ONCE UPON A DREAM

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"Class, as your assignment, kindly study the reduce, reuse, and recycle," Ethan's teacher said just before the bell rang. On his way home from school, he wondered what his homework was all about. He even fell asleep watching videos just to answer it.

Then, he started dreaming about an unfamiliar place. There are signs everywhere saying, "Welcome to Dumpster City!". Then, he saw mountains of garbage! The air smelled so bad coming from waste that can turn into fertilizer like fruit peels are mixed with those that can be repurposed as a new item.

While wandering, he bumped into Jane. Jane lived her whole life in Dumpster City. "Oh, hello there stranger!", she said to Ethan.
"Do you know how to get out of this place?", he asked.
"Uhhh... Maybe! Yes! Come on!" Jane said excitedly.
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As he followed Jane, he observed their surroundings. He heard children coughing as they played with old tires and car batteries. As he was walking, he felt wrappers of chips and candies beneath his feet. He saw people throwing trash everywhere without thinking of what can be reused, reduced, and recycled.

As they go on their journey of getting out of Dumpster City, bits of plastic suddenly start falling on his face. Shortly, piles of trash started running down the hill. "What is that?", he asked Jane. "Oh no... Oh no! We have to get out here, because if we don't we're going to die under all this trash!", she said to him worryingly.

Soon enough, sirens blasted, "Warning! Garbage Landslide!". Then, the mountain of garbage suddenly collapses on itself trapping everyone underneath.

Then, Ethan woke up breathing heavily as he recalled the bad dream he had. He sits up, and sees tons of paper, leftover noodles, and chips packaging everywhere in his room.

He started picking them up one by one following what he learned about the 3Rs. He put his leftover food in the biodegradable bin, the packaging in the non-biodegradable one, and compiled all the paper to reuse it again.

Ethan realized how important it is to manage our waste. In his school, he started teaching his classmates about it. In his neighborhood, together with his friend, Jane, the real Jane, they started to help their neighbors to segregate their trash properly.

In the end, Ethan thought that it is easy to make changes once we learn and realize the consequences of our actions. He hopes that someday, the dumpster city will not come to life, and that we do everything to make it not happen.