

ME AND



A PLAY IN POETRY BY DAVID DANIEL

A half-hour, whimsical, audience participation
theatrical performance about marine debris.



One Act or Two Act?

The total play run-time is estimated to be 30-45 minutes depending on how much time is spent on group discussions related to the 8Rs.

If you choose to conduct the play in one session (e.g., one act) begin the script on page one, insert the 8R text as indicated, and end the performance with text on page thirteen.

If you choose to conduct the play in two sessions (e.g., two acts) begin the script on page one and continue to page nine. Then jump to the "insert text" material at the top of page twenty four which provides the conclusion for act one. Act two begins with text on pages 24 and 25. The dialog then continues with the text on page nine, inserts the 8R text as indicated, and ends with the text on page thirteen.

Jerry Bardo

Welcome all and gather round, it's time for our adventure to start.
So step right up and sit right down and get ready to play your part.
Now don't you fret and don't you frown, we'll have fun I guarantee-
For today's the day we have some fun with the topic of marine debris.
My name is Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry!

Beck

I'm Beck.

Jerry Bardo

And we are your guides.
Your captains.
Your conductors, your chaperons, the docents of this caravan's excursion to enlightenment, and
the captains with a hand on the rudder of your educational expedition- and your all around pals.
And as your pal,
I guarantee by the time this jolly odyssey is over we will have been in the presence of true magic
and wonder...not wizards with a flick of the wrist and presto besto something happens movie-
kinda-magic,
but real magic.
The kind of magic that built the pyramids,
tended the gardens of Babylon,
sent people to the moon,
and thought of putting sprinkles on a chocolate vanilla ice cream cone.
Now as I said before, my name is Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed
Debry. And as you may have well guessed, not just anyone can walk around with a name like
Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry. And what *is* a watershed
you say. I'm glad you asked.
Why we're standing in one right now.
And boy is it a doozey!
Put simply,
it's that tract of terra firma that funnels the flow of rainfall and draws the thaw of melting snow
down into the creeks, streams, and rivers of this land.
And those multiple, trickling tributaries
must tip and jet and eventually
empty their flow into the basin of the largest surface freshwater system on this Earth-
otherwise known as those five lakes that we say are so great. Watershed!

Beck

...it's the land that channels all the rain and snow to the rivers and lakes.

Jerry Bardo

Eggzactly!
By the by,
the basin of those great lakes is home to 40 million people,
94,000 square miles,
64 First Nations,
8 states, and

2 countries,
That's something to take pride in!
the fact that we are wandering personages in the water basin-ages of the greatest lakes, that is. And pride makes you stand tall. And we stand tall because we are stewards, every one of us. Stewards of these magnificent rills and runs and basins and ways of water. But I'm here to tell you we got problems. Problems with the proper repositification of debris of a mostly pliable synthetic polymer nature.

Beck
Or...?

Jerry Bardo
Our waste.
Our refuse.
Our litter our rubbish our scrap our crap our rubble our trash.
Our daily detritus.

Beck:
But Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry, I put my trash in a bag.

Jerry Bardo:
And then put that bag in a bag.
And put that bag in a can, that can on a truck and that truck takes it far, far away.
But that trash never really goes away,
it just goes from here
to over there.
And every over there is someone else's here,
cuz everywhere is somewhere and nowhere is away.
So we just move it around.

Beck:
Like lima beans on your plate?

Jerry Bardo:
Beck, you have hit the nail on the nose of the bullseye.
Lima Beans.
You can hide them under the mashed potatoes, give some to the dog, and smush the rest with your fork, but they will always still be there. And, there're seconds and thirds and fourths and fifth hundreds, they'll never stop coming. Just like our waste. It'll never stop.
So what do we do? Thanks for asking.
Now my fellow pilgrims of pondering, you perhaps may be contemplating the fact that there are pieces of litter everywhere. And just like when Mother Nature puts her shower cap on and steps into her lavender scented bubble bath, all that bath water goes somewhere when she's done.

Beck:
Bathwater...?

Jerry Bardo:
And as fun as that sidebar simile was, we still don't get that when the rains come down, that rainwater washes it all away.

All those candy wrappers, and cigarette butts,
 those burger wrappers, and plastic futz
 that make up all those bottles, caps, and bags.
 All that trash and debris gets whisked and washed
 down, down, down, down, down, down.
 Down to the storm drains and sewer grates,
 down to the creek beds and into the lakes
 and just floats and drifts and becomes what we call
 marine debris.

Beck:

Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry
 If there's a problem, tell us what it is and how widespread.
 We need facts and statistics and lots more of these,
 We need experts and scientists and debris authorities.
 Specialists in plastics and foam and aluminum cans.
 Above all we need proven solutions and practical plans.

Jerry Bardo

Why hold on there my friend and fidus Achates,
 Hold your jets and cool your horses,
 Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry has got you covered.
 You're right. We need some facts.
 Fortunately I have fortuitously (and frankly, even fashionably) arranged for information to be
 divulged by the foremost experts in the world.

Beck:

Figuratively.

Jerry Bardo:

Yes, several figures as a matter of fact.
 To be exact- a fish, a kayaker, a kid, and a crane.

Beck:

Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry
 are you saying those experts are somewhere in this crowd?
 [*Beck moves into crowd and hands out sheets as Experts are cast*]

Jerry Bardo:

I do hereby verify the validity of that ventilated verbalization.
 Why right there on the port-side of your starboard bow is the Kayaker themself.
 And if you take one big step that way, and two little ones back the other way,
 And three or four random twists and turns,
 Why you'll end up face to face-- or should I say face to Fish---
 With the next great expert on our list.
 And if you follow that peculiar smell bubble gum and gym shoes
 Do you know who'll you'll find?

Beck:

The Kid!

Jerry Bardo:
No, the Crane.

Beck:
That means the Kid must be this young person right over...here. [*the oldest person in the audience*]

Jerry Bardo:
Let's bring our experts up on stage.
A fish, a kayaker, a kid, and a crane.
A big Watershed welcome to these, our ora-ta-tors!
As you can see, they've all prepared something to say.
While they are tuning their notes, and prepping presentations, let's confab with our neighbors.
Find someone or a group of some that's behind you, beside you or below. Say howzit to these inhabitants, salutations to these associates, and bonjour and buenos dias to new friends. Yep, now it's time for a little trash talk. Now within these new clusters of community ask someone what refuse they have noticed with some focus in their travels. And ask them 'bout the biggest piece of rubbish or the smallest pool of sewage or maybe just the weirdest piece of waste they've ever seen.

[*Actors 2 and 1, assists Experts with putting on costume pieces and upcoming dialogue. Approx. 3 min.*]

Jerry Bardo:
Let's gather our greatest hits of garbage. Who out there can share with us a little 'bout litter you just learned. [*facilitate 3 or 4 stories from audience*]
Well now, who knew from so few we could learn such new news about refuse.
Try saying that with a mouthful of peanut-butter and pickles.
Now it's time to hear what our experts have to say.
First, is that finsy, friendly, vertebrate- the Fish.

THE FISH

Hello, good morning, good evening, and good **afternoon**.
Thank you for asking for my point of **view**.
As a fish I've swim, swum and **swam**
for twenty-five years in the water of this **land**.
And twenty-five more I'd like to **pursue**
If I keep on dodging a hook or **two**.
I grant my perspective may differ from **yours**,
But in these rivers and streams and along these **shores**
Plastics are permanent I'll say that to **start**,
They never go away, they just break **apart**.
Macro and micro (that's smaller than **small**)
So many pieces on beaches you don't see them at **all**.
With rivers and lakes on their shores all **around**.
We fish think they're food and just gobble them **down**.
When fish eat plastics red, green, yellow and **blue**
And then you have fish sticks for dinner— now that plastic's in **you**.
Even the medicines and make-ups you wash down the **drain**,
Seep into the water we live with and invades the food **chain**.

And don't get me started on the nets that come **free**
 And drift all around as marine **debris**.
 They travel over the water on the waves as they **float**,
 And they don't catch any fish—just a passing **boat**.
 The ramifications are startling no doubt that it's **true**,
 And if we want it to stop—
 That stop *starts*
 with **you**.

Jerry Bardo:

Let's flap our fins for our cold-blooded scalemate and our fantabulous fishy friend!
 Ghost nets in the water and microplastics without end?
 And by the by, if you do see a ghost net that's floating astray
 Mark the location and tell DNR right away.
 Now paddling their way to center stage
 is our charismatic kayaker here to tell us how it looks out on the lake.

KAYAKER:

I've paddled and explored every inch of these **shores**
 And seen *miles* of debris that can't be **ignored**.
 Watershed-rains wash debris into **lakes**—
 Where we picnic and play for goodness **sake**.
 All kinds of debris now float in the **water**
 And keeping it clean is getting harder and **harder**.
 Bottles of detergent we use to clean our **clothes**,
 foam coolers and cup holders that fell out of **boats**,
 Abandoned tarps and crates on the shores are **strewn**
 Even a few silvery deflated birthday **balloons**.
 Margarine tubs and old yogurt **cups**,
 Forks and spoons and—gasp—even cigarette **butts**!!
 And the bags. The bags.
 O the bags that are **there**,
 The shore, the trees—
 Plastic bags **everywhere**!
 Look, I'm sorry, I don't mean to make you **sad**
 But if you love this land, you should be **mad**!
 There's so much more work to be **done**.
 It's the kind of work where we need most **everyone**.
 There are people and groups working **diligently**
 But this much work—
 It takes a **community**.

Jerry Bardo:

Let's thank this recreational rafter for all that they've shared.
 And we can stop that debris from ever reaching the lake.
 The easiest way is just to use a rake!
 Rakes pulled behind tractors or even used by hand
 Can help remove litter from all over the land.
 Whether beaches or uplands, ditches or roads,
 Shorelines, playgrounds, parks, or groves
 Anywhere's a good place to do your part

I encourage you to just make a start.
 Now stilt stalking up to the stage,
 Is a crane from the marshes,
 With something to say.

CRANE:

Salutations and regards from your wing'ed watery **friends**
 I'm here to provide you with all the odds and the **ends**
 About the things you don't want, and things you throw **away**
 Like plastic water bottles and the mask from **yesterday**.
 I regret to inform you, well, all of us **really**,
 That those "disposable" things, really **sincerely**,
 Can stick around for twenty years or more, and cause great **strife**.
 Twenty to thirty years! Why that's all of my **life!**
 They don't break down they merely wait and they **wait**.
 Speaking for the animals—plastic gets in our **way!**
 When we sleep, we play, we hunt, we **eat**.
 I've tangled and mangled my wings, feet and **beak**.
 I know I'm an animal and you're a person, that's **true**,
 But we all need clean water no matter the **who**.
 Water's what we share with every living **thing**,
 Let's put our hands together—
 Or, your hands and my **wing**—
 And let us promise each **other**
 We will look out for the **other**.

JERRY BARDO:

Flap your wings in applause
 (or just toss them some frogs)
 For everything they shared here today.
 And if you'd like to help out our cranes there's a lot you can do.
 By bagging up leaves and trash and even dog poo.
 Now last but not least,
 Is the youngest kid in this place.
 And I'd really like to hear what they have to say...

KID:

Where do I start? No, really, **where?**
 With all this trash and these toxins I really am **scared**.
 Not scared that I'll eat it or drink it, though I'm scared of that **too**,
 But scared that the problem's so big what can *one* kid **do?**
 The world is covered in plastic it's been found **everywhere**.
 With so much trash in the world, it's like nobody **cares**.

I'm just one kid, what can I **do?**

Beck:

Yeah. Sometimes I feel the same way too.
 First of all, plastic's not the *enemy*. It helps us every day.
 It helps make life better in lots of different ways-

In medicine, manufacturing, home appliances, exploring space,
The clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the glasses on our face!

That plastic *harms* the environment I certainly do agree,
But plastic's not the enemy, its being careless with its debris.
That's why we all, right here and now, must have a big, long think
About the lands we farm, the air we breathe and the water that we drink.

I tell you what-
Remember awhile back when we quarantined worldwide?
School was on computer and we were all stuck inside?

Well, way back then
Cuz we were all locked in
Mother nature gotta a chance to breathe
From Rome to L.A
Beijing to old Pompeii
World pollution dropped significantly

I know the problems feel big
And the game feels rigged
And you feel much smaller than small.
There are billions of tons,
And you pick up one,
'Feels your help makes no difference at all.

That's *far* from the case!
If our *past* you *retrace*,
You'll find lots of changes we made.
And behind every one
You'll find they were done
By people who would not be dismayed.

Water pollution was so dire
Ohio's river caught fire!
Just try to imagine that!
A little while later
We co-oper-ated
On the national Clean Water Act.

Up in the yupper
There doing something super
With the Watershed Partnership 'n Land Conservancy.
Dune covered shrubs,
Water and air that's been scrubbed,
And it's made only of locals like you and me.

Jerry Bardo:
Why the identification
Of a classification
That to all polymers would apply

(That's the little numbered triangles
In various different angles
on the bottom of the plastics you buy)
Was a really great idea
By a Wisconsin lady (*la-dea*)
Who made national and worldwide news.
Milly Zantow helped create
Wisconsin's recycling mandate
To help us know which plastics to reuse..
She spent hundreds of hours
(and dozens of showers)
Studying her local landfills
She talked to business owners,
Politicians and voters,
And brought recycling to plants and mills.
"Waste is not waste until it is wasted."
So,
"Use it up,
wear it out,
make it do, or do without!"
as she would often say.
Why Milly changed her street, her state and the world that way.

There are many more people like Milly all over these lakes.
Whose dedication and service keep them all looking great.

Beck:

And we must pay honor where honor is due,
And acknowledge with thanks, what First Nations contribute.
The Peoples who have been here for ten thousand years,
Stewards of the water, the land, the life that is theirs.
The Chippewa, Menominee,
Ho-Chunk, and Potawatomie,
The Oneida and the Ojibwa.
They've fought the longest and worked the hardest
So clean and healthy this land will stay.

Jerry Bardo:

And now, you.
You can be a part.
A part of these people and Peoples who done so much for us and for this land.
How?
Well,
We know that marine debris is out there,
We just don't know exactly what, or where.

Beck

By downloading an app to your phone
Wherever you may be you can keep us all aware.

Jerry Bardo

With the Great Lakes Track and Act data app
 You can chit chat that stat of where that plastic vat is at
 So we can go 'n
 git-it gat!

Beck:

We CAN make a difference

That's now plain to see

And that difference needs us-

Both you and me.

Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed

Can we have a nice round of applause for a kid who was brave enough to speak their concerns?

Jerry Bardo: [now addressing the audience]

Now each and every one of us both local and afar

Can do so much more everyday by following the Rs.

Beck:

Um.

But Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry what are
 the 'R's?

[IF THE PERFORMANCE IS DIVIDED OVER TWO ACTS OR TWO DAYS, HERE IS WHERE THE
 INSERT TEXT (see page 24) WILL BEGIN. AFTER THE INSERT TEXT'S REINTRODUCTION
 ON DAY 2, THE SCRIPT THEN CONTINUES FROM THIS POINT. IF NO BREAK IS NEEDED,
 THE TEXT CONTINUES WITHOUT INTERRUPTION]

Jerry Bardo:

I'm glad you asked Beck.

But before I announce and articulate and expand the existence of our erudite -tion.

Lets have one more round of applause for our fish, our kayaker, our kid, and our crane.

And now back to our 'R's matey.

The R's are the

Not one

Beck:

Not two?

Jerry Bardo:

Nope. Not three, not four

Beck:

Not five, not six, not seven?

Jerry Bardo:

But eight!

Eight R's of sustain-abil-lity!

Beck:

And to help us get to know these R's and what they are all about

We'll turn to our audience and stick them in some clumps.

Jerry Bardo: [separating the audience into groups as they go]
You're RETHINK and you're REFUSE
You're REDUCE and you're REUSE
And you two are REPURPOSE and REPAIR
REFURBISHINGS right here, and RECYCLINGS over there

Beck:

Now that all the Rs are accounted for and each group has a card,
I'd like you all to read them through and study very hard.
You know what's coming next, of that there can be no doubt-
Here in front of everyone we want you to shout them out.
All or one it's up to you.
We'll give you a minute or two to talk them over betwixt yourselves.
And as always, when in need, ask a neighbor for some help.

[Jerry Bardo and Beck interact and assist groups as needed]

Jerry Bardo:

I think that that was long enough to practice your new rhymes.
So back to you to hear them all. We'll do them one group at a time.

[Indicating the order of speaking for the participants]

RECYCLE you're first.
Then REUSE, REPURPOSE, and REPAIR.
Then REFURBISH, REDUCE and REFUSE.
And RETHINK you'll be the last we hear.
So without any more bandyhootin' or caterwallin' let's hear what they've got to say.

[actor gestures to each group, announces the title, and prompts them to speak, the participant reads the text on their card. Those TEXT CARDS are included at the end of this script.]

Jerry Bardo:

As witness to this conglomeration of collaboration, I, Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry hereby move we commen-date our appreciativeness to these enlivening volunteers by repeatedly patting the palms of our paws.

Beck:

Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry.

Jerry Bardo:

Beck.

Beck:

There are more R's out there
So many more that we could do!

Jerry Bardo:

Like regrow, regift, and reflect-

just to name a few.

Beck:

But regardless of how many Rs that we add

Jerry Bardo:

Or Ws or Ts or Qs

Beck:

The responsibility always comes back to us
Its up to me and you.

So now we know how we can help

Now we're free from ignorance.

You and I are right here and now

Can always make a difference.

You are the difference.

You're what our watershed needs.

One who knows their actions have impacts,

On the land and inland sea.

Beck:

If it's to be it's up to me-

Jerry Bardo:

That is the truest creed.

Beck:

If it's to be it's up to me-

Jerry Bardo:

Changing habits is how we lead.

Beck:

If it's to be it's up to me-

Jerry Bardo:

Is how we'll all succeed.

Beck:

If it's to be it's up to me-

Beck:

That's what our watershed needs!

Jerry Bardo:

Every bit makes it better

cuz lottsa bits-es are a bunch

And a bunch of bunches is tremendous

when dealing with marine debris junk

Beck:

Every bit will make it better.
A single drop? Not much, that's true.
But if a million drops makes a flood-
Think of what these changes might do!

Think of the changes we can make
When we RETHINK what we choose.
Think of the difference we'll make
When, what we don't need, we REFUSE

By REUSING what we have
And REDUCEing to the minimum,
Though they're little changes now
Makes a difference for years to come!

So look to the person in front of you,
Beside you and behind,
And tell them **one** thing you heard today
That you will always keep in mind.

[audience mingles and shares anything they heard that they value. Actors mingle with audience and record the most frequent comments made]]

Jerry Bardo:

I seem to remember telling you, you'd see some magic here today.
The kind of magic that built the pyramids, tended the gardens of Babylon, sent people to the moon, and thought of putting sprinkles on a chocolate vanilla ice cream cone.
Well,
people coming together to make things better,
what
is more truly magical than that?

I'm Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry,

Beck:

And I'm Beck.

Jerry Bardo:

And we'd like to say thank you-

Beck:

Thank you-

Jerry Bardo:

Thank you for joining us here today.
Thank you for all that you have done-

Beck:

Are doing-

Jerry Bardo:
And will do-

Beck:
To keep this wonderful world wonder filled.

Jerry Bardo:
Goodbye.
Love your neighbor,
care for the land
and be gentle with the waters.

End.

The 8 Rs

RETHINK

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we RETHINK, we become more aware of our actions and their impact, both positive and negative, on the world around us.

- I could borrow items instead of purchasing something new.
- I could think about which item might be a better buy—not just based on cost but based on impact too.
- I could pay close attention to *what* and *how* I'm recycling materials.
- I could use laundry detergent sheets or powdered detergent instead of liquid soap from large plastic detergent bottles.
- I could use a bamboo toothbrush instead of a plastic one.

Tell us about one time you used RETHINKing in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried RETHINKing or never thought about RETHINKing, no problem, tell us how you *could* use RETHINK in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

Do I need it?
Must I have it?
Will something else do?
Changing my thinking is the best way to improve.

Buy now, buy more!
Quick, get to the store!
It's a powerful message that a commercial conveys,
RETHINK can help me avoid the craze.

REFUSE

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we REFUSE, we just say no to things, especially those items that are on a fast-track for the landfill after one use. Looking at you, single-use-plastics!

- Say 'No thank you' to the free plastic gizmos and gadgets offered to me.
- 'No thank you' to bottled water. When you have something refillable.
- No thank you to plastic utensils and straws. I could use my own fork, knife, spoon, or chopsticks from home.
- No thank you to plastic or paper bags. I could use a fabric shopping bag instead.

Tell us about one time you used REFUSE in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried REFUSE or never thought about REFUSE, no problem, tell us how you *could* use REFUSE in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

Saying no to what's not needed
Has a long and lasting effect.
Saying, "paper please!" Instead of plastic
Is an action that's quite direct.

Even more direct and helpful
When you shop with the fam-i-ly
When next they ask, say, "thanks, very much,
I've brought a bag with me."

Eating lunch at the office
With my spoon and fork from home.
When a restaurant offers a doggy-bag
I'll say no to takeout foam.

Saying no to lit-tle things,
The things I can do without,
Saying no to all those lit-tle things
Makes big changes without a doubt.

REDUCE

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we REDUCE what we buy and what we use, we conserve resources and limit waste.

- Borrow, share or renting things that you need.
- Buy in bulk to limit packaging waste.
- Buy quality items that last longer and have a variety of uses.
- Avoiding 'single use' items wherever I can.
- Only take what you need, and use what you take.

Tell us about one time you used REDUCE in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried REDUCE or never thought about REDUCE, no problem, tell us how you *could* use REDUCE in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

To reduce our waste we can reduce our consumption, and still have what we need. Not buying items that are used just once, helps a lot, we guarantee.

Water bottles of plastic and napkins of paper are used once and then they're through. Like cases for cell phones, soaps in big bottles, and disposable coffee cups too.

By reducing what we take, we reduce what we trash and that's always a very good start. By reducing what we use just once, or worse, don't use at all, we all can do our part.

REUSE

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we REUSE, we slow down using more resources and creating new waste.

- Compost food scraps to create soil.
- Using bee's wax paper instead of cling wrap.
- Using a reusable water bottle.
- Shop at second-hand stores first.
- Can I REUSE what I throw away the most? If I can't REUSE it can I RETHINK it?
- Donate magazines and books to neighbors, hospitals, libraries, schools, and nursing homes.
- Donate clothes to others.

Tell us about one time you used REUSE in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried REUSE or never thought about REUSE, no problem, tell us how you *could* use REUSE in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

How is it packaged, how is it wrapped,
Couldn't I find another use for that?
And before I buy something new today,
Do I already have something that may do? Can save the day?
I look around before getting something new,
And reuse the items I've already accrued.

REPURPOSE

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we REPURPOSE, we find a new way to use the item, either as it is, or making it into something else.

- Can someone else use this in their home or for crafts?
- Glass jars for storage of food or bathroom items.
- Old wood pallets with plastic bottles and jugs can become a vertical garden.

Tell us about one time you used REPURPOSE in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried REPURPOSE or never thought about REPURPOSE, no problem, tell us how you *could* use REPURPOSE in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

Making new things from old things that are lying around.
It's useful and fun! Here's some things that I've found—
Chipped mugs can grow seedlings,
Old socks as dust rags,
Old sweaters into pillow cases,
Bed sheets into bags,
Plastic bottles that are big like gallons and two-liters
Are perfect piggy banks or tied to trees for bird feeders,
Containers that once held vegetable oil or dish soap,
With a cut here and there,
Hold your nails and your bolts!
Plastic caps become checkers,
Coasters from CDs,
Jewelry and art from any material you please.
With my imagination
There's no end to what I could do—
Why with enough plastic bottles I could build a canoe!
There are hundreds of ways to decorate my home.
If I repurpose what's there and leave the store stuff alone.

REFURBISH

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we REFURBISH, we can uphold, upgrade, and update while making the utmost of what we have.

- Maintaining and caring for appliances can extend their lives by years.
- Buying REFURBISHED electronics lessens the amount of toxic chemicals sent to landfills.
- Donating electronics helps ensure existing resources continue to circulate.
- Fixing up a bike makes it useable for someone new.

Tell us about one time you used REFURBISH in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried REFURBISH or never thought about REFURBISH, no problem, tell us how you *could* use REFURBISH in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

We can get better at living with what we have.

Look around.

Find things that can be bettered and boosted, enhanced and advanced.

Resist merely scrapping, trashing and throwing away.

In our great haste to communicate, we create a slate of special materials and radical chemicals whose particles slowly degrade over hundreds of years. And that degradation seeping into the Earth's foundation leads to their saturation into the circulation of this our nation's next generation's H₂O. So—

Slow down.

We can get better at living with what we have.

REPAIR

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we REPAIR, we bring something back to what it was. Keeping things working, keeps them out of the landfill.

- Fixing a bike.
- Raising and lowering hems on clothes keeps them in use.
- Ordering a button, latch or a cord keeps a device active much longer.
- A little sweat, a little dirt, and a little thought can save a lot of dollars.

Tell us about one time you used REPAIR in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried REPAIR or never thought about REPAIR, no problem, tell us how you *could* use REPAIR in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

Why, there are hundreds of things I can fix on my own.
Just get a book from the library or watch a video on my phone.
Sew the hole in my socks, oil the wheel on the cart,
The broken latch on the microwave just needs a new part!
Repairing what I have keeps it in use,
Throwing it away, adds to refuse.

RECYCLE

Here's something for the group to talk about.

When we RECYCLE, from bottles to batteries, we keep valuable resources in circulation.

- Entrepreneurs are turning recycled plastics into construction materials.
- RECYCLing electronics keeps toxic materials out of landfills and then seeping into groundwater.
- Knowing what *can't* be RECYCLED will keep contaminants out of what can.

Tell us about one time you used RECYCLE in your life. Your example could serve as a great prompt and idea for others. If you have never tried RECYCLE or never thought about RECYCLE, no problem, tell us how you *could* use RECYCLE in your life.

Ask for a volunteer in your group to read this aloud.

Nine.

Nine.

Only NINE percent of ALL plastic that has ever been created has been recycled.

Nine.

What once was taught as the most important thing to do for our world, is now a last resort.

We produce 250 million tons of debris every year

And that's just in the U.S. alone!

Recycling can be confusing, costly, and inefficient, too.

Codes and ordinances can complicate which items can be used.

Some need prepping and separating from the non-recyclable plastics.

And mixing materials with what's not on the list can contaminate what is.

We may mix *these* with *those* from time to time, but we have to do our best.

Recycling isn't ideal, but it's important none the less.

So,

Know before you throw-

For Two Acts

[INSERT TEXT FOR TWO ACT OR TWO SESSION PERFORMANCE STYLE]

If the script needs to be divided into two performance experiences (e.g., two acts or two sessions) please insert the following text where indicated (see page 9) before the introduction of the R's.

Jerry Bardo

The R's is not only a pirate's fa-vo-rite letter but it's also what we RRR going to be talking about next time. So, before we go overtime and maybe missing chowtime, it's time to call halftime to this showtime for goodness' sake. But don't worry, we'll see you next time at the same time or maybe a different time but it will for sure be the right time to explore how the 'R's' can help with marine debris. So, in the meantime, we'll all be thinkin' and maybe repeatin' some of the thoughts and ideas that were hereto put forthwith today.

My name is Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry-

Beck

And I'm Beck.

Jerry and Beck

We'll see you next time for more fun time talkin' 'bout marine debris!

[UPON RESTARTING THE PERFORMANCE]

Jerry Bardo

Beck we're back.

Beck

We are.

Jerry Bardo

And I, Jerry Bardo Apam Napat Sesquipedalian Cornelius Watershed Debry, stand poised, exhilarated, my heart thrumming with vigor and eagerness, and all but trembling in anticipation, prepared to take that most joyous and thrilling of steps, inching closer and closer to an exciting and unbounded future of unbridled optimism, bountiful opportunity, and limitless possibility. My spirit soars with boldness and valor, my courage and resilience brimming, my heart afire and body quaking, to seize the moment, jump off the diving board of educational discourse and start anew.

Beck

So... you're ready?

Jerry

Yes! Indeed my continually concise cohort.

Let us move forward by back paddling over what we talked about the other day. Let's confab with our neighbors. Find someone or a group of somes that's behind you, beside you or below. Say howzit to these inhabitants, salutations to these associates, and bonjour and buenos dias to friends old and new. Ask them what they remembered and tell them what you discovered when last we explored the topic of marine debris.

[GIVE THE AUDIENCE A MINUTE OR TWO TO SHARE THOUGHTS FROM THE PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE]

Jerry Bardo

Pray tell Beck, what particular memories, past resonations, or lingering recollections return to resonate most profoundly with you?

Beck

Well, I remember that a watershed was the land that channels all the rain and snow to the rivers and lakes. I remember that marine debris can be in all colors and sizes- nets and bottles, bags and nozzles and even pieces that are smaller than small. I remember [*pointing out the volunteers in the audience who played the roles*] the fish, the kayaker, the kid and the crane. And I remember you said we could make a difference by using the R's. But how?

[THE SCRIPT CONTINUES AS WRITTEN (see page 9) FROM THIS POINT]