

Think Outside the Can

FreeShare Edition

by Jill Weinberg Pfeiffer



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**For Aviva, Judah, and children everywhere.
You are all deserving of the world's beauty.**

Illustration, Design, and Photography
by Jill Weinberg Pfeiffer

Edited by Jennifer Rosen Heinz

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Hey there kids, Remo here.
I'm a bird on a mission to
save the planet and I am
starting by tackling trash.

Do you know where your
trash goes? Let's talk about
all those bottles, cans and
everything else you
throw away.

Where does it go?
Is it all meant for the
garbage can?

It's time to start thinking
outside of the can.

Are you with me?

Let's go!



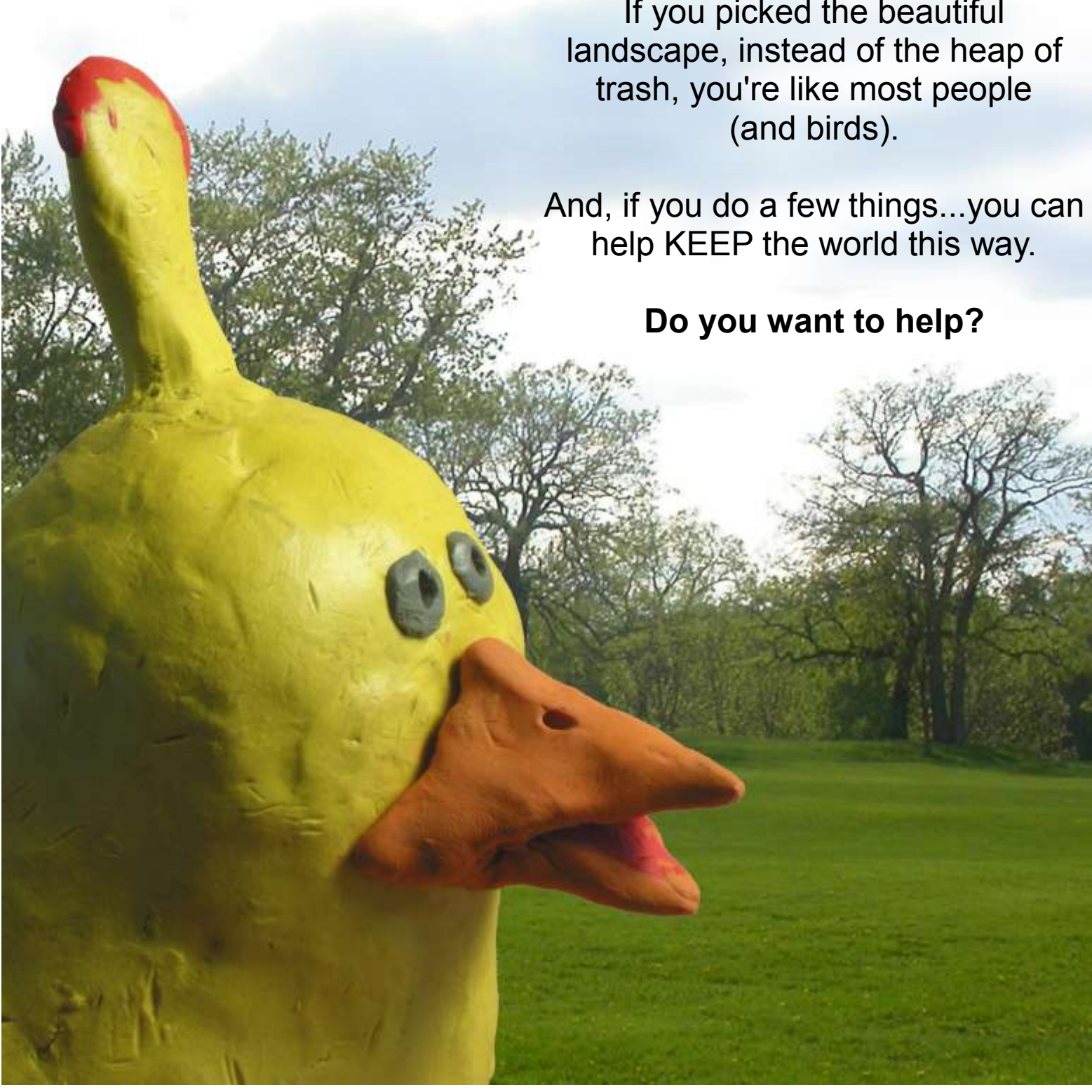
Let's start here....YUCK!
Do you think birds, like me, want to live here?
Would you want to live here?



Or what about here?

Yes,
much
better!



A large, yellow, stylized duck sculpture is the central focus of the image. It has a long, red-tipped beak pointing upwards and a large, orange, pointed beak pointing to the right. The duck is set against a backdrop of a green lawn and a line of trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

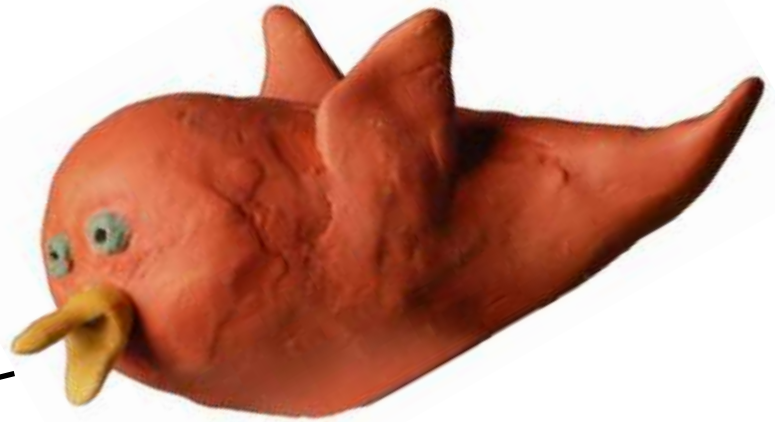
If you picked the beautiful
landscape, instead of the heap of
trash, you're like most people
(and birds).

And, if you do a few things...you can
help KEEP the world this way.

Do you want to help?

How can you help?

**REDUCE,
REUSE,
RECYCLE.**



SAY IT AGAIN!

**REDUCE,
REUSE,
RECYCLE!**

Before we learn about reducing, reusing, and recycling, I've got a question for you. Do you know where trash goes?

Yes, in the trash can.

After that, it goes out to the curb where a truck picks it up. This is the important part, so listen up. The truck dumps the trash into a landfill. A landfill is a big, stinky hole in the ground (or hill) filled with trash. Gross!

Remember the pile of dirt and trash you saw before?
That, my friend, is a landfill.

BLECH!



REMO, I'M
TIRED OF
SEEING ALL
THESE TIRES!

Sometimes, landfills are put in places with lots of trees, or fresh water, nearby. This can cause pollution, dirty water, and is unhealthy for people, plants, and animals (including birds). So, you see, that's why it's so important that we make as little of the yucky stuff as we can.

**Keep reading for some ways
we can all make less trash!**



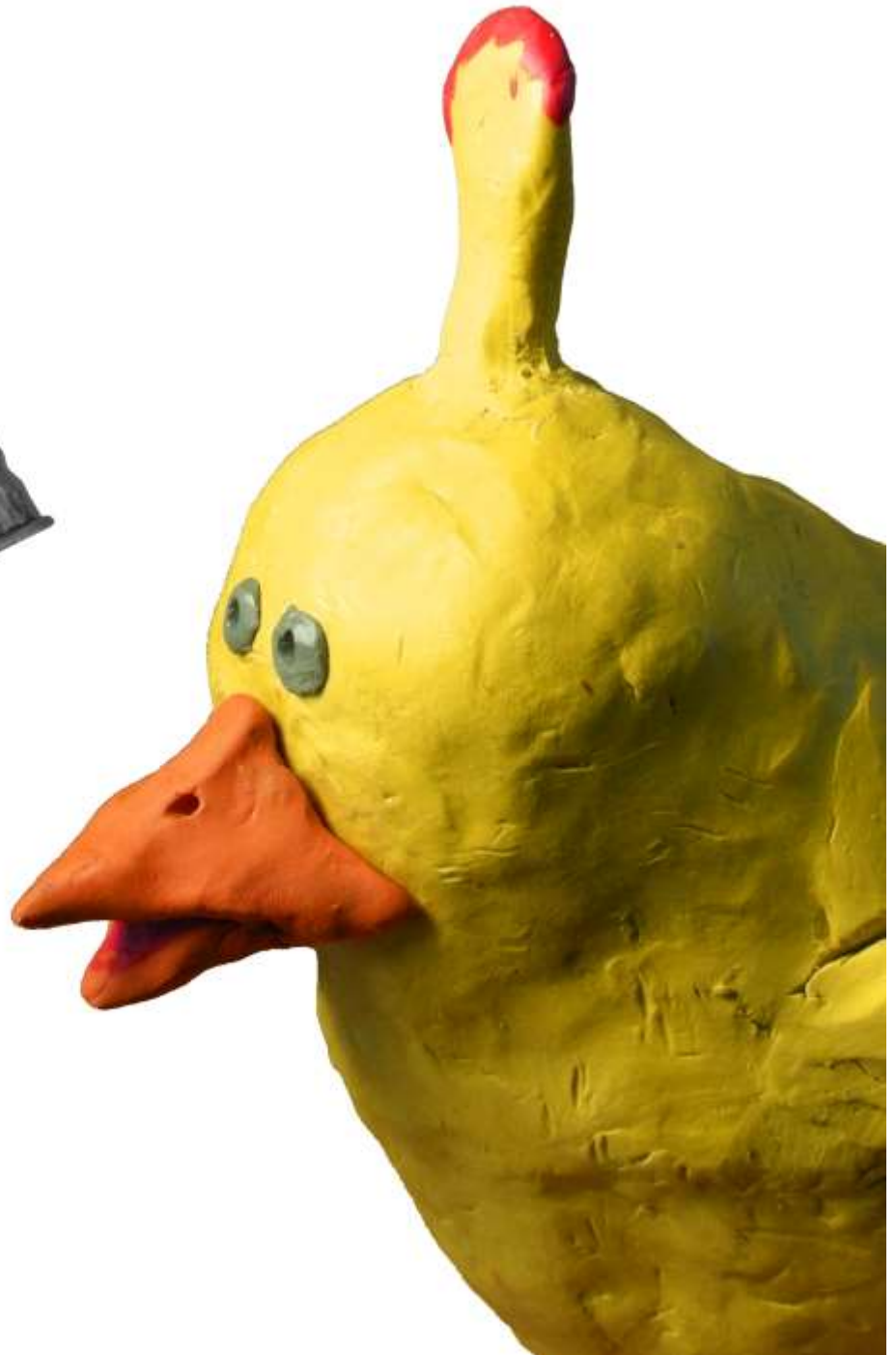


REDUCE

Reducing means to make less of something.

If we REDUCE what we throw away, there will be less trash in the landfills.

It's that simple. **Put less stuff in the trash can!**



HOW CAN WE MAKE LESS TRASH?

Ask your parents to buy products that have less packaging and plastic around them.

Get a cool lunch box or canvas bag to use each day.
Who needs the brown paper bag? Not me!

Buy stuff that is made from recycled products.
Those companies have the right idea!

What ideas do you have about REDUCING
the amount of trash your family puts in the landfill?

(Be sure to share your ideas with your
mom, dad, aunt, grandpa...whomever!)



REUSE

The more we use and reuse something, the longer it will be before it goes into a landfill. So it is important that we keep on using our things many times before we consider throwing them away.

Avoid using “single use” plastic things like water bottles, straws, and plastic forks...or at least try to use less of them!

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS ABOUT REUSING

Give your old toys and clothes to another kid (or donate them) when you are finished using them. Pass it on!

Decorate old shoe boxes with paint and glitter and use them to store special things. Or give them away as a gift.
I'll take one!

Use clean food containers and jars to store your art supplies or small toys. Get crafty, my friend!

Just look around you! Old things are fun to give a new life to...and you'll be reusing.

COOL!

COMPOST

(a way to reuse)

What is compost? Well, it starts out like this. Grass, leaves, and food scraps all go into a big heap, or a special bin. Over time, everything starts to break down and get all mushy. In about a year...BANG! Your compost becomes rich soil that you can use in a backyard garden.

Do you know if your family or your neighbors compost? Why not ask?
Everyone can use some good, clean dirt.



RECYCLE

Recycling is when we take used materials and make new things out of them.

You can recycle:

Newspaper

Aluminum cans

Steel cans

Bottles

Plastic

Paper

Old mail



Most cities or towns will even pick up your recycling from your house, as long as you put it in a special bin.

Does your house have a bin?

If not, don't worry. You can put all these cool things into a paper bag and drop them off at a recycling site!

Recycling is really cool and is a very easy way to help our planet. Do you want to know what happens when you recycle something?



ALUMINUM CANS

When your aluminum cans go to the recycling plant, the cans are shredded and melted.

The molten (liquid) metal gradually becomes hard.

Then the metal is made into sheets and other forms.

Sometimes the metal is made into new cans, other times it is used for car parts and other products.

CAN you picture that?

PAPER

Paper comes from trees. Can you believe it, TREES! So the less paper we use, the fewer trees we'll have to cut down.

So use both sides of your paper before recycling it.
DO IT FOR THE BIRDS!

When you recycle paper it is sorted by type. The paper is then cut by a machine to make mulch, or small scraps of paper.

The mulch is mixed with water to make a soupy, sludgy mix called a slurry. Chemicals are added to the slurry which will make the paper nice and clean.

The slurry is then flattened into new sheets of paper.
WOW!





PLASTIC

Recycling plastic is a bit more complicated because there are so many different types. You can tell different kinds of plastic by their code. Where's the code? On the bottom, of course! Turn a plastic item upside down - see? That is a resin identification code.

Before recycling, plastic items must be sorted by these numeric codes.

Then the plastic is melted down, like metal, and made into new things.

Nowadays, you can find some playgrounds that are made entirely from recycled plastic.
AMAZING!

GLASS

When glass arrives at the recycling center it is broken into small pieces called cullet.

The cullet is crushed, sorted, and cleaned.

Sometimes these small pieces are mixed with other materials, like sand.

This mixture is then melted into a thick liquid.

The liquid is poured into molds that make new bottles and jars.

And that's recycling glass...am I making myself clear?



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Different places have
different ways of
recycling.

The way I explained it
may not be the exact
way that it is done
where you live. (Give
me a break, I'm just
Remo the bird.)

Talk to an adult to find
out how recycling
works where you live.
Maybe your school
can take a trip to the
recycling center.

Sweet...everyone
loves field trips!



There is a lot we can all be doing to keep this world beautiful and green.

We ALL need to do our part by REDUCING, REUSING, and RECYCLING. If we don't reduce, reuse and recycle, landfills could take up valuable space.

“Yikes REMO, look at the backyard!”



Take it from Remo,
we all need to work
together so our world
will look more
like this.

**Now that's
a pretty
picture!**



RESOURCES

Books:

McQueen, Kelly and Fassler M.D, David with The Environmental Law Foundation (1991),
Let's Talk Trash, The Kids Book About Recycling. Burlington: Waterfront Books.

Web:

US Environmental Protection Agency. (Page no longer in existence.)
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/reduce.htm>

The Aluminum Association Inc.. (Page no longer in existence.)
http://www.aluminum.org/Content/NavigationMenu/The_Industry/Recycling/In-depth_information/In-depth_information.htm

The Energy kid's Page.
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/saving/recycling/solidwaste/metals.html>

Wikipedia. Paper Recycling.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paper_recycling

Wikipedia. Plastic Recycling.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_recycling

WWF, the Global Conservation Organization. (Page no longer in existence.)
http://www.panda.org/news_facts/education/middle_school/homework_help/project_ideas/recycling_glass/index.cfm

Pick up
some trash
too!

