



# Reader's Theater:

## The Eco Explorers



## **Characters:**

- Narrator
- Ms. Patel – A passionate teacher.
- Jordan – A curious and enthusiastic student.
- Sofia – A skeptical but intelligent student.
- Marcus – A funny and creative problem-solver.
- Linh – Organized and loves making lists.
- Mr. Gomez – A friendly recycling center worker.
- Mrs. Thompson – A neighbor who doesn't recycle.
- Class/Community Members – Group cheers and extras.

## **Optional Props:**

- Clean, safe reused items (bottles, cans, paper) for the art contest scene
- A clipboard and notebook for Linh
- A small trash bag for litter collection scenes
- A cardboard sign that reads “Eco Explorers”
- A flower pot or small plant for the garden scene
- A poster or hand-drawn flyer for the recycling campaign

**Narrator:**

It's a sunny Monday morning in Ms. Patel's classroom, and the students are about to hear about a new project.

**Ms. Patel:**

Good morning, class! I have a special Earth Day project for you. This will be an extra credit opportunity to help our planet and learn about sustainability.

**Jordan:**

(excitedly) Extra credit? Nice!

**Sofia:**

(groaning) Ugh, another project?

**Marcus:**

(dramatically) I was hoping for extra credit in something cool... like inventing a flying skateboard.

**Ms. Patel:**

(chuckles) Well, you might find this project cooler than you think. I want you to explore ways to help the Earth. You can collect recyclables, plant trees, or even talk to the community about waste reduction. You'll be working in teams and presenting your findings next week.

**Linh:**

(writing in notebook) Organized projects are my thing. Let's make a list of options.

**Narrator:**

Jordan, Sofia, Marcus, and Linh form a team. The next day, Ms. Patel joins their neighborhood cleanup. Wearing gloves and using litter grabbers, they leave sharp or unknown objects for adults.

**Jordan:**

Okay, so let's pick up some litter, take a few pictures, and call it a day.

**Sofia:**

Works for me. I've got soccer practice later.

**Marcus:**

(pointing to a soda can) Look at this! People are so messy.

**Linh:**

(writing) That's one thing we can talk about. Littering is a huge problem.

**Narrator:** As they collect trash, they start noticing just how much there is.

**Jordan:**

Whoa... there's a lot more garbage here than I thought.

**Sofia:**

(surprised) Some of this might be recyclable! Let's check whether the center accepts this plastic bottle.

**Marcus:**

(pointing to an old book) Someone threw this away? If it's clean and dry, maybe it can be donated!

**Narrator:**

Ms. Patel takes them to the recycling center to learn which items it accepts.

**Narrator:**

At the recycling center, they meet Mr. Gomez, who shows them around.

**Mr. Gomez:**

Thanks for cleaning up! We'll sort out the items we accept. Some of this belongs in the trash.

**Narrator:**

The kids watch as plastic, paper, and metal are separated into different bins. They start to realize how much effort goes into recycling.

**Jordan:**

(amazed) I thought recycling was just tossing stuff in a blue bin. This is way more complicated!

**Sofia:**

So recyclable things can end up in the trash if we don't sort them?

**Mr. Gomez:**

Yes. Recycling rules vary by location, so check first. Reducing waste and reusing things help, too.

**Marcus:**

(surprised) So the best trash is the trash we never make!

**Linh:**

That's it. We need to tell people about this.

**Narrator:**

Inspired by what they've learned, the students start spreading the word. With Ms. Patel, they talk to neighbors about recycling.

**Mrs. Thompson:**

I've never bothered with recycling. It just seems like extra work.

**Jordan:**

Recycling aluminum uses much less energy than making new aluminum from ore!

**Marcus:**

(dramatically) That little can has a big job!

**Mrs. Thompson:**

Well, when you put it that way... Maybe I'll give it a try.

**Narrator:**

Over the next few days, the students make posters with local recycling rules. More classmates join in.

**Ms. Patel:**

I'm so proud of you all. What started as a school project has turned into something bigger!

**Jordan:**

(grinning) Yeah, we want to keep this going.

**Linh:**

We should make a club—The Eco Explorers!

**Sofia:**

(nods) And find more ways to help. Maybe composting?

**Narrator:**

The following Monday, the team presents its findings to the class.

**Linh:**

(reading her notes) We cleaned up litter, learned the recycling rules, and helped our neighbors get started.

**Sofia:**

I thought this was just extra work. Now I see how our choices can help.

**Jordan:**

Can the Eco Explorers keep meeting after this project ends?

**Ms. Patel:**

Yes! I'll help you plan and get permission for school projects.

**Linh:**

Let's start small: a compost bin, then a garden when we're ready.

**Sofia:**

And we can collect clean, safe materials from home to reuse. What should we make?

**Marcus:**

Let's hold an art contest with reused materials!

**Narrator:**

The next week, the Eco Explorers host an art contest using clean, safe materials from home. The whole class joins in.

**Ms. Patel:**

Let's reuse these materials before throwing them away. Be creative!

**Jordan:**

I'm making a robot out of old cans and bottle caps!

**Sofia:**

I'm painting on cardboard instead of using a new canvas.

**Marcus:**

I'm building a spaceship from plastic bottles. Space trash - no more!

**Narrator:**

The contest is a huge success, and their projects inspire others to think differently about waste. Meanwhile, another group starts a composting area outside.

**Linh:**

Let's collect fruit and vegetable scraps from lunch and mix them with dry leaves in our compost bin!

**Ms. Patel:**

We'll keep it moist, mix in air, and leave out meat and dairy.

Jordan:

When it's ready, we can use it in a school garden!

**Narrator:**

The club tends the bin for several months. When the compost is dark, crumbly, and earthy-smelling, they mix it into garden soil and plant vegetables and flowers.

**Ms. Patel:**

Look at what you've accomplished! You've turned a simple project into a real movement.

**Jordan:**

And we're just getting started!

**Class:**

(cheering) Eco Explorers forever!

**Narrator:**

And so, what began as an assignment became a passion for the students. The Eco Explorers continued to find ways to help the planet, proving that small actions can lead to big change.

**The End.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How did their perspective change as they worked on their assignments?

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Why was the recycling center visit an important turning point for the students?

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If you were part of the Eco Explorers, what project would you start to help the Earth?

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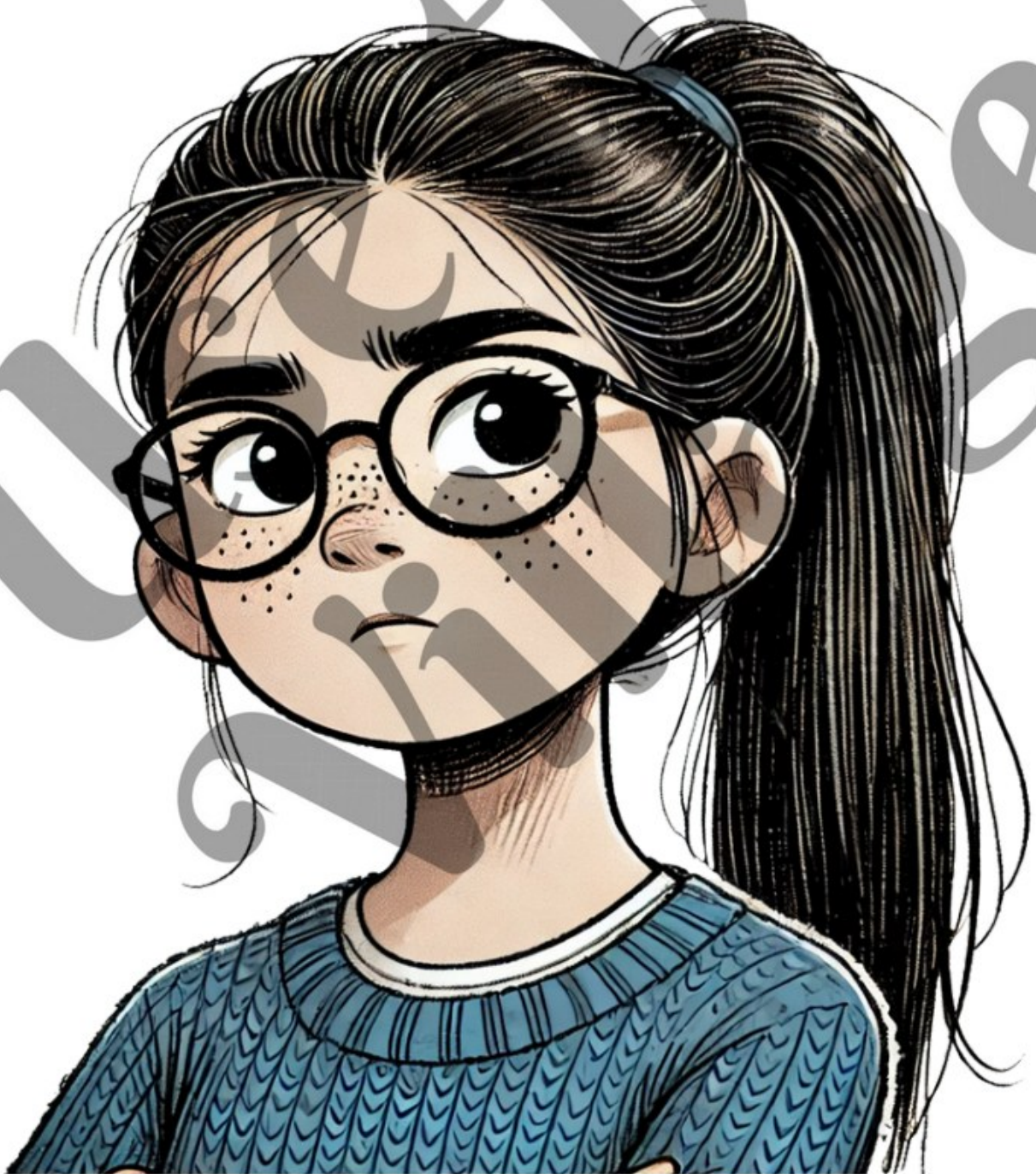
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# Jordan



# Sofia



# Ms. Patel



# Marcus



# Linh



# Mr. Gomez



Mrs.  
Thompson



# Narrator



# Jordan



# Sofia



# Ms. Patel



# Marcus



# Linh



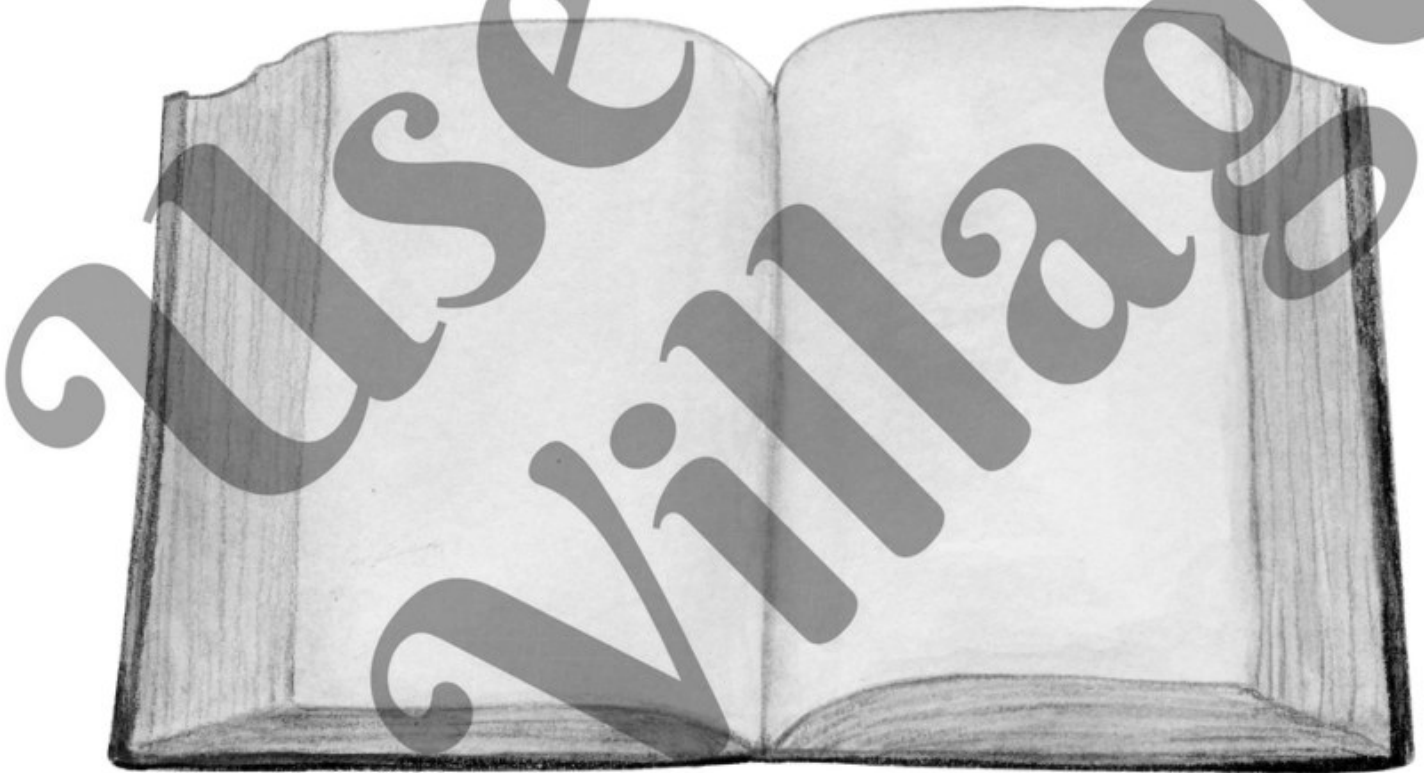
# Mr. Gomez



Mrs.  
Thompson



# Narrator



## Teacher Suggestions:

**Assigning Roles:** Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

**Practicing Fluency:** Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

**Props & Costumes:** Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

**Character Labels:** Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

**Performance:** Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

**Reader Response Questions:** Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

## Extension Activities:

- **Create Your Own Eco Explorers Plan:** Students can come up with their own project ideas to help their school or community and present them to the class.
- **Recycling Challenge:** Have students check local rules, then sort clean, accepted items from home. Discuss reducing waste first.
- **Composting Experiment:** With adult guidance, maintain an outdoor compost bin and record changes over several months.
- **Art from Trash:** Hold an art contest using clean, safe reused materials and display the projects around the school.
- **Letter to the Principal:** Have students write a persuasive letter to their principal suggesting new sustainability efforts for the school.