



Throw-Away Three Group Reading Skit



(A tale of humans & their trash throughout history)

Grade Level: 5-7

Time Needed: 45- 60 minutes

Supplies: Props for skit, scripts

Location: Classroom

Objective: Students will learn about solid waste issues throughout history. Students will be responsible for matching props to go with the 2-3 characters that they will play during the group reading.

Introduction: At the beginning of the program we may briefly discuss the topic of garbage. How much does your family produce? Where does it go? How do you think we will manage waste fifty years from now? Depending on the age of the students and topic they are currently studying, we sometimes draw a huge timeline on the board that corresponds to the time covered by the skit.

Vocabulary: There are a few odd words in the skit that were put in there to rhyme with other words, so we take a little time at the beginning to go over a few of the words (mire, balderdash, bombastic, industrialist, synthetics).

Prep for Skit: There are 31 parts, so we'll pass out 31 cards to assign the characters. Once the students have their part they are given a few minutes to read over their parts. Then we let them loose for about 15 minutes to look through the props or create accessories from art supplies in the classroom.

Skit: To read through the skit only takes about 15 minutes, and some classes really get into their character voices and costumes. The dateline goes from 90,000 B.C. to Roman times (200 B.C.), London in 1200 A.D., through settler times in America, life in the 13 colonies, advances during the Industrial Revolution, the Chemical Revolution during the 1940's and 50's, and current waste issues.

Wrap-up: Depending on teacher interest, we can spend time on several topics:

- When the students are 60 yrs old, what do they think Americans will be doing with solid waste?
- Have the students construct their own waste timeline and research solid waste changes from 1960 to the present.
- What is the connection between the Bubonic Plague and solid waste issues?
- Review the words biodegradable, composting, incineration, product stewardship.