

## TEACHER GUIDE

# Trash Talk!

TO: Teachers

FROM: City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department  
809 Center Street, Room 201 • Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831-420-5449 • [msimmons@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:msimmons@cityofsantacruz.com)  
[www.cityofsantacruz.com/schoolrecycling](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/schoolrecycling)

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We hope that your school year is off to a good start. In this edition of *Trash Talk!*, we look at ways your students can improve the environment by recycling and composting.

Inside this Teacher Guide, we have provided ideas to “reuse” the newsletter for daily instruction, journal writing prompts for students, and an extension activity. For your convenience, you will find Teacher Keys as well.

Below, refer to this issue’s activities and the corresponding subject areas and skills addressed. We provide this information so that you can incorporate *Trash Talk!* into your daily curriculum.

Activity	Subject Areas	Skills Addressed
Literally?!	<i>Language Arts</i>	Distinguishing literal from non-literal language; Understanding figurative use of words in idioms; Using context to determine meaning
Rot or Not?	<i>Science</i>	Planning and conducting a simple investigation; Understanding how an organism is affected by its environment
Dare to Compare	<i>Math</i>	Computing with whole numbers; Comparing numbers; Identifying factors of numbers; Identifying odd and even numbers; Solving for unknown values; Replacing letters with their values; Using logical reasoning; Testing possible solutions
What’s Wrong?	<i>Science</i>	Defining terms; Exploring concepts related to populations and ecosystems; Understanding and comparing the roles of decomposers, producers, and consumers in an ecosystem
I Need It!	<i>Social Studies</i>	Distinguishing between wants and needs; Comparing costs and benefits in making spending decisions
Something’s Missing	<i>Science</i> <i>Language Arts</i>	Improving word perception in content material; Describing a method for extending the use of natural resources; Using knowledge of letters, sounds, syllables, and word formation to read and accurately complete a text; Using context to confirm and self-correct

# Reuse Ideas

## Math

- Find a common factor of 12 and 15.
- Triple the number 15.
- Use less than (<) and greater than (>) symbols to make these statements correct:

$$12 \_ 15 \quad 6 + 11 \_ 8 + 1 \quad 25 - 8 \_ 3 \times 8$$

## Language Arts

- Use the idiom “sitting on top of the world” in a sentence.
- Circle three prepositional phrases.
- Write these words in ABC (alphabetical) order:  
biodegrade    bacteria    broccoli    bag    bin
- Circle the correctly spelled word in each pair:  
laboratory    labratory  
benefical    beneficial  
enviorment    environment  
pumpkin    pumkin

## Science

- Circle the term that doesn't belong:  
rot    spoil    grow    decay
- Which tool would you use to study bacteria?  
telescope    microscope    spring scale

## Social Studies

- Which type of store would be more likely to be found in a shopping mall?  
secondhand store    department store
- Circle the term that can be a synonym for “shopper.”  
producer    consumer
- If you make bracelets and sell them, you are a:  
producer    consumer

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## What Did the Worm Say to the Leaf?

Make one copy of the blackline master for each student. Have students work on their own to solve the riddle. As an extension, have students work in groups or pairs to choose a riddle and create a similar puzzle. (See riddle answer on page 4.)



## Journal Writing Prompts

What is a decision that you are allowed to make in your family? Is there a decision that you are not allowed to make but that you would like to make? If so, what and why?

■

Reread one article from page 1 or 4 of *Trash Talk!* Choose the sentence that you think is the most important sentence in the article. Why did you choose this sentence?

■



Imagine that you are a worm living in a compost pile. Write one-page journal entry from the worm's perspective. You might include a description of your daily activities, your friends, your food, and even your goals outside of the compost pile. Be creative!

■

Write a paragraph about your best memory from summer vacation.

# What Did the Worm Say to the Leaf?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Put the words below in alphabetical order, starting at the top. When you are done, read down the fourth column to solve the riddle.

- THROWN
- RINGER
- LEGACY
- INSECT
- ~~COINED~~
- UPTURN
- FRUITY
- LAYERS
- OBLIGE
- GRACED
- PLANET
- STAYED
- LITTER

C	O	I	N	E	D



# Teacher Keys

## *I Need It!*

1. need
2. want
3. need
4. want
5. need

## *Literally?!*

1. "eyes were at half mast" — tired and sleepy
2. "sitting on top of the world" — happy and proud about an accomplishment

## *What's Wrong?*

1. C
2. ~~C~~ D
3. P
4. ~~P~~ C
5. ~~D~~ P
6. ~~P~~ D
7. ~~P~~ C
8. ~~C~~ P
9. D
10. P



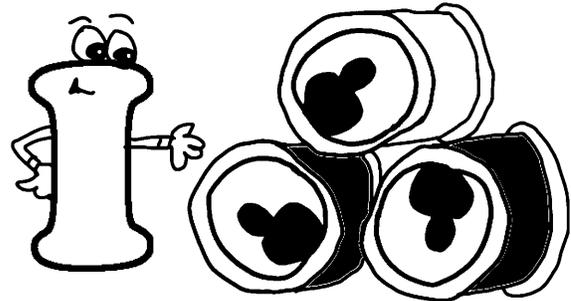
## *Dare to Compare*

### **B**

1. 9, 10, 11, 12
2. ~~9, 10, 11~~, 12
3. 12

### **C (Answers may vary)**

1. A
2. C
3. 15
4.  $7 < C < 17$ ; Odd number: 9, 11, 13, 15; 5 is a factor of 15



## *Something's Missing*

If your family doesn't already do backyard composting, now is a great time to start. You can mix together fall leaves, dying garden plants and flowers, and fruit and vegetable scraps. You can even add your parents' coffee grounds and used tea bags. After Halloween, you can add pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns (remember to remove candles). Smash pumpkins into pieces before adding them to the bin.



*What Did the Worm Say to the Leaf?* Nice eating you!