

A Load of Rubbish!

Do you want to listen to a RUBBISH story? Some people say that it's just a WASTE of time, but I couldn't REFUSE to tell it! Any ideas on what it's about? No? Well, I'll give you a hint...it's JUNK! So you think this story will be GARBAGE, do you? Listen carefully and maybe I'll be able to change your mind!

It all started last week when I met my best friend, Ayden, at the local park. It was a sunny day and we had decided to go for a bike ride.

“Hey Ayden!” I called as I cycled over to him. Ayden grunted. He was kneeling next to his bike and was **inspecting** the front tyre. He wore an **irritated** look. “What’s the matter?” I asked, putting down my bike and walking towards him.

“Sorry, Kyle. I’ve got a flat tyre. Not only that, but my chain keeps falling off too...this bike is a piece of **garbage!** I’m going to throw it away.” Ayden stood up and kicked the bike’s tyre. He folded his arms and **huffed** loudly.

That was when something strange happened. I heard an unusual sound coming from all around us and suddenly, a **remarkable** lady appeared from nowhere. She was wearing a sparkly, green dress and held a glittery clipboard in one hand. As she noticed us, she pulled down her reading glasses and took a closer look. She scrunched up her nose.

“Who on Earth are you?!” Ayden exclaimed, his eyes were wide and he was shaking a little. That was when I noticed the lady wore a large badge. It read ‘Mother Earth’.

The lady sighed. “I’m Mother Earth of course. I’m the spirit of the earth.” She looked around and started to make notes on her clipboard. She eventually noticed Ayden’s bike on the floor and **tutted**. “You know, I’ve been very unwell lately,” she complained.

“Oh no, what’s wrong? Why have you been so ill?” Ayden asked, looking **concerned**.

Mother Earth pointed over my shoulder. “Just look at that **vile** rubbish dump over there...”

“I know. Yuk!” I agreed. I always rode past it on my way to the park.

“Did you know that lots of people use things just once and then throw them away? You humans live your lives as if there is a **never-ending** supply of everything in this world... and when you live like that, you make a lot of waste and **pollution**. These things add to what I call your ‘carbon footprint’.”

“Carbon what?” Ayden cried.

“Carbon footprint! It’s caused by your **misuse** of the earth’s **natural resources**. That’s what is making me so sick.” She coughed a little.

Ayden looked shocked. “Us? We don’t do that.”

“Yes you do. All of you do!” Mother Earth yelled, waving her wand in the air. All of a sudden, we heard a rustling noise coming from nearby.

“What’s that noise?” Ayden said in a **trembling** voice.



“It’s coming from that wheelie bin over there...” I pointed towards a large black bin in front of a nearby house. The lid was moving up and down as if something was trying to get out.

“Look, here comes a pile of old magazines. It was once a tree you know...” Before we knew it, a huge pile of magazines had jumped out of the bin and was rolling towards us.

“We overheard you talking. We’ve been so sad in there, just wasted. We could have been recycled and used again. That saves energy and trees! You can reduce your carbon footprint if you recycle us.” I was so surprised, I didn’t know what to say. Eventually, I found my voice.

“Maybe I can help to recycle you!” I offered. As I said it, Mother Earth waved her wand and in a puff of smoke a black recycling box appeared in front of us.

“Thank you! You know, recycling is so easy to do. You might have a special recycling box like this that you can put things such as old magazines in. It gets collected and then recycled.” I picked up the pile of magazines and placed them neatly inside the black box.

“Oh yeah, we have one of those boxes at home. I think my brother keeps his fishing tackle in it...Mother Earth, is there anything else that can be recycled?” Ayden said.

“I’m glad you asked young man. There are many materials that can be recycled which people just throw away every day.” From the rubbish dump, a plastic **container** rolled towards us.

As it reached us, it began to talk, just like the magazine. Things were getting stranger every minute! “I would have to be lying here for over four-hundred and fifty years to **decompose!**” The container sounded unhappy. “If someone had recycled me I could be turned into a toy or even part of a car!”

“Well, maybe now you’ll get your chance. Boys, did you know lots of big shops recycle bottles already?” She pointed towards the plastic container.

“I can take them to my local supermarket. I think mom’s going tonight,” Ayden replied. He picked up the plastic container and put it into his back pack ready to take home.

“That’s the plastic sorted then, but what about glass?” I asked.

“Glass can be recycled too!” She waved her wand again and a large glass bottle rolled towards us from the rubbish dump.

“Thank goodness you came along!” the glass bottle started to say. “I could’ve been laying here for the next million years! I don’t rot like other materials! If only I had been recycled.” I picked up the glass bottle and placed it in the recycling box. I could just feel my carbon footprint getting smaller.

“Mother Earth, I never knew that re-using stuff was so easy to do,” I said.

“Recycling is very important, you should go and tell all of your friends! I’ve got to be going now...I have so many things to take care of...” She waved her wand one last time and disappeared.

“Right, first things first...I’ve got to fix my bike!” Ayden knelt down and started to **tinker** with the bike chain. Mother Earth taught us that we need to reduce, reuse and recycle if we want to cut our carbon footprint and save the planet. What could you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

A Load of Rubbish! – Follow-Up Work

What were Kyle and Ayden planning to do at the start of the day?

What colour outfit does Mother Earth wear?

How many years does it take for plastic containers to break down when thrown away?

What does Ayden's brother use their recycling box for?

I couldn't 'REFUSE' to tell it!' The writer puts the word REFUSE in capital letters because it has two meanings. What are the two different meanings?

The writer uses synonyms for 'rubbish' in the text. Can you find 3 examples?

When Ayden says he is going to throw away his bike, which words in the text tell us that he is angry?

The writer has used different words for 'said' throughout the story. Can you find three examples?

When Ayden met Mother Earth, the text states his 'eyes were wide' and 'he was shaking a little'. What does this tell us about how he was feeling?

Kyle says 'eventually, I found my voice'. Can you explain what this means?

Write a suitable question to fit with the following answer: paper, plastic and glass.

Put the following events in the correct order, numbering them from 1 to 4: Mother Earth disappears, the plastic containers speak to the boys, Mother Earth visits the boys, the glass bottles talk to the boys.

What do you think the key message of the story is?

Why do you think the writer ends the story with a question?

A Load of Rubbish! – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

pollution _____

inspecting _____

irritated _____

garbage _____

huffed _____

misuse _____

trembling _____

never-ending _____

remarkable _____

container _____

tutted _____

concerned _____

vile _____

natural resources _____

tinker _____

A Load of Rubbish! – Vocab 2

Put the following key words in alphabetical order. Remember to use the first letter to begin with and then move on to the second and third if needed.

inspecting	tutted	garbage
concerned	pollution	vile
huffed	container	never-ending
irritated	natural resources	remarkable
trembling	tinker	misuse

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Synonyms for 'said'

When writing dialogue (speech), the word 'said' can often be overused.

For example,

“Good morning!” the teacher *said*.

“Good morning, Miss Smith,” the children *said*.

“How are you, Sam?” *said* Miss Smith.

“I'm fine thanks,” *said* Sam.

In this case, the word 'said' is used too many times. Using synonyms for 'said' can improve your writing of speech or dialogue.

Task One

Find five examples of synonyms for 'said' within the text.

Task Two

Use the following synonyms for 'said' in sentences of your own. Remember to punctuate correctly using inverted commas.

shouted _____

whispered _____

asked _____

exclaimed _____

sobbed _____

Challenge...

Can you think of any other synonyms for 'said'? List them below.

A Load of Rubbish! – Oral Teacher Questions

What were Kyle and Ayden planning to do at the start of the day? **They were planning on taking a bike ride around the park together.**

What colour outfit does Mother Earth wear? **Green.**

How many years does it take for plastic containers to break down when thrown away? **Four-hundred and fifty years**

What does Ayden's brother use their recycling box for? **His brother uses it to keep his fishing tackle stored in.**

I couldn't 'REFUSE' to tell it! The writer puts the word REFUSE in capital letters because it has two meanings. What are the two different meanings? **Refuse means not being willing to do something, however it also means rubbish. In this case it works well in the story because the main theme is waste.**

The writer uses synonyms for 'rubbish' in the text. Can you find 3 examples? **Examples could include: garbage, junk, refuse and waste.**

When Ayden says he is going to throw away his bike, which words in the text tell us that he is angry? **The text states that he 'kicked the bike's tyre', 'folded his arms', 'huffed loudly' and 'grunted'. It also states he 'wore an irritated look'.**

The writer has used different words for 'said' throughout the story. Can you find three examples? **Examples could include: exclaimed, yelled, called, asked, agreed, cried.**

When Ayden met Mother Earth, the text states his 'eyes were wide' and 'he was shaking a little'. What does this tell us about how he was feeling? **It says he was feeling nervous and a little scared about meeting Mother Earth for the first time.**

Kyle says 'eventually, I found my voice'. Can you explain what this means? **Kyle was speechless when Mother Earth visited him and eventually, as he calmed down, he managed to speak again.**

Write a suitable question to fit with the following answer: paper, plastic and glass. **Pupil responses may vary. Examples could include: which everyday items can be recycled?**

Put the following events in the correct order, numbering them from 1 to 4: Mother Earth disappears, the plastic containers speak to the boys, Mother Earth visits the boys, the glass bottles talk to the boys. **1. Mother Earth visits the boys 2. the plastic containers speak to the boys 3. the glass bottles talk to the boys 4. Mother Earth disappears.**

What do you think the key message of the story is? **The message is that people should reduce, reuse and recycle to reduce their carbon footprint and help to save the planet.**

Why do you think the writer ends the story with a question? **It makes the reader think more deeply about the subject matter and relate it to their own lives. It makes them think about what they will do to reduce their own carbon footprint.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

pollution – harmful gases and substances in the environment

inspecting – to look over very carefully; examining closely

irritated – to be angered or annoyed

garbage – rubbish; items which are no longer needed

huffed – to breath out sharply in anger; a mood of sulking

misuse – the wrong use of something

trembling – to shake with fear in short, quick movements

never-ending – having no end

remarkable – different or unusual; extraordinary

container – anything which can hold something, such as a box, bottle or can

tutted – to make a ‘tutting’ sound at someone out of impatience or dislike

concerned – troubled or anxious

vile – horrible or bad

natural resources – natural products which can be used and sold, such as wood from forests,
or oil and coal from underground

tinker – an attempt to repair something

A Load of Rubbish! – Vocab 2

Put the following key words in alphabetical order. Remember to use the first letter to begin with and then move on to the second and third if needed.

inspecting	tutted	garbage
concerned	pollution	vile
huffed	container	never-ending
irritated	natural resources	remarkable
trembling	tinker	misuse

1. **concerned**
2. **container**
3. **garbage**
4. **huffed**
5. **inspecting**
6. **irritated**
7. **misuse**
8. **natural resources**
9. **never-ending**
10. **pollution**
11. **remarkable**
12. **tinker**
13. **trembling**
14. **tutted**
15. **vile**

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Task One

Find five examples of synonyms for 'said' within the text.

Examples could include: asked, offered, exclaimed, replied, complained, agreed, cried, yelled.

Task Two

Use the following synonyms for 'said' in sentences of your own. Remember to punctuate correctly using inverted commas.

shouted – Pupil responses will vary. Check use of inverted commas.

whispered _____

asked _____

exclaimed _____

sobbed _____

Challenge...

Can you think of any other synonyms for 'said'? List them below.

Examples could include: replied, chatted, shrieked, joked, mumbled, whimpered, boomed, snapped, wailed, squeaked, laughed, muttered.