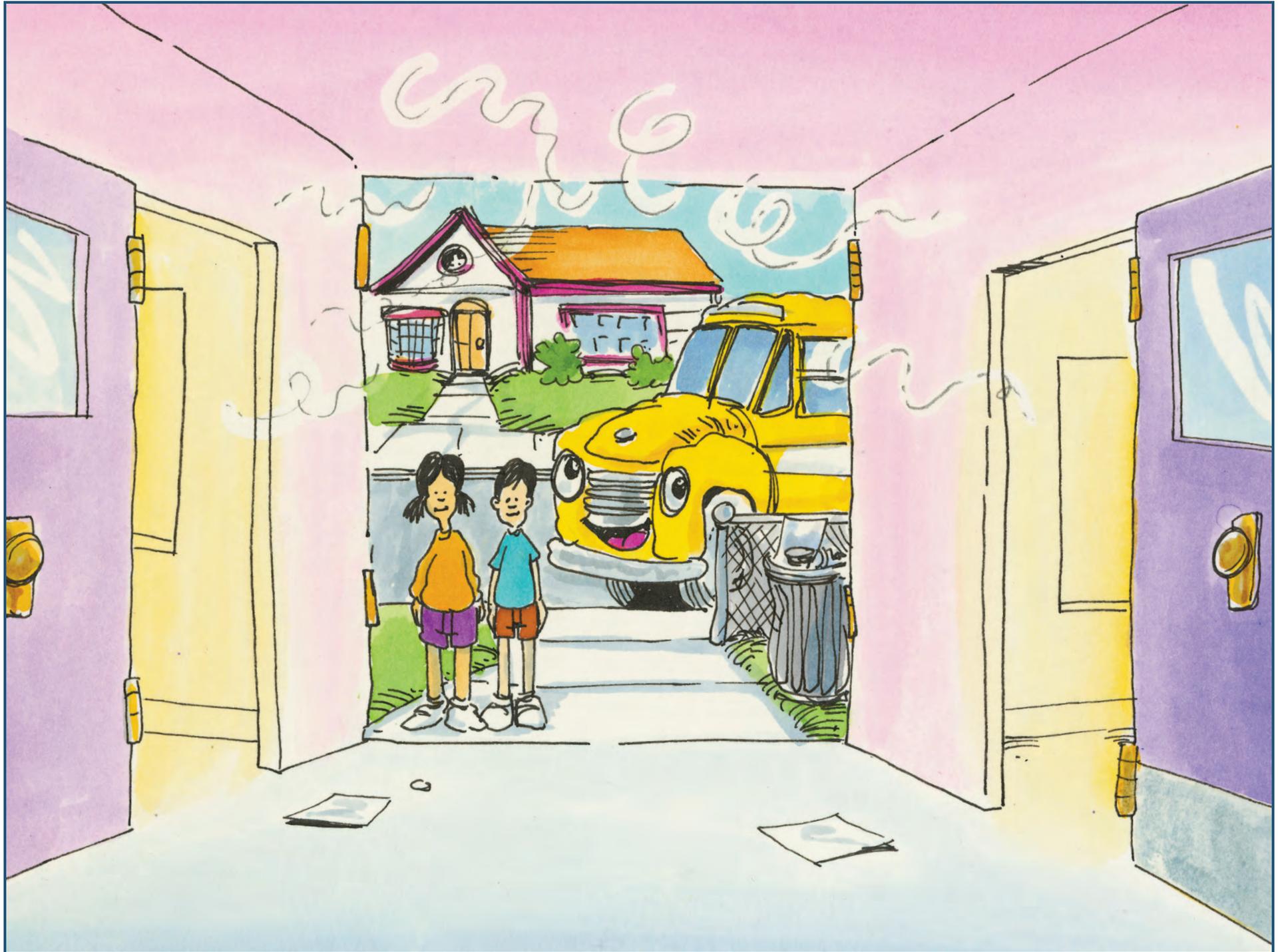
"The lights," answered Bernie. "You left the lights on in the classrooms."

"So what?" said Patti. "We're going back in after lunch."

"The lights use electricity," Bernie stated, "which is usually made from fuels we get out of the ground."

"So," Patti exclaimed, "leaving the lights on wastes natural resources!"

"That's right!" Bernie said. "Leaving on any electrical appliance, such as a TV or a radio, when you're not using it wastes natural resources, which is not good for the environment."





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Several children ran back to the classrooms to turn off the lights, but as they came back into the lunch area, Bernie sounded off again. He wouldn't quiet down until they all gathered around him.

"Okay," said Joe. "We turned off the lights. Now what's wrong?"

"The doors," Bernie replied. "You left the doors open so all the heat in the rooms is escaping outdoors."

"We'll just turn the heater up when we go back in," said Joe.

Bernie frowned and tooted his horn. Patti knew what the problem was. She explained. "Heat comes from burning fuel that comes out of the ground. So wasting heat wastes natural resources."

Bernie smiled. "You can't heat up the outdoors," he said. "So keep the doors and windows closed when you have the heat on, and don't heat the room up more than you need to be comfortable."

All the doors of the classrooms were closed to keep the heat inside, and the children settled down to eat lunch. As they finished eating, many children got up to leave, but they left their lunch sacks on the tables. It wasn't long before they heard Bernie bellowing again.







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"Not so fast!" Bernie called after the children. "Your trash belongs in the trash can, and it's up to you to see it gets there. Litter looks and sometimes smells terrible, and it can be unsafe for animals and people."

The children picked up their lunch sacks and put them into the trash can. But Bernie's horn didn't stop blaring.

Patti looked up from her lunch. "Are we wasting more natural resources?" she asked.

"I'm afraid so," answered Bernie. "Look at these lunch sacks that have been thrown in the trash," Bernie demanded. "Why, some of them are as good as new. They could be used several more times."

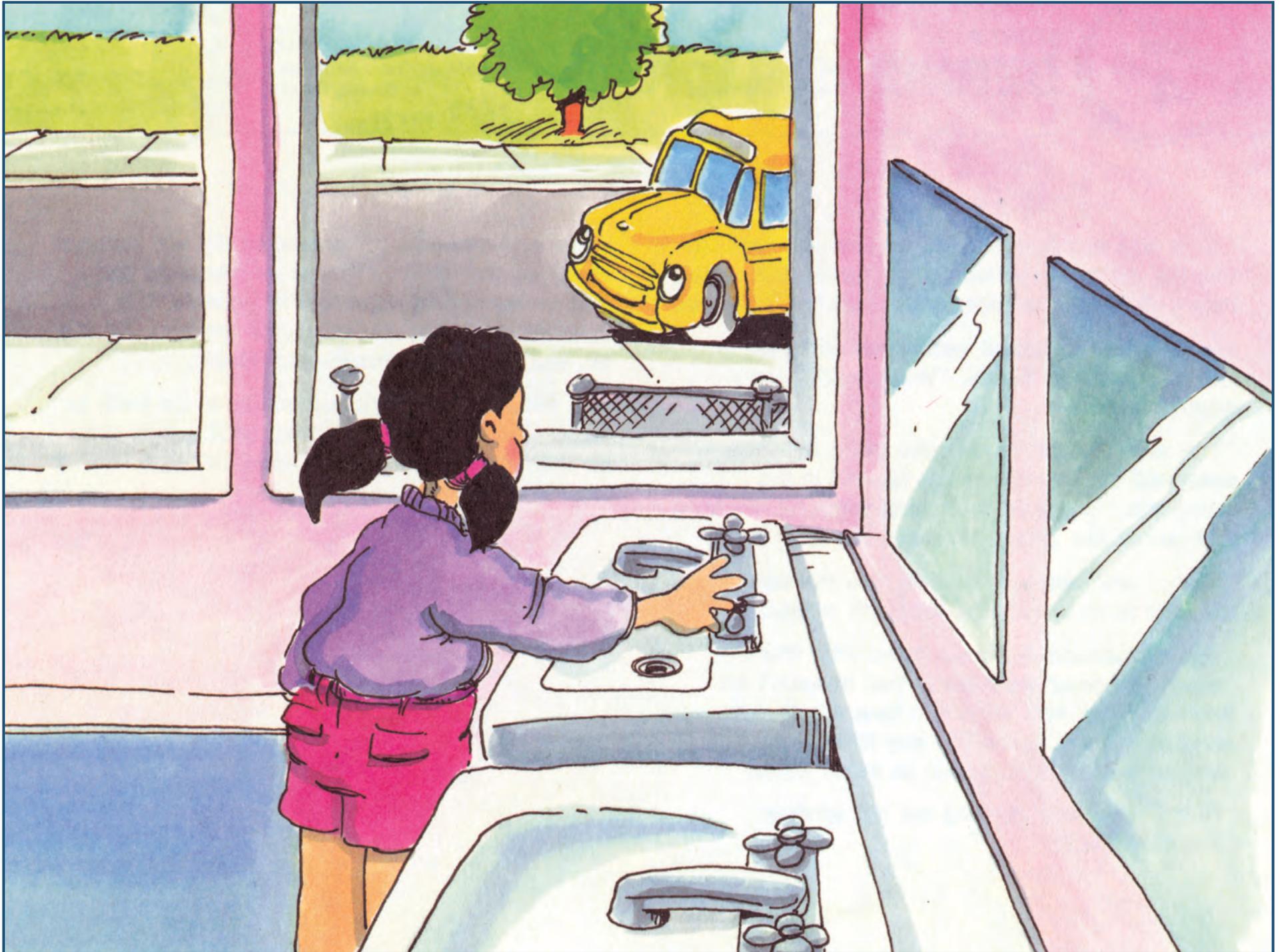
Joe didn't understand why he should reuse his lunch sack, but Patti did. "Paper is made from trees," she told Joe, "so when we waste paper, it means more trees in the environment have to be cut down to make more paper."

"And it also means that you create more trash," Bernie continued. "So you should use only as much paper as you really need—like one paper towel instead of two, and a real glass or plate or towel instead of paper ones when you can. And you shouldn't throw away anything made of paper that you can use again, such as a lunch sack or a box."

"We'll do it!" cried many of the children at the same time. But as Joe pulled his paper sack out of the trash, he frowned and said, "There's still a lot of trash in here."

"You're right," Bernie agreed. "But not all of it is trash. The aluminum cans, the glass and plastic bottles, and the newspapers can be recycled—that means that they can be used to make new things out of aluminum, glass, plastic, and paper. They belong in a recycle bin, not in the trash."







STORY 2: Bernie is Back

Lunch time was almost over, so Joe and Patti ran into the restrooms to wash their hands. But when they walked back outside, Bernie was howling again.

Joe and Patti looked at each and then looked straight at Bernie. "What now?" Joe wanted to know.

"The water," said Bernie, who could hear the water still trickling out of the faucets in the restrooms. "Water is an important natural resource that you're just letting run down the drain."

"Sorry," said Joe and Patti as they ran back into the restrooms to turn the water off tightly.

"And furthermore," Bernie called after them, "when you brush your teeth, you shouldn't let the water run. And when you take a bath, you shouldn't fill the tub all the way to the top. You can get just as clean in half as much water!"

"Okay," said Patti, looking out the window. "Anything else?"

"Just one more thing," answered Bernie, who had finally quieted down. "Please let everyone know that saving natural resources is good for the environment—for the water, for the land, for the air, and for all the animals and people."

The bell rang and Patti hurried out to go back to class. "Don't worry," she said, smiling over her shoulder at Bernard Bartholomew Omnibus III. "I'll tell them!"

