



# Just a Dream

Written & Illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg

Being a litterbug isn't cool. We all need to take care of Mother Earth.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

*I wonder why the boy's bed is in a tree?*

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words

- **Bulging-** swelling or bending outward, filled to capacity
- **smokestack-** a large chimney for carrying smoke away from a factory or ship
- **Mount Everest-** the tallest mountain in the world
- **drifting-** moving along without effort by water, wind or air
- **Grand Canyon-** a five thousand foot deep gorge carved by the Colorado River in Arizona
- **smog-** a thick haze caused by the action of sunlight on air pollution from smoke or auto exhaust fumes
- **postcards-** cards on which a message may be sent by mail without an envelope

**After:** Discuss the story. Ask questions...


- What does Walter do with his doughnut bag while walking home from school?
- What did Rose get for her birthday present?
- Did Walter sort the trash into the correct trash cans when he took it out after dinner? Why not?
- What was the future like in Walter's dreams? Why do you think he kept pulling the covers over his head? Were the dreams of the future what he had expected the future to look like?
- What things does Walter do after he wakes up safe in his room? What did he think was his best birthday present and why?



Print out the bookmark with helpful tips and have your class color it to make it their own!

# 5 WAYS I CAN HELP THE EARTH EVERYDAY

1.  PLANT A TREE

2.  PICK UP TRASH

3.  SAVE WATER

4.  RIDE A BIKE

5.  TURN OFF THE LIGHTS



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