

My daughter brought a note home. I looked at the note and smiled. “So we will have a recycling center,” I said. She started to explain why it is important to recycle. “I know,” I said, “but I don’t have time.”

She thought of a way to recycle. She set up a bag in the kitchen. She said it would be for plastic and that we should put plastic bottles and bags in there. Then once a month we would take the plastic to the recycling center. It is open once a month on the first Saturday.

She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make and it is much better to recycle it instead of throwing it out. She explained that plastic lasts a long time so if you put it in landfill it just stays there. It is hard for the environment when people throw it out.

It seemed like a good idea. I was surprised that the bag got full in one week. We had filled it with empty plastic bottles.

My daughter said we should look at what we use. We are using too much plastic. We tried to find ways to use less plastic. Now when I go to the store, I take a cloth bag.

I told my neighbor about this. She liked the idea. She started keeping her plastic in a bag. We all went together to the Recycling Center on the first Saturday. We brought about ten bags of plastic.

When we got there, we saw many bags. People had brought lots of trash. They brought paper and metal, too. “Now that we have this center, it is easier to recycle,” said my neighbor.

When we were walking back from the Recycling Center, I saw a change. The street was cleaner. Most days I see trash in the street. People litter. But there was no litter today. My daughter said that another class had “adopted” the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycling Center.

I said, “This is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.”

## Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question*

1. Why did the family save its plastic?

- a. because they liked plastic
- b. because they were going to recycle it
- c. because they had so much
- d. because they could get paid for it

3. A result is what happens because of an action. What is a result of starting the Recycling Center?

- a. It made people angry.
- b. It helped people help the environment.
- c. It made parents proud.
- d. It gave children a place to go.

2. Why is it good to recycle plastic?

- a. It helps the environment.
- b. You can get paid for it.
- c. People need plastic.
- d. It is better than glass.

4. What do you think the family will do next?

- a. stop recycling
- b. keep recycling
- c. move to another community
- d. use more plastic

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Why is this story called “A Better Community”?*

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### **TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students’ Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student’s achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	b	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
The recycling made the community cleaner.