

# TRASHY TOWN

## TRASHY TOWN

by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha,  
illustrated by Dan Yaccarino (HarperCollins)

Themes: Jobs, Neighborhoods, Poetry

Grade Level: PreK—3

Running Time: 6 minutes

## SUMMARY

Dump it in! Smash it down! In both prose and rhyme, this story follows Mr. Gilly, a genial trashman, as he drives around in his big truck looking for trash. Mr. Gilly stops at the school, the park and other spots around town. After each trash pickup the story breaks into rhyme. The bold, colorful pictures feature not only Mr. Gilly but also the two silent mice who ride along on his trash-gathering adventures.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will watch and listen to a story that contains both poetry and prose.
- Children will describe the job of a trash collector.
- Children will identify and describe familiar people, animals and places in a neighborhood.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Show students the video and its cover. Ask students to read the title, identify the objects on the cover and then guess what the program will be about. After students correctly guess that it's about garbage, have them guess what each object on the cover has to do with garbage or trash. Then ask them to guess what might happen in a

story about trash, as well as how such a story might end. Suggest that they remember their guesses as they view the program.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Show the program again, this time asking groups of children to join in at key points in the story. For example, one group can chant the word "Stop," another group can chant "No," and the whole class can chant the rhymes. Repeat the viewing until the class has memorized the story enough to come in on time.

Challenge student teams to compete in reading and performing the story. Make the connection between poetry and music by having students sing the rhyming parts or using dance to act out Mr. Gilly's day. Be sure to add sound effects.

Encourage students to write and illustrate similar stories about other jobs in the neighborhood. You might start with the jobs pictured in the book: taxi driver, pizza maker, doctor and firefighter. Have children include rhymes in their stories and perform the stories for the class. As part of a science lesson or writing exercise, challenge students to add details to the story. You might have them list the exact kinds of trash that would be found at each stop, add more stops to Mr. Gilly's route, give the exact number of pounds of trash collected at each stop, and so forth. Encourage them to find these details by

observing their own environments.

With the help of your local municipal leaders, introduce students to the process of trash disposal in your community. Take field trips to learn how trash is collected and disposed of. Explore your community's recycling efforts and why they are important.

Other videos and films about neighborhoods available from Weston Woods include:

**HARRY THE DIRTY DOG** by Gene Zion, ill. by Margaret Bloy Graham

**I STINK!** by Kate and Jim McMullan  
**OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA**

by Peggy Rathmann

**THE PAPERBOY** by Dav Pilkey

Other videos and films told with poetry available from Weston Woods include:

**ANTARCTIC ANTICS** by Judy Sierra, ill. by Jose Aruego & Ariane Dewey

**IN THE SMALL, SMALL POND** by Denise Fleming

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