

Name: _____

Earth Day

by Kelly Hashway

It was a gorgeous Sunday, and Miranda couldn't wait to spend it at the park riding bikes and hanging out on the playground. The park was Miranda's favorite place to spend the weekends. All the trees and flowers made it a beautiful place to play.



Miranda raised her hand to knock on Meredith's door, but Meredith was already on her way out.

"Hey, want to go to the park?" Miranda asked.

"I can't. My brother and I volunteered to plant trees down at the senior center today."

Miranda's face fell. "Plant trees. That doesn't sound fun at all."

"It's Earth Day," Meredith said. "We wanted to do something to give back to the planet. Besides, the seniors could use a nice area to sit and watch birds." Meredith's face lit up. "Hey, do you want to come along and help us?"

Miranda just wanted to go to the park, but Meredith looked so happy at the idea of her tagging along. "I guess so, but then can we go to the park?"

"Sure."

Miranda followed Meredith and her brother, Tim, to the senior center. She was happy they were at least riding their bikes there.

"You know riding bikes is good for the earth," Meredith said. "Cars pollute the air."

"It's more fun than driving in a car, too," Miranda said.

At the senior center, Miranda was surprised to see so many people she knew from school. Everyone had come out to help plant trees.

"I didn't know Earth Day was such a big thing," Miranda said.

"It should be," Meredith said. "We only have one planet. If we don't take care of it, what

would happen to us?"

Miranda thought about that. She wouldn't be able to spend her weekends in the park anymore. That wasn't something she wanted to happen. "So, where do we start?" Suddenly, she was eager to pitch in.

She spent the whole day planting trees, learning about recycling, and picking up litter. By the evening she was exhausted but really happy with herself.

"Still want to go ride bikes at the park?" Meredith asked, sitting down by the row of trees they'd planted."

"Absolutely! Now that we've helped the environment, I think I'll enjoy the park even more. And I think we should do this again, somewhere else in town."

"Plant trees?" Meredith asked.

"Yeah. Earth Day shouldn't just be one day a year."

"I guess it doesn't have to be," Meredith said.

Miranda smiled, thinking about all the places in town that she could help clean up.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *Santa Bunny*, is now available!

When the Easter Bunny feels children love Santa more than him, he decides to take over the Christmas holiday. The Easter Bunny shows up on Christmas Eve to deliver baskets to all the good children, only Santa is delivering gifts, too. But little Tommy catches them and wants to know who will hide eggs on Easter? Can Tommy convince the Easter Bunny he's loved before it's too late?

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1. When does this story most likely take place?
- a. in the spring
 - b. in the summer
 - c. in autumn
 - d. after school

2. Why is riding bikes good for the Earth?

3. Why did Miranda go to the senior center?
- a. She was excited about helping the Earth.
 - b. She wanted to do something nice for the senior citizens that lived there.
 - c. She wanted to hang out with Meredith.
 - d. The park was closed for the day.

4. What three things did Miranda do at the senior center?

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Explain how Miranda's feelings about Earth Day changed in this story.

ANSWER KEY

Earth Day

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1. When does this story most likely take place? **a**
- a. **in the spring**
 - b. in the summer
 - c. in autumn
 - d. after school

2. Why is riding bikes good for the Earth?

Cars pollute the air, so bikes are a cleaner way to travel.

3. Why did Miranda go to the senior center? **c**
- a. She was excited about helping the Earth.
 - b. She wanted to do something nice for the senior citizens that lived there.
 - c. **She wanted to hang out with Meredith.**
 - d. The park was closed for the day.

4. What three things did Miranda do at the senior center?

- **planted trees**
- **picked up litter**
- **learned about recycling**

5. Explain how Miranda's feelings about Earth Day changed in this story.

At the beginning, she didn't care much about Earth Day. After spending the day at the senior center, she wants to do even more to help the planet.