



Gabby and Grandma Go Green

Little Actions, Big Impact (K–2)

Grade: K–2

Time: 30–45 minutes

Subjects: Science, ELA, Environmental Education

Overview

Students learn how small choices affect wildlife, water, and parks in Sevier County. Through a read-aloud and one reuse activity, students explore how litter, plastic waste, and feeding wildlife impact the environment. Students create a no-sew T-shirt bag as a practical solution to reduce waste.

Local Connection

Sevier County has rivers, parks, and wildlife that support residents and tourism. When litter enters these spaces, animals can be harmed, water quality can decrease, and parks lose their beauty. Keep Sevier Beautiful works to prevent litter and improve community appearance. Students learn they can help protect where they live.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

1. Identify how litter affects animals and water.
2. Explain why wildlife need natural food and clean habitats.
3. Recognize helpful and harmful environmental behaviors.
4. Create a reusable item to reduce waste.

Tennessee Standards

K: K.ESS3.3, K.LS1.1

1st: 1.ESS3.1, 1.LS1.2

2nd: 2.ESS3.1, 2.LS2.2

Vocabulary

Litter – Trash left on the ground

Pollution – Something harmful added to the environment

Reduce – Use less

Reuse – Use again instead of throwing away

Habitat – A place where plants and animals live

Wildlife – Animals that live in nature

Materials

- Gabby and Grandma Go Green
- Plastic grocery bag
- Reusable tote bag
- Old T-shirt (1 per student)
- Scissors
- Whiteboard or chart paper

Background for Instructor

Plastic bags can enter rivers and harm wildlife. Bread is not healthy for ducks and can pollute water. Litter can injure animals or damage habitats. This lesson introduces simple cause-and-effect environmental thinking appropriate for primary grades.

Lesson Procedure

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

Ask:

- What does it mean to take care of the Earth?
- What happens when trash blows into water?
- Who might be affected?

Explain that Keep Sevier Beautiful helps keep parks and rivers clean for people and animals.

2. Read Aloud & Discussion (10–15 minutes)

Trash at the Park

- What problem did Gabby notice?
- Where could the trash go?

Guide students to understand trash can travel to rivers and harm animals.

Plastic Bags

Show plastic and reusable bags.

- Which can be used again?
- Which might blow into water?

Explain that reusable bags reduce waste.

Feeding Ducks

- What do ducks eat in nature?
- Is bread natural for ducks?

Explain simply: Bread does not help ducks grow strong and can make water dirty.

Making a Good Choice

- What choice did Gabby make?

Reinforce that small actions make a big impact.

3. Activity: No-Sew T-Shirt Bag (15–20 minutes)

Problem: Plastic bags create waste and pollution.

Solution: Reuse an old T-shirt to make a bag.

Students will bring in a T-Shirt: This can also be used as a take home activity for parent involvement.

Steps:

1. Cut off sleeves (adult help).
2. Cut neck opening wider.
3. Turn inside out.
4. Cut 2 inch strips in bottom of shirt.

5. Tie two strips together all along bottom.
6. Turn right-side out.

Discuss:

- How is this better than throwing the shirt away?
 - How many times can you reuse it?
 - Where could you use it in our community?
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4. Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Ask:

- What problem did Gabby see?
- How did she help?
- What is one way you can help Keep Sevier Beautiful?

Close: Clean parks and clean water help animals and people. Small actions make a big impact.

Student Understanding Page

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Story Check

What problem did Gabby see?

- Trash on the ground
- Pretty flowers
- Ducks flying

How did Gabby help?

- Picked up litter
 - Fed ducks bread
 - Threw trash in water
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2. Helps or Hurts?

Write H (Helps) or U (Hurts).

- ___ Using a reusable bag
 - ___ Throwing trash on the ground
 - ___ Picking up litter
 - ___ Feeding ducks bread
-

3. Cause & Effect

If trash blows into a river:

- Animals could get hurt
- Nothing happens

If people feed ducks bread:

- Water can get dirty
 - Ducks get healthy food
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4. Draw & Write

Draw one way YOU can help Keep Sevier Beautiful.

My picture shows: _____

Earth Helper Pledge

I promise to help Keep Sevier Beautiful by taking care of parks, water, and wildlife.

Signature: _____