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Age 12

HOW DO YOU GO GREEN AND READ?

GOING GREEN is not just about recycling, but it can be expanded to everyday activities such as reading. We can take going green and reading to a whole new level by doing things starting at home, at school, and then in the community.

Every person can do their share by doing things at home. Our family was first to teach us to read and love books. We all probably had special books that we wanted read to us all the time when we were younger. We recycled without even knowing it by reading our favorite books over and over again.

In school, reading is the most important activity. We have to read books for all our subjects. We read, we learn, and we grow each day. Our schools recycle as part of our routine. We reuse books in the classroom every year and pass them on to the different students in the next class.

In our community, the environment is rich with printed materials and things to read. It is filled with flyers, signs, labels, and more. Most of these

end up in a garbage can. Instead of wasting trees we can use recycled paper. Also, we can donate books to a local charity or even give newspapers to a nearby pet store.

We can do so many things to make a difference on this planet. We can share our books by passing them on to others when we're done reading them, so they won't end up in a dump. Each year, hundreds of books and magazines are thrown away and are left at a land fill. It is left under dirt when someone could be putting it to good use. This way we are building our knowledge and helping the earth at the same time.

We can also use newspapers to create compost. We can shred them for plants to lock in moisture so watering is done less. We can take recycled paper and make a cover for our favorite book.

If you think about it, we recycle every day mentally. We reuse what we have learned and know over and over again. We then pass on our knowledge from what we have learned through reading and experience to others by teaching them. This is the best way to recycle and grow.

Going green starts with each individual person ... yourself. Each person can make a difference. We are all little seeds planted on this earth to make one big, beautiful, healthy, green garden!