

Let's Meet a Garbage Collector | Lesson Plan

What do garbage collectors do for our communities?

Students will understand the important role of garbage collectors through the story of *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Garbage Collector*.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the main characters and setting in *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Garbage Collector*.
- Recognize the sequence of events in a story.
- Explain how garbage collectors help our communities daily.
- Discuss and understand the roles of garbage collectors within the network of community helpers.
- Identify key vocabulary related to garbage collectors.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Garbage Collector:** The person whose job it is to take away people's trash and dispose of it.
- **Serve:** To help or do something for the good of others without expecting anything in return.
- **Landfill:** A large area of land where garbage and other waste materials are disposed of.
- **"Get Your Hands Dirty":** A phrase meaning you're willing to do the hard or unpleasant parts of a task.
- **Compactor:** A machine that squishes trash to make it smaller and take up less space.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7

Academic Subject Areas: America, Character Development

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Garbage Collector* (Watch [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Garbage Collector* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Coloring Page: *Let's Meet a Garbage Collector* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Let's Meet a Garbage Collector* (story sequencing) (Click [Here](#))
- Pictures of a garbage truck and a garbage collector

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by showing students a picture of a garbage truck and a garbage collector.
2. Discuss with students what they know about garbage collectors and why they think this job is important.

Scan to watch episode:



3. Ask students how they feel about getting dirty, grimy, or smelly while doing work. Discuss the meaning of the phrase “get your hands dirty” in relation to hard work and helping out. Allow students the opportunity to share times when they have had to do a dirty job or help out in an important way.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Garbage Collector* for the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning. The following are some helpful guided questions:
 - How do Otto and Smidge feel when they realize that Dennis's lunchbox is missing?
 - How does Mr. Dustin, the garbage collector, agree to help Otto and Smidge find the lunchbox?
 - What is a landfill, and why is it mentioned in the story?
 - What is the problem in this story, and how is it solved?
 - What might happen if there were no garbage collectors in our community?
3. After watching the video, encourage students to identify the main characters and the setting, recalling what happened at the story's beginning, middle, and end.
4. Discuss what Otto and Smidge learned while visiting Mr. Dustin and why garbage collecting is an important service for the community.
5. If using the book, guide students through a discussion of the illustrations, asking them to describe and interpret different scenes.
6. Optional Activities:
 - Retelling Activity: Using the story sequence worksheet, have students work in small groups to retell the story in the correct order.
 - Chart the Story: Create a story map on chart paper with the class, identifying the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow time for the students to color the “*Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Garbage Collector Coloring Page.*”
2. Ask students to retell the story in their own words to assess comprehension and encourage storytelling skills. Use guiding questions to assess recall and understanding of the story's themes, such as the importance of garbage collectors and how to show appreciation for our community helpers.
3. Assessment: Observe students during group work and discussions. Check the accuracy of story sequencing.

Extension Activities:

1. Invite a local garbage collector to visit for a Q & A session.
2. Arrange a field trip to a local city dump or recycling center.

3. Engage in a role-playing activity where students can take turns pretending to be garbage collectors, illuminating the importance of helping others by maintaining community cleanliness.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss one thing they appreciate about garbage collectors and why they are important in the community.