

I Can Read!™

BEGINNING  
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READING



# Earth Day Fun

by Jennifer Frantz

**HARPER**

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“Guess what?” said Sid.

“Dad and I are  
doing something extra cool  
after school today.”



“We’re planting a tree!  
And not just any tree.  
It is a brand-new baby tree.  
Dad says trees are good  
for our planet, Earth.  
Plus, we get to play in the dirt!”







“Mom doesn’t always like it  
when I play in the dirt.  
It gets on my clothes and toys  
and sometimes on the walls.”





“But dirt can’t help  
getting things dirty.  
What is in dirt, anyway?”





“Good morning, Sid,” said Mom.

“Morning!” said Sid.

“Mom, I was just wondering,  
why don’t you like dirt?”





“I like dirt fine,  
when it’s outside,” said Mom.  
“Did you know  
that there are many kinds of dirt?”





“There is potting soil,” said Mom.

“There is the dirt in our yard.

And there is desert dirt,

which is mostly made of sand.”





“Dad bought potting soil  
to use when you plant your tree.  
It’s dirt for planting things.”

“Cool!” said Sid.

“I’ll dig into this more at school.”





At school, Sid found his friends.

"Hey, guys!" said Sid.

"What do you think is in dirt?"





“I know!” said Gabriela.

“Dirt has stuff in it  
that is good for plants and trees.”





"Dirt has worms in it!" said May.

"I saw one and I named it Mortimer."





"I know all about dirt,"  
said Gerald.

"I play in dirt piles a lot.  
Dirt is full of tiny rocks."

"Good answers!" said Sid.





In class, Sid told Teacher Susie about the tree he would plant. "My dad says it's Earth Day," he said.





“It sure is!” Teacher Susie said.  
“And we can make  
every day Earth Day  
by taking care of our planet.”







"We need to take care of the trees,"  
said Gerald.

"And the animals," said Gabriela.

"And the oceans," said May.



“Right on!” said Teacher Susie.  
“We need to keep dirt clean, too.  
Dirt, or soil, is very important.  
Let’s find out why  
in the Super Fab Lab!”





“What makes soil so important?”  
asked Teacher Susie.

“Trees grow in soil,” said Sid.

“Vegetables do, too,” said May.

“Like spinach. Yuck,” said Gerald.





“Very good, Dirt Detectives!

Now, let’s find out what’s in soil.”







Dirt Detective Sid and his friends  
took a close look at their soil.



“The soil is all different colors,”  
said Gabriela.

“But I found a plastic straw, too,”  
she said.

“That doesn’t belong in soil,  
so I recycled it.”



“I saw bits of leaves and twigs,”  
said Sid.

“And a cool-looking worm.  
I put him back in the dirt.”







“Worms are good for the soil,”  
said Teacher Susie.

“I’m proud of all of you.

You know a lot about keeping  
the Earth healthy.”



Next the kids had a birthday party  
for the Earth.

"I'll be the Earth!" said Gerald.

"Make a birthday wish," said May.

"I wish to be clean," said Gerald.





“We can all help,” said Sid.

“I can walk more places so we don’t use the car so much,” said Gabriela.

“And I can recycle,” said May.

“We can do a lot to help the Earth.”







When Sid got home,  
he and Dad planted the baby tree.

“Trees make the Earth happy,”  
said Sid.

“And healthy soil helps  
baby trees grow into big trees.”





“Caring for the Earth feels good.  
Plus, it is fun to get dirty!”





# LAUGHTERNOON

a good time for some earthy jokes

What did the worm's mom say

when he came home late?

Where on Earth have

you been?

What do trees drink?

Root beer.

What do you get when  
you wear a purple cowboy  
hat, pink pants, and orange  
shoes and then jump in  
a mud puddle?

You get . . . dirty!

What do you get when  
you take all the trees,  
and all the oceans, and all  
the animals, and all the soil?

The Earth! Happy Earth Day!

