

STOP WASTE

May the 4Rs Be With You Contest 2023

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1st Place Elementary Story Narrative

My 4Rs: Recycle, Reuse, Rethink, Reduce

May the 4R's be with You

Hi my name is Pranav and I am 10 years old. I was playing in my room and noticed that I had switched off the lights. My mom asked,

I ran back reluctantly and switched off the lights. Do we have to switch them off? I complained. I like to go by my little glowing phone, my mom said, it is not necessary to go by your little glowing phone and also turning it off when you are done. She also said that switching to good for nature and also to save the environment. I was shocked to hear that there were no cars and no electricity. In the hurry to go to school, I did not ask her many questions. My grandma checked with a smile, don't forget, we have to go to the 'Lake View Forest' place tomorrow. I was so excited and forgot the pain of switching to school.

That night, with lots of excitement, I went to bed. I was asleep in my bed and dreaming about a place I had never been before. I imagined a lot of green trees with colorful flowers and big trees. And also there was a lake surrounded by big tall mountains. On top of some trees, birds nested and chirped around the place. There were swimming in the lake peacefully. With all that imagination, opening to my eyes, I went to sleep. Slowly sunlight started through my window, I opened my eyes, I hear about morning.

Happy, I got ready as quickly as I could. After a while, we started going to our lake car which departed in the morning sun. Eventually, we arrived at the 'Lake View Forest' place. With all my excitement, I ran to see the lake without my parents and grandma. Finally, when I saw the lake, all my dreams shattered! There was no greenery, very few trees, and no colorful flowers at all. There were no birds at all. Instead, the lake was filled with algae and in some areas there were a lot of plastic water bottles, plastic grocery bags. I heard only one bird chirp to the beautiful sight that I imagined in my dream. I was extremely disappointed and slowly went back to my room and started questioning my mom. Why was there no flowers? And what happened to all the greenery? Also, why were there no birds in the lake? I wasn't like what I had imagined at all.

My mom said, it's all because of 'Global Warming' and not following the 4Rs. For a moment, I had no idea what my mom was referring to. But I had some questions and said, Curiously I asked my mom, What is Global Warming? What does it do? Is it a disease? Does it eat everything? With a sad smile, she said, Our planet has a fever. Sometimes you get sick, right? In the same way, our planet also got a fever. Hence, I asked, what does it do to the plants and animals? My mom said, when you get a fever, I have small probabilities for you to get well again like giving medicine and for us, making sure we rest all day. In a similar way, if people take small steps, our earth will get better. It sounded simple but at the same time, my brain filled with different thoughts and unanswered questions. We eventually went back home.

Before I went to bed, I asked my mom, can you explain more about 'Global Warming' and how people don't follow the 4Rs, how this affected the beautiful world like? My mom said, global warming is the increase of temperature on Earth. Think I asked, why does it increase? My mom said, the Earth's atmosphere has greenhouse gases that prevent our earth like a blanket and keep our planet warm. During most human activity, one of more coal and oil, more carbon dioxide is released. This increases the Earth's temperature. This extra heat, in turn, is in glaciers, causing an increase in ocean levels and floods. It also affects the oceans, lakes and rivers by reducing the oxygen levels. In lakes and oceans,

algae blooms. As a result, the fishes and birds don't get food. Now, I realized that the recycling bin

I asked my mom, how do we protect our Earth? My mom said, by reducing our daily carbon footprint. My mom said, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and so. For example, if you wish daily to school, you can ride on the usage of cars and I reduce the level of carbon dioxide. Instead of using plastic bags, use a cloth bag which you can reuse again and again. If you want books and a light fixture, then we don't need to buy up our house (re-use). We can save energy. When buying more plants and trees you can reduce the effect of it. Now it's all our responsibility to take care of our planet. How you can reuse your toys and wrappers. Why take of thoughts opening in my brain that night.

With the excitement in store of this with my teacher and friends I went to school. Excitedly before me, my teacher announced a challenge to the teacher club in a fun, happy! The fun was to be held in my house, we and my friends were all excited for the day. With the excitement I forgot to share about 'Global Warming' and after which my mom told me last night. While going on the highway, my teacher requested about how much gets thrown by the school students in plastic bags and from there. This will be used to stretch and do. That's why we should pick up trash and remember to follow the 4Rs.

That moment I thought about sharing my experience on a trip to Lake view scenic place. But we arrived at the transfer station. I couldn't share those questions to my mom. What is this transfer station? What are we going to do? Why did we come here? We drove from the bus. The place had lots of trash and I was so full. My teacher told us that this was the 'Lake View Transfer Station' this all about her what teacher means to? What are we going to do? My teacher said, 'You will find out soon'. He also had something to do and to do in a transfer station was a green tent and a bulletin board. He also had something to do and to do in a transfer station was a green tent and a bulletin board and gets transferred to the earth. He also said that the best is to protect the 4Rs.

He said, 'This is because people are putting other stuff in the trash instead of garbage. They usually use wrappers and other reusable items. But, the majority of stuff that goes to landfill is food or not. Many people don't follow the 4Rs to take care of the planet. If we want to live on this planet longer, we have to take care of it.'

At that time I also shared my experience with everyone about global warming. We were headed up to the garbage station and saw many bins in the landfill that didn't belong there and could be put somewhere else such as recycling, or compost. I felt sad to see that we are damaging our planet. I was inspired very much by listening to my mom's 'Global Warming' and on my teacher's trip to the transfer station. I understood the importance of respecting our planet. I decided to change the planet with small acts to make it better. Soon, we headed back to school and home again.

At lunch, I started using the recycle properly and also I considered my friends doing their properly. At my school playground all the kids are bringing their own wrappers. I picked up and putting them in recycling bin. I couldn't be made into something new. I remembered from the first trip that we went there was lots of food or in the landfill. I thought 'I'll compost it now, it will turn into fertilizer. I found an apple core on the ground, I picked it up and put it in the compost bin.

The Earth will be so happy! I thought to myself.

I started changing myself to make our planet better by doing the 4Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reuse properly that day, my teacher and I went to school as our class without

complaints. We could watch the beautiful view on our way and also we could spend more time together. We can also reduce the carbon footprint. It's fun going to school on our bikes.

Also, I started teaching my younger brother about the importance of our nature. I reminded him about my grandma's words shared with me that they lived happily even without cars and electricity. For example in the older days, they preferred to travel by walking or by bikes, would often live with lanterns at night times and also slept outdoors. My brother was excited to try sleeping outdoors. So I ran to my mom and asked, 'Can we do camping in our backyard? so that we can save some energy as well as we all can spend time together? My mom agreed and said with a smile, it's a great idea. We went camping in our backyard that night. While camping in our backyard, we enjoyed watching stars, talking to each other and listening to my grandma's old stories. It was really fun sleeping outdoors.

At home, I came up with an idea not to waste paper, and switched off the lights before I left the room. My brother and I started reusing the egg cartons for covering seeds in our backyard. These plants are growing big-joy by day. Now, I can see lots of trees, flying in our garden. With all these small acts, I was proud that I was able to help the planet to get better.

So, now 'I rethink before I use something', since any kind of small and simple acts can cause a big change. Though it's not possible for just one individual, but if as many as these small steps, we can certainly make our planet look our best!

Read Pranav's Full Story Online:

<https://bit.ly/pranavs-story>

My (Re)Generation Action Story:

I was inspired to write this story based on my recent visits to "Lake view scenic place and Transfer Station". Thereafter, I learned about Global warming and the importance of our nature with the help of my parents, teacher and also by reading books.

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Pranau's Story Continued:

By doing these small acts we can make our planet better. Any kind of small and simple actions can cause a big change. It's not possible for just one individual, but if we can all do these small steps, we can change.

I believe that if we recycle, we can stop wrappers from going to the landfill and creating methane. I believe that we can reuse items so that we don't have to waste it and pollute the planet. I also believe that rethinking helps people stop and follow the 4rs.

I also believe that we can reduce the amount of waste we use in our daily life.

In my story, I went to a lake and found out that it was polluted. Then I started to read about global warming and rethink how we can use the 4R's to help us learn better and save the environment.

I recycled old wrappers and water the plants so that more plants can grow. I also composted my extra food instead of throwing them in the landfill so they can rot and it will help the plants grow.

To make this story, I first decided to write my first draft on paper, and then type it up, but then I realized that it will take too much paper and to get paper, you need to cut down trees so I typed it up instead.