

Round and Round Again

A Lesson on Recycling

Based on Nancy Van Laan's *Round and Round Again*

Teacher: Libba Brannon, Loachapoka Elementary School, Loachapoka, AL

Title: *Round and Round Again* by Nancy Van Laan

Grade Level: 3rd

Content Areas: Science and Language Arts

Description of Lesson: During this lesson the teacher will read aloud Nancy Van Laan's *Round and Round Again* and discuss the importance of recycling.

Timeline: 45 minutes (used as a unit or theme introduction)

Goals/Objectives of Lesson Plan:

1. The students will be able to explain the meaning of the term recycling.
2. The students will be able to discuss the importance of recycling to our environment.
3. The students will be able to classify common household items into recyclable categories (paper, plastic, aluminum, etc.).

Curriculum Standards:

ALCOS:

Third Grade – Science #13: Describe ways to sustain natural resources, including recycling, reusing, conserving, and protecting the environment. (Example: Recognizing the impact of society on human health and environmental conditions)

Information Literacy Standards: *Literacy Partners*:

Third Grade – Access: Use the library media catalog to find information on a subject, author, or title.

Third Grade – Evaluate: Classify items into categories and assign appropriate names to each category.

Before Reading:

- Ask the students to think about taking out the trash. Direct them to think about how much trash they produce, when they take it out, who they think picks it up, where it goes after it is picked up.

- Tell them that you will be reading a fictional book about a family that does something a little different with their trash.
- Tell them to notice all of the old things that the family reuses.

During Reading:

- Stop after reading the first page and ask students to point out what items are being used in a new way (they must be sitting close to you to see the pictures). Some examples are: egg carton as a planter, cat food can as a planter; sardine can to hold pins, shoe box as a storage container.
- Have students stop on the following pages to notice the old items being used in new ways.

After Reading:

- Remind students that this story was fictional, but ask them to think about the idea the author was trying to convey. What is the point of telling that silly story?
- Discuss the benefits of reusing old things instead of always throwing things away. **Tell them that, when you reuse products, you are helping the environment.**
- Bring them back to the Before Reading questions. Remind them that, after the trash collectors pick up the trash, it does not just disappear. Discuss landfills and the threat of landfills getting too full.
- **Tell them that, instead of always throwing your old things out, you can recycle. Recycling is when you take old things and make them into something new.**
- Tell them that we are going to learn what kinds of things *they* can recycle.

Learning Activities or Tasks:

- Remind students again that recycling means **taking old things and making them into something new.**
- Present the categories (examples: glass, aluminum, paper) of recyclable objects. (You need to research and see what your city recycles.*)
- Have the students brainstorm with their group items that would fit in these categories. (You may have to get them started with a list of items such as magazines, cereal boxes, soda cans, etc.)
- Once they have come up with several ideas, have the groups share their lists. Record their lists on chart paper to save in the room for future reference.
- Summarize the lesson, and then have the students make their own recycling charts in their journals. They should close their journal entry with a reflection of the lesson.
- *For the next library class:* Have the students go to the library and look up books related to the environment/recycling.

Materials:

- Copy of *Round and Round Again* by Nancy Van Laan
- Paper for brainstorming
- Chart paper with category headings of your choice
- Journals

Resources:

- Van Laan, N. *Round and Round Again*. Hyperion Books, 1994.
- City of Auburn Environmental Services webpage - <http://www.auburnalabama.org/es/>
- Alabama Literary Map - <http://www.alabamaliterarymap.org/>

Other Curriculum Connections:

After reading the book, the teacher should tell the students that the author of the book is from Birmingham, Alabama. They can use the classroom U.S. map and locate Alabama. They can then use the Alabama map to locate Birmingham.

Assessment:

- Journal Rubric
 - Did the student include the correct category headings?
 - Did the student list at least three items in each category?
 - Did the student classify the items correctly?
 - Did the student reflect on the lesson?
- Peer Assessment (for group work)
 - My group used their inside voices. ☺ ☹
 - My group listened to each other. ☺ ☹
 - My group did not argue. ☺ ☹
 - My group finished our work. ☺ ☹

** In Auburn, we recycle aluminum, cardboard, newspaper, glass (clear and brown), plastic (#1 and #2 BOTTLES only), and steel (tin) cans, green glass, magazines/mixed paper, telephone books, rechargeable and non-rechargeable consumer batteries. Some are curb-side pick-up and some must be dropped off. See resources for the city's link.*