

Zero Waste Kids:
Hands-On Projects & Activities to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
Discussion Guide

Grades 1 – 5

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the idea of zero waste.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about zero waste? Do you know what it means to “reduce, reuse, recycle?” Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: zero waste, reduce, reuse, recycle, crafts, gardening, composting, trash audit, donate, plogging, activism, eco-warrior

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why did the author, Rob Greenfield, decide to wear his trash for a day, a week, a month?
- Are the illustrations & stories within the story helpful in understanding the concepts of what is needed to try to live a zero waste life? Why?
- What are you learning about reducing, reusing, & recycling in your home, your school, your community or town, your world?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Use a chart to have the students list in two columns:

- Ways they already are trying to live a zero waste life
- Ways they can change or add to their life to be more aware of zero waste

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to learn more about “reduce, reuse, & recycle,” zero waste, and other environmentally friendly ideas.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books about these topics.