



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CHARACTERS

Yu – A young villager who works on the family's farm and at their farm stand

Trash Troll – An ogre who lives on a mountain outside the village and consumes its limited resources

Fairy – A hungry sprite whose home has been buried by Trash Troll's trash

Grandma – The family matriarch who owns the farm and is one of the village's elders

SCRIPT

Yu lives with their grandmother on a farm that has fed their village for generations, but crops will no longer grow because the village's land has been polluted by a hungry troll who lives outside the village, where he eats their food and consumes their limited resources. The valley in which the village lies has become filled with the troll's garbage.

The villagers are going hungry, and Yu's farm stand cannot feed them, because the family's land is too littered. The trash has piled so high that it has buried the fairy houses in the forest behind the farm, earning the ogre the name Trash Troll.

All day, Yu watches as plumes of smoke billow from Trash Troll's mountain lair and blot out the sun as he burns the coal needed to heat his labyrinth of caves and tunnels.

One day, as Yu sits at the vacant farm stand, a fairy flutters to the top of the counter and asks if she can have even a crumb of food.

YU: I only have enough food for my Grandma and myself, but I can spare two crumbs – one for you and one for a friend! The famine has poisoned our soil, and we can't even plow the land through all the trash that litters it.

The fairy reveals that she had to fly out of her house through the chimney because the Fairy Forest has been buried by the ogre's trash.

FAIRY: We are too small. We're helpless to stop Trash Troll!

YU (sadly): I'm small, too.

FAIRY: But you're big enough to make a change.



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That night at dinner, Yu asks Grandma why the villagers let Trash Troll pollute and litter their land.

GRANDMA: We used to share what little we had with him, but he kept demanding more and more. People felt it was easier to give him what he wanted, but you're young. Maybe you can find a way to banish him.

Yu decides to free their land from the oppression of Trash Troll so that the villagers can eat, and the fairies can emerge from their homes.

The tools Yu will need for the journey are buried, as well, so Grandma repurposes some of the ogre's trash into new tools. She fashions scoops out of two of Trash Troll's used milk jugs. Grandma then concocts a gooey potion out of the old paper littering the countryside and sprinkles in seeds for her garden that no longer grows. She forms the potion into balls, and once dry, places them in a bag.

GRANDMA: These Blossom Bursts will help nature reclaim our valley, once Trash Troll is no more.

Yu sets off for Trash Troll's mountain, digging their way through his trash with the scoopers.

But when Yu reaches the troll's lair, they find he is not the terrifying monster the villagers imagine. He is gigantic to the point that he barely fits in his cave, but he is also sickly and pale. And he is crying.

TRASH TROLL: I know why you're here. You've come to send me away, haven't you? I know the villagers don't like me. I don't blame them. I've left you cold and hungry, and my trash has buried those poor fairies' houses.

YU: Then why do you keep taking from us?

TRASH TROLL: The more I eat, the bigger I get, and the bigger I get, the more food and warmth I need. If I stop, I'll be cold and hungry, just like you!

YU: Maybe you won't! Maybe you don't always need to be the biggest.



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YU: You have more than you need and are too big. I don't have enough, so I'm too small. But if we use only as much as we need, we can both be medium-sized and happy!

So Yu teaches Trash Troll to refuse what he doesn't need. He'll get smaller, but he'll fit in his cave again. The less space he needs, the less fuel he'll need for warmth. Yu shows him how to turn his trash into tools like the ones Grandma made and tells him that what he doesn't use can be sent back to the village to be recycled or composted to help grow enough food for all!

Little by little, the trash and litter are cleared away, and the landscape begins to look as it did when Grandma was Yu's age.

Yu and Trash Troll hike to a cliff, cast the Blossom Bursts down into the valley, and watch as new life blooms everywhere.

Yu returns home to a village that looks new. Years pass.

One day, Yu is working at the now busy farm stand, when a friendly elf visits and asks to have a reusable jug refilled with milk. Yu goes about filling the jug.

ELF: It's good to see you again, Yu!

Yu studies his face.

YU: There's something so familiar about you.

ELF (smiling): You helped me once, when I was a trash troll. But thanks to Yu, I've been transformed into an Eco Elf!

Yu and Eco Elf become fast friends and spend "happily ever after" traveling the countryside, teaching villages and trash trolls throughout the realm how to live in harmony with the land.

THE END



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Assemble the Team!

Yu, a young villager, lives with their grandmother and works on the family's farm and at their farm stand, which has fed their village for generations. The wasteful and insatiable Trash Troll, however, is consuming the Village's limited resources, leaving its inhabitants hungry, tired, and cold. They need a brave hero who understands nothing changes until someone leads by example.

To save the Village, Yu (and you!) will need the right team and the right tools.

Here's how to assemble them (with plenty of close supervision and help from adults, of course).

Everyday Materials for Magical Transformations

You don't need powers to work your magic. Anyone can make boring better – and you might even change the world while you're at it!

PUPPETS – The quest for a zero-waste future takes teamwork! You can use household materials to build the characters that will accompany you on this journey.

You will need:

- Paper bags (3 small, 1 large)
- Construction paper
- Googly eyes, buttons, or bottle caps
- Yarn
- Hot glue gun
- Tape
- Crayons, markers, finger paints, and other materials for decorating

It's time to meet the friends you'll get to know on your quest!

You will need three small paper bags for Yu, Grandma, and Eco Elf.

The large bag will become Trash Troll.

Create these helpers as classic paper-bag puppets, with the fold in the bag becoming the mouth. Eyes and other facial features can be added to what would otherwise be the flat bottom of the bag. Use the hot glue gun to attach eyes and hair, let dry, then use the crayons, markers, and/or paint to give each character clothes and a unique look!

To make your fairy friend, draw on construction paper what you imagine a fairy looks like. Carefully cut out the fairy. Then, cut a separate thin strip of construction paper. Wrap the strip around your finger and tape it closed. Glue or tape the fairy to this paper ring so that it can be worn as a finger puppet.



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STAGE – Your imagination can turn a cardboard box into anything, so what better stage for the adventure that is about to unfold?

You will need:

- Large cardboard box
- Pencil
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Multi-surface craft paint

Begin by standing the open box on end, open-side down. Depending on the dimensions of the box, draw a large square or rectangle on one side. Make sure that, once cut out, the rectangle will be big enough that the performers can be seen through it. Cut out the rectangle. Use paint and other decorations to customize your stage. Additionally, you can use a hot glue gun and fabric to install curtains that cover the opening.

Once the paint (and possibly glue) has dried, place the box, open-side down, so that its sides are resting on two chairs or tables. There should be enough space between the chairs or tables so that performers can enter the stage by crawling underneath.

SCOOPS – Milk jugs, water jugs, and other large plastic containers can be made into handy scoops for everything from garden work to picking up and putting away small toys!

You will need:

- Milk or water jugs
- Marker
- Scissors
- Sandpaper

Rinse out the jugs and let dry. Cut off the bottom of jug, then make a mark below the handle. Draw an arc from the mark to opposite corners of the jug, then cut out. Trim the scoop as needed to smooth it out and use the sandpaper to remove any edges.



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BLOSSOM BURSTS – Spread beauty with these ready-to-go, mini gardens!

You will need:

- Construction paper scraps
- Wildflower seeds
- Water
- Food processor

Gather scraps of construction paper, water, and wildflower seeds then blend in a food processor. Remove the contents from the processor and form into balls. Once dry, toss them around your property. As the blossom bursts receive sun and rain, the paper will compost, and the seeds will grow into beautiful flowers.

FAIRY HOUSES – A fun addition to your own home, fairy houses are a great way to turn some empty plastic bottles into nightlights or garden/patio decorations.

You will need:

- Plastic bottle
- Moss
- Multi-surface craft paint
- Hot glue gun
- LED tea light
- Craft knife
- Silk flowers
- Scissors

Rinse the bottle and let dry. Cut the top from bottle, then cut slits into the top so it fits over the bottle's body. Cut a square in the bottle's side, making sure it is large enough for the tea light to be inserted. Paint bottle's body and top. Once dry, place the bottle top over the body. Use the hot glue gun to decorate the bottle with moss, silk flowers, and more. Let the glue dry, then place the tea light inside the bottle.



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