

Emily Raccoon ★ and the ★ Ginormous Garbage Pile



Once there were two little raccoons, a brother and a sister named Joe and Emily Raccoon.

Joe Raccoon was very careful with all his toys. He always cleaned up right after dinner.

But Emily Raccoon was very messy.



⋮ After dinner each night, Joe and Emily's
⋮ mom told Joe to wash the dishes. She
⋮ told Emily to take care of the recycling.
⋮ Then their mom went to lie down and rest
⋮ after a hard day at work.



⋮ Joe washed and dried the dishes.
⋮ But Emily just took the recycling
⋮ and put it in with the trash. She
⋮ didn't rinse out the cans and bottles
⋮ or let them dry for recycling. She
⋮ didn't think about things you can't
⋮ recycle. She just threw everything
⋮ into a big pile in the backyard.

One night when their mom came home from work, she said, "Something smells bad!" Joe and Emily and their mom went around the house sniffing.

"Uh-oh," said Mom. "Something is behind the house."

They all ran outside to the backyard. There was a **GINORMOUS** pile of garbage.



⋮ There was old food and plastic bottles
⋮ and metal cans. There were old pizza
⋮ boxes and broken toys and a big
⋮ cardboard box. What else do you think
⋮ was in the pile?

⋮ “Oh, no,” said Mom. “What
⋮ are we going to do with all
⋮ this garbage?”



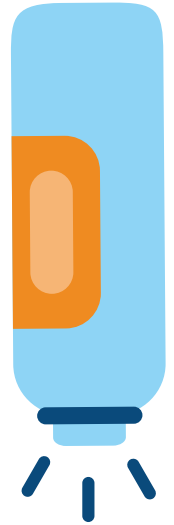
Emily was sorry she had made the big mess.
"I'm sorry, Mom," she said.

"We can clean it up now," said Joe, who had learned about recycling at school. "Recycling is important. It helps the Earth and all the people and animals stay healthy."

Joe, Emily, and their mom got to work sorting the recycling.



: “Everything we recycle has to
: be clean and dry, with no food
: on it,” Mom said. “Otherwise,
: it can’t be recycled.”



: Joe rinsed out the metal cans
: and the plastic bottles, and
: set them aside to dry.



- ⋮ Emily piled up all the clean
- ⋮ cardboard, newspapers,
- ⋮ magazines, and old mail.

- ⋮ Mom put stuff you can't recycle, like
- ⋮ dirty pizza boxes, food scraps, and
- ⋮ plastic bags into the garbage can.



: When they were done, it was dark, but
: everybody felt great. All the garbage went
: into the garbage can. All the empty, clean
: and dry recycling items went into the
: recycling bin.

: “Mom,” said Emily, “I’m going to learn all
: about recycling.”

: “It’s as simple as one, two, three,” said Joe.

1

“Number one is knowing what you can recycle and what you can’t recycle.”


2

“Number two is rinsing out and drying,” said Mom as they went inside.

3

“And number three is putting everything into the recycling bin without any plastic bags.”





From that day on,
Emily became a
recycling star.

She even started to
clean up her room!