

The Soda Bottle School

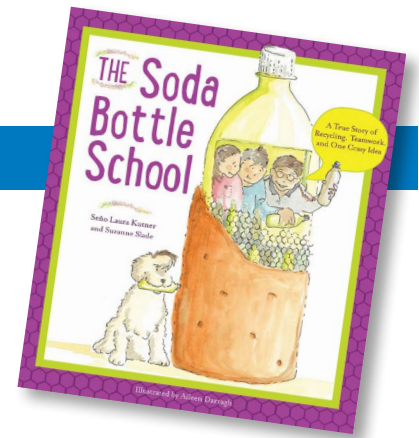
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Recycling, Ecology, Problem Solving, Innovation, Guatemalan Culture

Book Brief: A Guatemalan village is overrun with trash. A young student named Fernando and his teacher come up with a crazy plan to turn the trash into an unexpected treasure.

Author: Señor
Laura Kutner and
Suzanne Slade

Illustrator:
Aileen Darragh



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: What clues from the cover help you guess what the story is about? Do you think the cover illustration is

accurate? How could people fit inside a bottle?

While reading, make connections: How is Fernando's school like your school? How is it different? Think

about a time you had a new idea. Who helped you try it out? What are some ways that you recycle plastic bottles?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What does the book show you about daily life in Fernando's village?
- ◆ How did building the school help the village and the environment?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

BEAUTIFUL BOTTLE ART

Materials: plastic bottle, permanent markers, hole punch, scissors, ribbon

Remove the bottom of the bottle with scissors. Use a hole punch to make holes around the cut edge of the bottle. Decorate the bottle using markers and tie ribbons in the holes. Hang and enjoy!

BOTTLE BUBBLE BLOWER

Materials: plastic bottle, old sock, rubber band, dish soap, water, shallow pan

Cut the bottom off the bottle. Cover bottom with an old sock; pull tightly and secure with a rubber band. Mix dish soap and a little water in a pan. Dip the sock into the pan. Blow into the mouth of the bottle until bubbles form. For added fun, put food coloring on the end of the sock. Can you blow a rainbow?

BOTTLE BIRD FEEDER

Materials: plastic bottle, bird seed, 2 wooden spoons, box cutter (use with an adult!), string

For each spoon, cut two holes in the bottle directly across from each other; one hole should be larger. Slide the spoon face up through the holes so the handle comes out the smaller hole. Fill bottle with bird seed. Some bird seed should spill out onto the spoons. Replace bottle cap and tie string around top. Hang by a window and watch for new feathered friends!

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Check out this soda bottle greenhouse:

<https://www.ithacachildrengarden.org/visit-the-garden/about-the-garden/recycled-green-house/> How would you compare the greenhouse and the school in the story?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY SUZANNE SLADE

With Books and Bricks: How Booker T. Washington Built a School (2014)

Zap! Wile E. Coyote Experiments with Energy (2014)

The House That George Built (2012)



Reading Is
Fundamental