

HARVEST ASSEMBLY 1A:

Caring For The Planet

(Story Version)

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THEMES: Environmental Issues | Creation | Caring for our Planet

STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be delivered by an adult. It consists of an introduction, a story, a summary and optional prayer. A scripted version which can be performed by children is included below.

TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text = text that can be read straight out.*

SONG 1: It's Harvest Time (Track 1) or Thank You For A New Day (Track 2)

INTRO: *Yes, it's harvest time! The time of year when we give thanks for all the wonderful food that is produced by farmers all around the world. Vegetables, fruits and grain have been growing for many months, and now is the time of year when many of those foods are picked or harvested. All these foods have come from our planet earth in one way or another and we need to look after our planet to make sure that there will always be rich and beautiful harvests for evermore.*

I want us to think today about how and why we should look after our planet and to do that, I want to ask if you have ever created something? I'm sure all of you have created many things like drawings, paintings, sculptures, a piece of music, a model, or even a dance. There are so many ways that we can create. Almost every person in this world will have created something at some point in their life and will have known what it is like to put the final piece in place; that wonderful, proud, happy feeling that you get, when your creation is finally finished!

How would you feel though if you had just finished spending days creating a wonderful, ten-thousand-piece Lego model, only to have somebody accidentally smash it to pieces? Or how would you feel if you had just created a beautiful vase out of pottery only to have someone drop it on the floor? Or how would you feel if you had spent a week typing an exciting story on a computer, but then the computer broke and your story was lost for ever? I suspect that in all these situations, you would feel terribly upset and very annoyed. In that case, you will understand how the children in today's story would have felt after their creation was ruined.

STORY: **The New School Garden**

It was a sunny spring Monday morning as the children walked to school with their parents. It was the pupils first day back at school after the holidays and they were extremely excited because they knew that their

class had been chosen to create a new school garden, right next to the school playground.

Miss Anderson smiled as the children happily bounced into the classroom. "This week," she announced, "we will be starting work on our school garden and each afternoon we will be doing an important job!"

Sure enough, straight after lunch, the children followed their teacher to the far side of the playground, and through a gate that led to a piece of waste ground with a wall on either side. A tall cherry blossom tree stood in one corner and at the opposite end, there was a place where a pond had once been but had now dried up.

"Look up at the tree," whispered Miss Anderson. The children stared at the pink blossom and through it they could just make out a small bird's nest. And peeping over the edge of the nest was a mother blackbird! "I think the bird has laid some eggs in her nest. She is taking care of them and keeping them warm until they hatch out," the teacher explained. "I think the baby birds will appear any day now, but we can't stand and watch blackbirds all day, because now is the time to begin our gardening work." The children tiptoed very quietly away from the tree.

There certainly was a lot of work to do! Every part of the space was either covered in fallen, dead leaves and litter, or overgrown with huge, ugly weeds! The children immediately set to work clearing it all away. In the end, they managed to fill ten large sacks with all the mess. Miss Anderson looked around at their now cleaner looking garden area and declared, "We have made an excellent start today. Well done class. You've all worked so hard."

On Tuesday afternoon, the class were busy at it again. They planted some lettuces, cabbages, and cauliflowers in rows at the back of the garden. Afterwards, Miss Anderson praised them saying, "Well done everyone, our vegetable patch is very good!" Then one of the children realised they could hear a great deal of chirping coming from the tree. Everyone stopped to investigate. The blackbird's eggs had indeed hatched, and several baby birds were chirping happily along with their mother who was singing proudly. It was so thrilling to see and hear new life come into the garden.

REMAINDER OF THIS ASSEMBLY

The conclusion of this story is followed by a summary, further song suggestions and an optional prayer.