

Waste & Recycling Themed Books

Fiction – Picture Books

The following picture books can provide a nice way to introduce the idea of recycling and open up a discussion about what can be recycled and why it's important. They can be followed up by a range of different activities, including:

- Junk modelling/waste sculptures
- Sorting rubbish race
- Making/playing instruments made from rubbish
- Any craft activity linked to making new things out of rubbish/recyclable materials

Book	Information
<p><i>Why should I recycle?</i></p> <p>By Jen Green Illustrated by Mike Gordon</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0-7502-3681-2</p>	<p>A nice, story based, simple introduction to recycling. The book talks about some items that can be recycled and what they can be turned into. It also touches on charity shops, reuse and composting.</p>
<p><i>George saves the world by lunchtime</i></p> <p>By Jo Readman & Ley Honor Roberts</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-903-91950-7</p>	<p>Presented in a picture book style, this book contains a lot of information. It's set around a simple story of a boy who wants to save the world and goes through lots of ways to help to do this including reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and compost. The story is interspersed with facts about how doing these things can help the environment. It also covers energy usage, charity shops, food waste, pollution, recycling centres and buying local.</p>
<p><i>Michael Recycle</i></p> <p>By Ellie Bethel Illustrated by Alexandra Colombo</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-84539-281-9</p>	<p>Written in rhyme, this book provides a fun way to introduce the problems with wastefulness and promote recycling.</p>
<p><i>Litterbug Doug</i></p> <p>By Ellie Bethel Illustrated by Alexandra Colombo</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-84539-415-8</p>	<p>Another book in the 'Michael Recycle' range, this looks at how Litterbug Doug's wasteful ways are changed for the better. Again written in rhyme.</p>
<p><i>The trouble with dragons</i></p> <p>By Debi Gliori</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0-7475-9541-0</p>	<p>Written in rhyme, this talks about how 'dragons' damage the world by overusing and wasting resources and causing pollution. But the dragons learn to repair their ways by looking after the planet and reducing pollution, buying locally, being less wasteful and reducing, reusing and recycling.</p> <p>This book could provide a nice conversation starter about what we can do to reduce pollution etc.</p>

<p><i>Peppa Pig recycling fun</i></p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-8464-6952-7</p>	<p>Aimed at younger children, this book introduces the idea of recycling and that you shouldn't just place everything in the rubbish bin. It talks about some basic materials that can be recycled.</p>
<p><i>Another Fine Mess</i></p> <p>By Tony Bonning Illustrated by Sally Hobson</p> <p>ISBN: 1-86233-145-6</p>	<p>This story sees a range of animal characters unwittingly dumping their rubbish into each others' houses, rather than clearing it up properly. In the end some mice find a good use for it – 'fancy anyone throwing away such lovely treasures'.</p> <p>A good conversation starter – do you think our rubbish could be treasures? Opens up possible discussions on reuse and recycling.</p>
<p><i>What if? A book about recycling</i></p> <p>By Mick Manning & Brita Granström</p> <p>ISBN: 0-7496-3292-5</p>	<p>This book explores all the different possible uses/options for a bottle once it's been used. It looks at the dangers of littering and the possibilities of reuse and recycling.</p> <p>It includes a nice double page spread about several different everyday items and what they can be recycled into.</p> <p>This could provide a nice opener to explore the different possibilities for an item of rubbish at the end of its life.</p>
<p><i>Dinosaurs and all that rubbish</i></p> <p>By Michael Foreman</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0-140-55260-7</p>	<p>A story about how a man uses up the Earth's resources, to build things to get what he wants, and the damage he causes to the planet in doing this. The dinosaurs then tidy it all up and make the planet nice again. It ends by emphasising that we all have a part to play in looking after the planet.</p>
<p><i>This is the bear</i></p> <p>By Sarah Hayes Illustrated by Helen Craig</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0-7445-9481-2</p>	<p>A nice simple book for early years or younger KS1 children. It's written in rhyme about a teddy bear who accidentally gets thrown out and taken to 'the dump'.</p> <p>This could be used to start a conversation about where rubbish goes when it's thrown away. Children could be asked to imagine what it must have been like at the dump – what did Bear see, hear, smell, feel etc? What can we do with our rubbish instead? (Recycle it). The children could then make a 'rubbish' collage with the wording 'Recycle your rubbish' or cover a bear shape in bits of rubbish.</p>
<p><i>Hugo makes a change</i></p> <p>By Scott Emmons & Mauro Gatti</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-911171-21-8</p>	<p>This healthy eating based story sees a vampire character, who initially only eats meat, discovering lots of new foods that help him to eat a balanced diet.</p> <p>This could lead on to a discussion about food waste, and what we can do about it, or composting.</p>
<p><i>Oliver's fruit salad</i></p> <p>By Vivian French Illustrated by Alison Bartlett</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-444-93763-3</p>	<p>Oliver likes to help his grandpa to pick fruit but doesn't like to eat it. When it's presented to him in fruit salad, however, he's encouraged to try it and loves it!</p> <p>This book could provide a nice introduction for a cooking lesson or for creating a smoothie.</p>

Fiction – Junior Novels

Although some of these books are not specifically centred around waste or recycling, they do offer a more general environmental theme so may be a valuable enhancement to the topic.

Book	Information
<i>The Wombles</i> By Elisabeth Beresford ISBN: 978-1-4088-0837-5	The Wombles live in a cosy burrow beneath Wimbledon Common. They like nothing better than a good tidy-up and luckily the Wombles' burrow is the perfect place to sort and recycle all the rubbish that careless human beings leave behind!
<i>Toby Alone</i> By Timothée de Fombelle ISBN: 978-1-4063-0726-9	Running from branch to branch, exhausted, his feet bleeding, Toby is on the run from his own people. He's just one and a half millimetres tall, but Toby Lolness is the most wanted person in the great oak Tree. Pursued across a hazardous terrain of falling leaves, thick moss forests and bark mountains, hunted by an army of angry woodcutters and blood-thirsty soldier ants, Toby faces an epic battle for survival in an unforgettable miniature world.
<i>The story of the blue planet</i> By Andri SnærMagnason Illustrated by Áslaug Jónsdóttir ISBN: 978-1-78269-065-8	Brimir and Hulda are best friends, living on a beautiful blue planet where there are no grown-ups, and each day is more exciting than the last. Until, one day, a rocket ship crashes on the beach. The pilot, named Gleesome Goodday, promises to make life a hundred times more fun and even nails the sun to their sky. But Hulda and Brimir soon discover that their endless fun has consequences they could never have imagined. Could it be that Gleesome Goodday is not everything he seems?
<i>The last wild</i> By Piers Torday ISBN: 978-1-78087-830-0	This is the story of a boy named Kester. He is extraordinary, but he doesn't know that yet. All he knows, at this very moment, is this: There is a flock of excited pigeons in his bedroom. They are talking to him. His life will never be quite the same again...
<i>The dark wild</i> By Piers Torday ISBN: 978-1-84866-378-7	This is a story of a boy named Kester. He has rescued the last wild creatures in the land, and he thinks his adventure is over. But he could not be more wrong, because: A helicopter is flying towards him. He can hear strange whispers below the earth. His journey has only just begun...
<i>The wild beyond</i> By Piers Torday ISBN: 978-1-84866-953-6	This is the story of a boy named Kester. He has rescued the last wild animals in the world, and saved the capital city from destruction. But now he must face his greatest challenge yet, because: The only blue whale on the planet has brought news from across the ocean. A mysterious steel dome has risen from the four Towers. Out there, somewhere, a brave mouse holds the key to the future...

<p><i>White Dolphin</i></p> <p>By Gill Lewis</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0-19-275621-3</p>	<p>When they first meet, Kara and Felix can't stand each other. But on discovering an injured dolphin calf on the beach they know they must work together to save it. Now friends, they set out to find the truth behind the disappearance of Kara's mother, and to protect the nearby reef. But powerful people don't want them to succeed. And with the odds stacked against them, how can Kara and Felix make their voices heard?</p>
<p><i>The animals of Farthing Wood</i></p> <p>By Colin Dann</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-4052-8180-5</p>	<p>'We must all find a new home. Now – before it's too late!' When bulldozers arrive in Farthing Wood, the animals must escape. They agree to protect each other, but as they face fires and deadly rivers, can their promise hold?</p>
<p><i>Eco-wolf and the three pigs</i></p> <p>By Laurence Anholt & Arthur Robins</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-84121-394-1</p>	<p>Eco-wolf knows it's important to give Mother Nature respect. Unlike the three big bad pigs, and their pesky polluting plans...</p>
<p><i>The wilderness war</i></p> <p>By Julie Green</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0-19-274365-7</p>	<p>The Wilderness is the perfect place for building dens, making fires, and camping out all night. It's the only place where Noah and his friends feel truly free. Then the sign appears – land for sale. Doesn't anyone care about the wildlife and the trees? The deer who comes at dawn, the baby crow Noah has been feeding, all of the creatures who've made the wilderness their home? One thing is for sure – Noah and his friends are not giving up on the Wilderness without a fight.</p>
<p><i>The house in the tree</i></p> <p>By Bianca Pitzorono Illustrated by Quentin Blake</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-84688-410-8</p>	<p>All children dream of having a secret house where they can live on their own, far from any rules and regulations. But not all of them are as lucky as Aglaia, who lives at the top of a magical tree together with her friend Bianca and an incredible host of flying dogs, talking cats, carnivorous plants and children who speak in verse.</p>

Non-Fiction

A selection of books that provide some great background information about a range of waste and recycling related topics, or inspiration for some craft projects.

Book	Information
<p><i>Discover through craft: recycling & reusing</i></p> <p>By Louise Spilsbury</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-4451-5488-6</p>	<p>Read the information and facts to find out how we can help our planet by making the most of the materials we use every day, such as plastic, metal, paper and textiles. Then have a go at the activities and craft projects to bring what you've learnt to life.</p>

<p><i>Why should I recycle?</i> (Usborne)</p> <p>By Susan Meredith Illustrated by Christyan Fox</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-4095-9964-7</p>	<p>This book contains lots of useful information about the problems with rubbish and the pros and cons of all the different options for dealing with it. It explains what is meant by reduce, reuse and recycle and gives lots of practical tips about how you can help to do this. A great book to cut the confusion about recycling and improve motivation!</p>
<p><i>How rubbish gets from bins to landfill</i></p> <p>By Erika L Shores</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-4747-1322-1</p>	<p>This book explores what happens to waste after it's put into the dustbin. It talks in fairly simple terms about landfill, energy from waste and recycling and also touches on how we can be less wasteful.</p>
<p><i>Refuse collector</i></p> <p>By Rachel Blount</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-4451-4030-8</p>	<p>Find out what it's like to collect people's rubbish and recycling, learn about the refuse truck and find out where your recycling goes and why it's important to put the right things in your recycling bin.</p>
<p><i>World food alphabet</i></p> <p>By Chris Caldicott</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-84780-284-2</p>	<p>This is a global A to Z of different foods and ways of eating, gathering and preparing them. From Asia to Europe and from Africa to the Americas, it looks at the ways children and their families cook and consume food, and a variety of ingredients we all use one way or another.</p>
<p><i>Where do clothes come from?</i></p> <p>By Chris Butterworth Illustrated by Lucia Gaggiotti</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1-4063-4734-0</p>	<p>A great book for finding out what different types of clothes are made from and where they come from. It explores the sources of various raw materials and the production processes involved to change them into actual garments. It contains some recycling facts and ideas about what you can do with clothes once you've finished with them.</p>