

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.

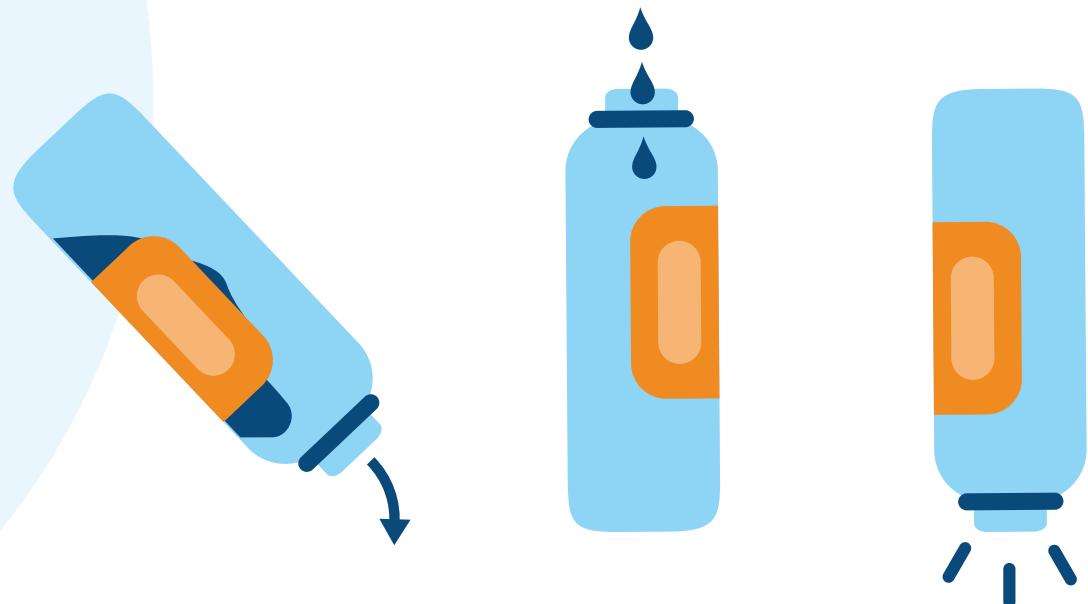
"I'm sorry, Mom," she said.

"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.”

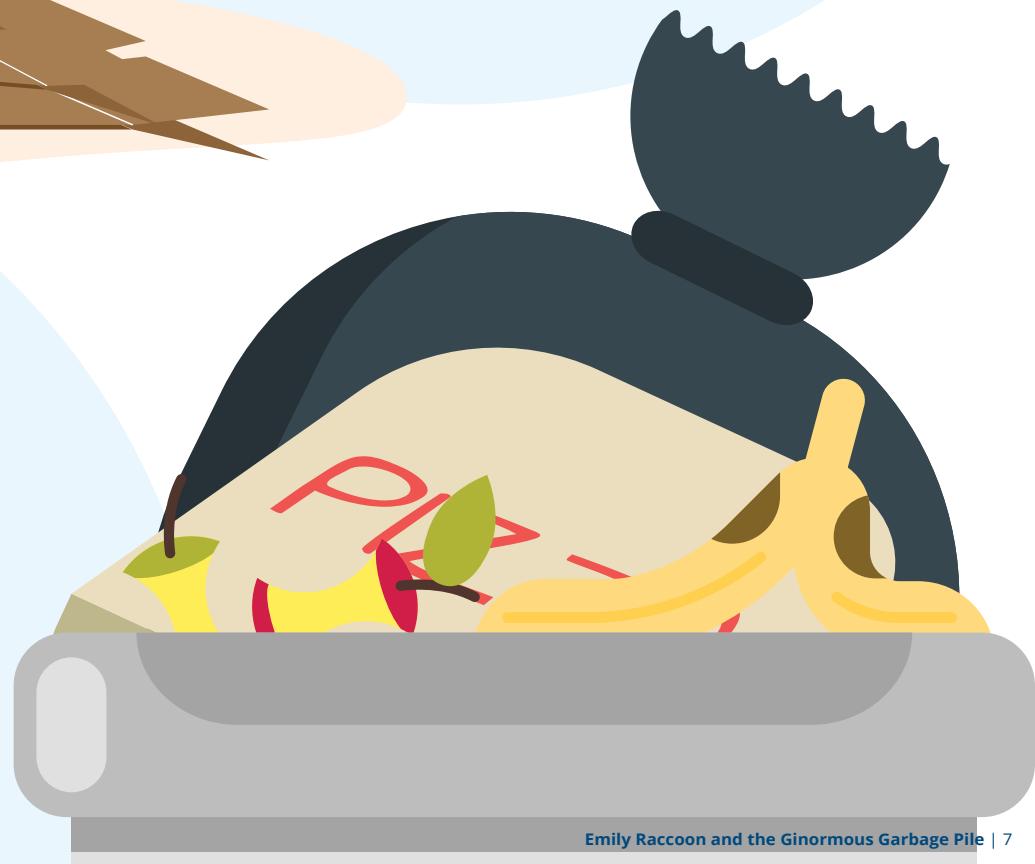


Joe rinsed out the metal cans and the plastic bottles, and set them aside to dry.



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

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



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!