

Sydney & Simon: Go Green!
Discussion Guide
Grades 1-4

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

- Watch [Kids Go Green: Waste Less](#) (PBS Learning Media) to learn about kids who are helping the environment at their school. Refer to this video throughout the story; make connections between the video and the story.
- Use the [Sydney & Simon: Go Green! Frayer Model](#) resource to deepen student's knowledge of the vocabulary prior to reading the story.

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

**After each chapter, have students find the main idea using [RIF's Main Idea & Key Details Graphic Organizer](#).*

- What did Sydney learn on the class field trip? (Ch. 1)
- How does Simon feel about Sydney's sketch? (Ch. 1)
- What did Sydney mean when she said, "This is evidence that our family is the problem" (Ch. 1, p. 9)?
- Why were Sydney and Simon tracking how much trash their family was taking out? What conclusion did they come to? (Ch. 2)
- What might Sydney be thinking is another place with a lot of trash? (Ch. 2)
- Why do you think Simon is starting to understand the problem? (Ch. 3)
- At the end of chapter 3, Simon says "Creative problem solvers never give up!". Pretend you are in Sydney and Simon's shoes. As a class, brainstorm a list of ideas to help bring awareness to this issue in your school. Save the list of ideas to compare to what Sydney and Simon decide to do at the end of the story.
- How is Ms. Fractalini's class using science, math, and art to learn about the environment? (Ch. 4)
- What does it mean to "go green"? (Ch. 5)
- What did Mr. Mouselmore mean when he said, "One mouse's trash is another man's treasure" (Ch. 5, p. 32)? How did Sydney and Simon make trash into treasure?
- How did Sydney and Simon's song encourage people to go green? Use examples from chapter 6.

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: How did Sydney and Simon's ideas use science, engineering, math, and different forms of art to raise awareness to go green? Compare your list of ideas to the ideas Sydney and Simon had. Were any ideas similar? Different?
- **Extension:** Divide students into groups or pairs. Have students create a social media advertisement to bring awareness to an issue at their school. Encourage students to make creative hashtags to include in their caption.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Check out RIF's [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.