

A selection of waste education poems

Written by Lorna Tingey for Northumberland County Council workshops

- Compost counting rhyme
- Food waste- The journey of flour
- Moles do not like litter
- Litter floating in the sea
- Litter blowing in the sky
- Litter at the beach
- The recycling pig

Compost counting rhyme

One, two, three

Compost with me
Peelings from the kitchen
Cuttings from the grass
Straw from the guinea pig
But don't add any glass

Four five six

Collect some sticks
Add a handful of leaves
Blown from the trees
Add some peelings from the kitchen
But don't add any cheese

Seven eight nine

Give it some time
Let the sun heat the compost
And the worms munch the mush
Let the bin work its magic
Making compost just for us

Ten, eleven, twelve

Dig and delve
Get the compost from the compost bin
And mix it to the soil
Add seeds to their plant pots
And water really well

Grow the vegetables and make the soup
Add to the peelings to the compost bin

Here we go again.....

On two three, compost with me

Adapted by Lorna Tingey, Northumberland County Council from the original
One Two Buckle My Shoe

Wasting bread doesn't just waste food and money; it wastes energy and water too.

The journey of flour

Prepare the land and plant the seed,
Harvest the crop and get rid of the weeds

This all uses energy

The crop goes into a lorry and off to the mill,
Made into flour where sacks are then filled

This all uses energy

Send the flour to the bakers to make into bread,
The bakers know we want toast for breakfast in bed

This all uses energy

The bread goes on a lorry and off to be sold,
Shops need heating so they are not too cold

This all uses energy

We drive to the shop to collect the bread,
Bread that doesn't get eaten gets binned instead

This all uses energy

The bin lorries collect it and take it all away,
To be burnt with the other foods wasted today*

(*General rubbish in Northumberland goes to an Energy from Waste Plant to be burnt to produce electricity)

**Written by Lorna Tingey, Waste Management Team,
Northumberland County Council**

Moles do not like litter

Monty, Matilda and Michael the Moles
Had terrible trouble digging their holes,

They started to dig but then they got stuck,
What's this said Monty? - Yuck Yuck Yuck Yuck!

We cannot go further; we'll have to go back,
There's too much litter stopping our tracks,

So off they went to dig a new hole,
We do not like litter said Monty, Matilda and Michael the Moles.

**Written by Lorna Tingey, Waste Management Team,
Northumberland County Council**

Litter floating in the sea

There was too much litter in the sea
So much litter that I couldn't see

I tried to swim over it
I tried to swim under it
I couldn't get through it

So in the end I swam around it!
It was a long way and on the way I got hungry

I opened my mouth to eat what I thought was some seaweed
But, it wasn't seaweed, it was a plastic bag and it made me sick!

And so I swam off to find a much cleaner part of the sea

I do not like litter said Florence the fish

Can be used with a choice of puppets from the sea and actions to join in with

Written by Lorna Tingey, Waste Management Team, Northumberland County Council

Litter blowing in the sky

There was too much litter in the sky
So much litter, I couldn't fly

I tried to fly over it
I tried to fly under it
But I couldn't get past it

So in the end I flew around it!

It was a long way and on the way I saw something shiny so went for a look.
I flew to the ground and put my head into the shiny tin, and then I was stuck!

I do not like litter said Samey the seagull

Can be used with a choice of bird puppets and actions to join in with

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Litter at the beach

There was too much litter at the beach

Too much litter to play and to run
and too much litter to have any fun

I tried to jump over
I tried to crawl under it
But couldn't get through it

So in the end I ran around it!

It was a long way and on the way I wanted to dig in the sand.
I started to dig but cut my paw on some broken glass!

I do not like litter said Daniel the dog

Can be used with a dog puppet and actions to join in with

Written by Lorna Tingey, Waste Management Team, Northumberland County Council

The recycling pig

This litter pig went to the recycling centre

This little pig stayed at home

This little pig recycled lots of things

This little pig recycled none

And this little pig cried

We we we can all recycle

All the way home

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