



A TALE OF TWO SOUP CANS

by **Raye Lankford**



MARTHA SPEAKS™



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Every time you open a can of soup to eat, you make a **choice**.

choice: when you make a choice, you pick between different things.

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Suppose you put the can in the **garbage** ? The can will go to a **landfill**.

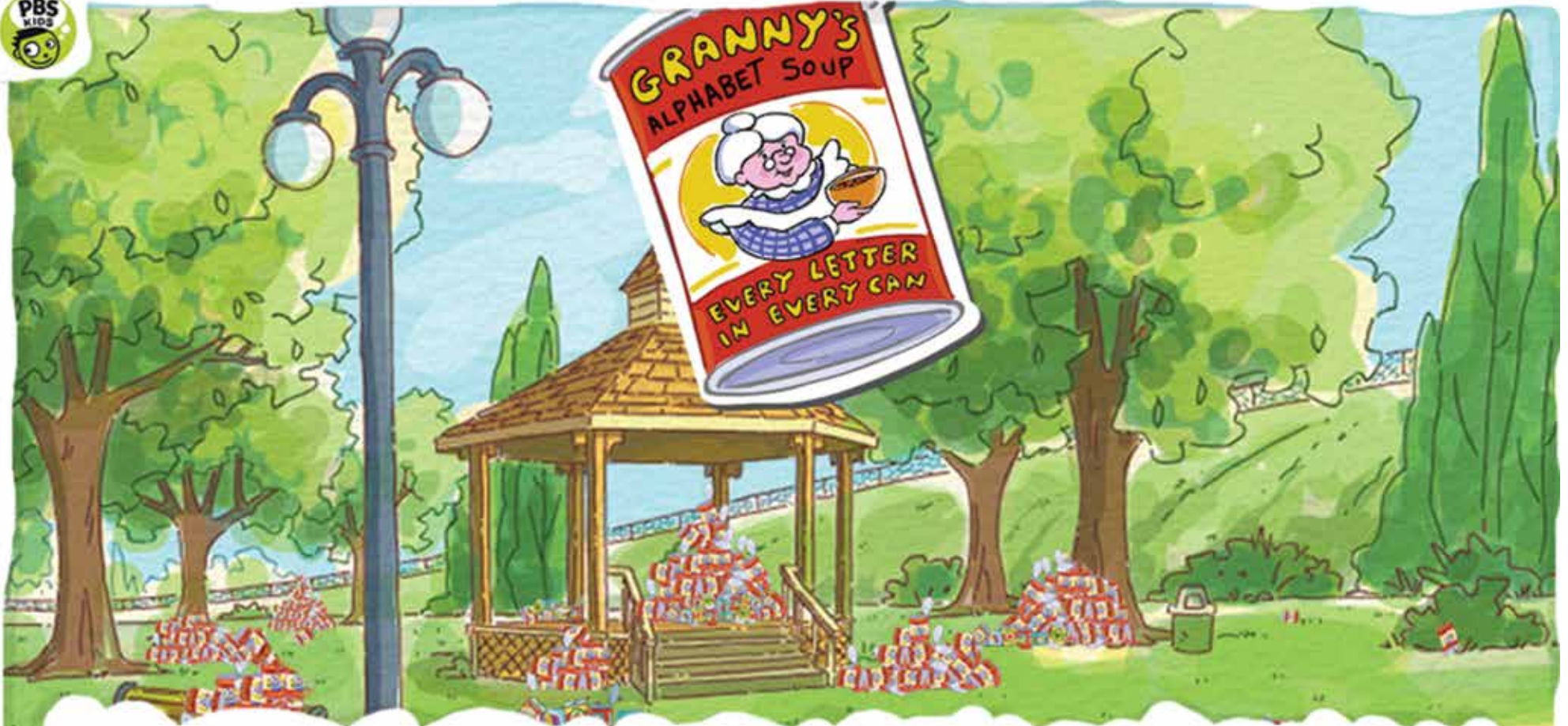
landfill: a landfill is a place where garbage is taken and is covered with dirt.

garbage: garbage is anything that you throw away.



Some soup cans can take as long as two hundred years to **decompose**. Others take even longer! You will be older than your grandparents before that soup can is gone!

decompose: when something decomposes, it means it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces until its gone.

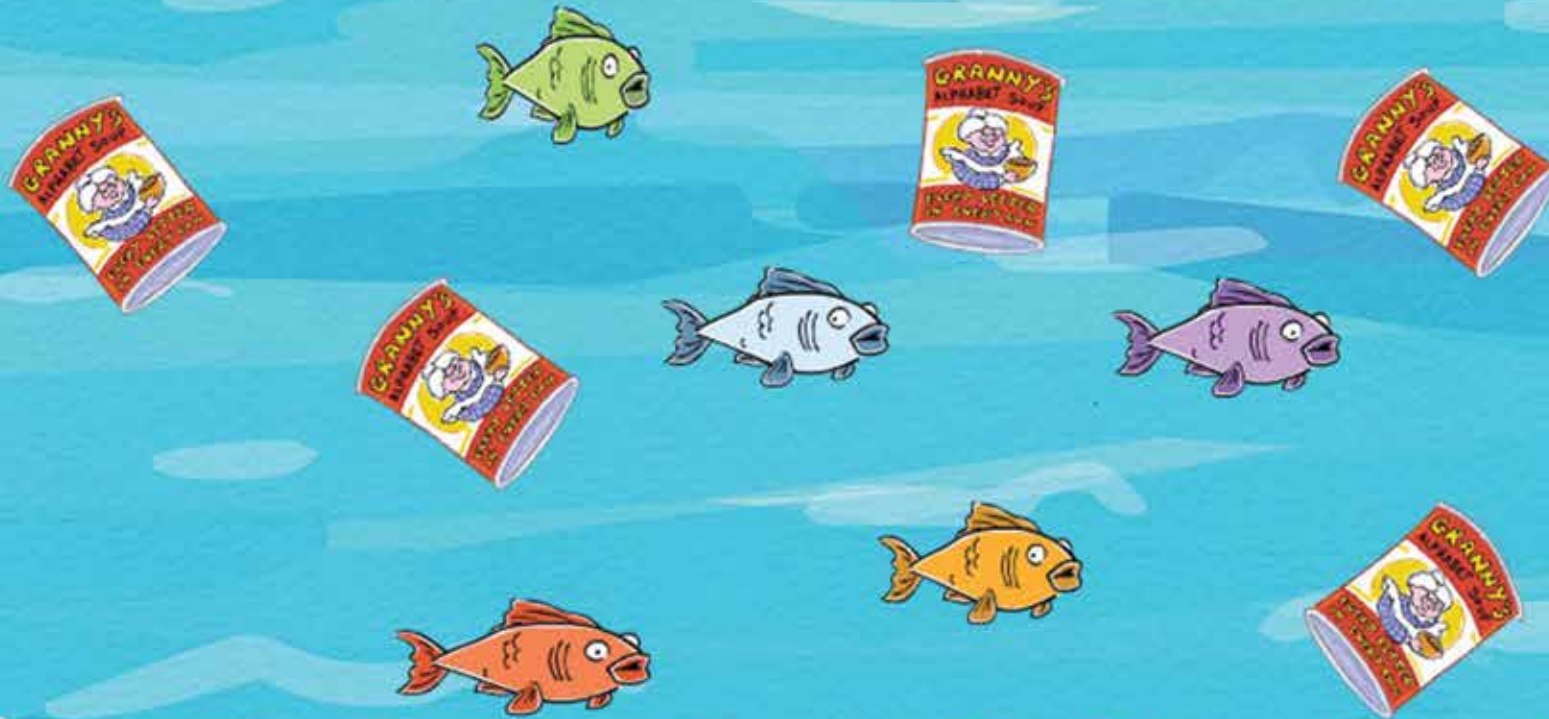


If everyone everywhere throws all their cans in the trash, the **landfill** won't be able to hold them all. Think of the **consequences!** Before you know it, the town could be covered in cans!

landfill: a landfill is a place where garbage is taken and is covered with dirt.

consequences: consequences are things that happen because of something else.

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All those soup cans could **pollute** lakes and oceans. That wouldn't be good for the **environment**. Think about what might happen to the fish!

pollute: when you pollute something, it means you make it dirty.

environment: environment means all the things in nature: plants, animals, the water we drink, and the air we breathe.

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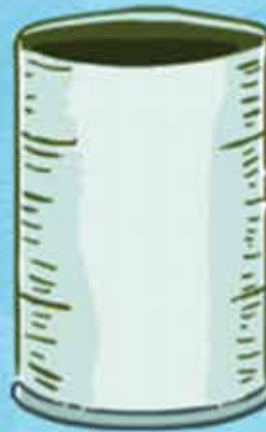


But what if you didn't throw your soup can in the **garbage** ?
What if you washed the can and **reused** it instead?

garbage: garbage is anything that you throw away.

reuse: when you reuse something, it means you use it again.

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If you **reuse** your soup can, you could turn it into a flower vase. You could also **repurpose** it as a holder for paintbrushes, crayons, or big spoons. Soup cans can be reused in all sorts of ways.

reuse: when you reuse something, it means you use it again.

repurpose: when you repurpose something, you use it differently than how it was originally used.



Or you could send your soup can to be recycled. It might be made into... another soup can! It could be filled with more delicious soup. That's the best ending of all!

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You make the same **decision** every time you're done using a **piece** of paper, a glass bottle or a **plastic container**. Do you throw it in the trash? Will you **reuse** it? Or will you recycle it?

decision: when you make a decision, it means you think about something and then make up your mind.

piece: a piece is a part of something whole.

plastic: plastic is material made from oil or coal.

container: a container is something that holds something else.

reuse: when you reuse something, it means you use it again.

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