

Exercise 1A





LEARNING FROM STORIES

This exercise uses fiction designed for young children as a basis for lessons about ecology and environmental responsibility. It can be used independently or in conjunction other classroom activities.

CRITICAL OBJECTIVES

-  Recognize the relationship of plants, animals, and humans in the world
-  Explore and observe their environment
-  Recognize humans' influence on the environment, as individuals and as a group

SKILLS

-  Listening
-  Observing
-  Questioning
-  Comparing ideas

BACKGROUND

Storytelling is a time-honored teaching tool used in many cultures. The storybooks listed below all have environmental themes. They can serve as a starting point for conversations that call on children to synthesize

TARGET GRADE LEVEL

K - 5th

DURATION

One or more class periods, depending on the choice of books

MATERIALS

One of the books from the reading list shown

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information and experiences and think creatively about themselves and the world around them.

WHAT TO DO

1. Choose a book from the following reading list:

Note!

These books should be reviewed to verify their appropriateness for your class. Your school or local librarian can help you choose other environment-related titles suited to your class.

Keepers of the Earth by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac

Chadwick Forever by Pricilla Cummings

The Violators by Gunnard Landers

The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry

The Talking Earth by Jean Craighea George

Mushroom Center Disaster by N.M. Bodecker

Alvin Fernald, Superweasel by Clifford B. Hicks

Canyon Winter by Walt Morey

Poison Factory by John Branfield

Baney's Lake by Nan Hayden Agle

Beaver Valley by Walter Dumau Edmonds

Who Really Killed Cock Robin? by Jean Craighea George

The Lorax (picture book) by Dr. Seuss

If I Built A Village (picture book) by Kazue Mizumura

All Upon A Stone (picture book) by Jean Craighea George

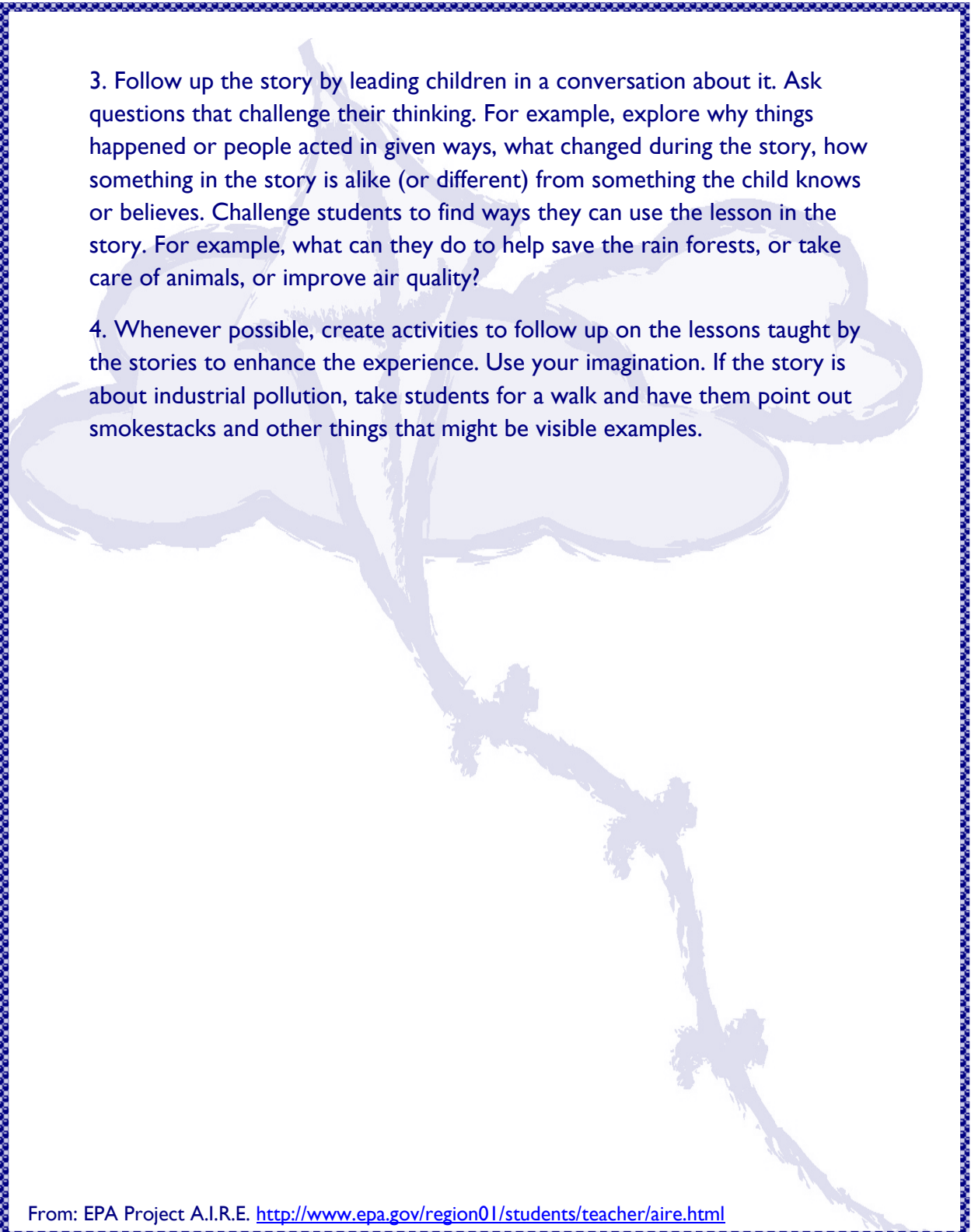
The Salamander Room (picture book) by Anne Mazer

Once There Was A Tree (picture book) by N. Natali Romanov

Tree House Town (picture book) by Miska Miles

2. Depending on your students' reading level, you may choose to read the story aloud to the class or have children take turns reading.

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3. Follow up the story by leading children in a conversation about it. Ask questions that challenge their thinking. For example, explore why things happened or people acted in given ways, what changed during the story, how something in the story is alike (or different) from something the child knows or believes. Challenge students to find ways they can use the lesson in the story. For example, what can they do to help save the rain forests, or take care of animals, or improve air quality?
 4. Whenever possible, create activities to follow up on the lessons taught by the stories to enhance the experience. Use your imagination. If the story is about industrial pollution, take students for a walk and have them point out smokestacks and other things that might be visible examples.

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