

Realistic
Fiction

The Salvage Crew

by Ben MacAlasdair
illustrated by Stefano Tambellini



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Hill

PAIRED
READ

From Trash to Treasure

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Summarize

Skill: Point of View

Vocabulary Strategy

Homographs

Vocabulary

conservation, discouraged,
frustration, gazed,
jubilant, recycling,
remaining, tinkered

Content Standards

Science

Earth and Space Science

Word count: 1,198**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Education

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Essential Question

How can we reuse what we already have?

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Chapter 1

The New Club

“We need a headquarters for the Salvage Crew,” announced Jaimie.

The others nodded in agreement. Jaimie, Tomás, Noah, Daisha, Darius, and Onawa had known one another since they were little. They lived in the same apartment building, and they went to school together.

Their class had just finished a project on conservation and recycling. They had found out how much trash people were making.

The friends had decided to form a club to encourage people in their community to recycle and reuse things.

Onawa had chosen their name—the Salvage Crew. She loved the ocean, and she explained that the people who rescue old ships are called salvagers. She said that salvaging also means creating something new from trash.



“We could meet at our place,” said Noah, “although there’s not much space when my brothers are home.”

“There’s not much space at ours, either,” said Darius.

“I know!” said Tomás. “We could have our headquarters at my grandparents’ place.”

“Would they mind?” asked Jaimie.

“I don’t think so. We play in their yard all the time, and I go there after school everyday.”

Chapter 2

Gran's Brilliant Idea

“Is it okay if we use your place as the headquarters for the Salvage Crew?” Tomás asked his grandparents. It was a Saturday afternoon, and the friends were sitting around Gran’s table having a snack.

“What’s the Salvage Crew?” asked Granddad.

“We’ve started a special club to encourage people to reduce their trash by reusing stuff,” said Onawa.

“Of course you can meet here,” announced Gran, “but I think you should start as you mean to go on.”

“What do you mean?” asked Jaimie.

“You want people to reuse things rather than throw them away. You should set an example. You should make your headquarters out of recycled materials.”

“Hey, that’s a great idea, but how?” asked Darius.

“You could build a tree house,” Gran replied.

“Granddad’s a builder—he could help us,”
Tòmas added eagerly.

“But where will we find the materials?”
asked Daisha.

“I’ve got plenty of leftover building materials
in my shed,” said Granddad.





While they had been talking, Noah had grabbed some paper and was busy drawing. Now he said, “How about this?”

It was a plan for their headquarters.

“That’s good,” said Granddad. “We have a budding architect here. Let’s figure out the measurements for your tree house.”

“The first task is to choose a tree,” said Gran.

Leaving Noah and Granddad poring over the plan, the others followed Gran into the yard.



“You need a strong, healthy tree,” Gran said.

“Can you have a tree house that isn’t in a tree?” asked Daisha. “It’d be exciting to have our headquarters in a tree, but I don’t want to hurt the tree.”

“I don’t see why your clubhouse couldn’t be built among trees instead of in a tree,” said Gran. “You could build it in that grove of trees over there.”

“That sounds perfect,” said Daisha, smiling.

“It’s also perfect that school ends next week,” added Onawa. “We will have plenty of time to work.”

Chapter 3

Muscle Power

The next week, the Salvage Crew got started on their clubhouse. The first step was to sort out the materials. Granddad told the crew to sort the lumber in his shed into separate piles. They should pull out what they could use and put the remaining lumber into another pile.

“My frustration is growing,” Noah said. “It’s taking a long time to get this organized.”

“Don’t get discouraged,” Jamie replied. “We’ve found some great materials to use.”

The real work would begin the next week, when Tomás’s granddad was on vacation.



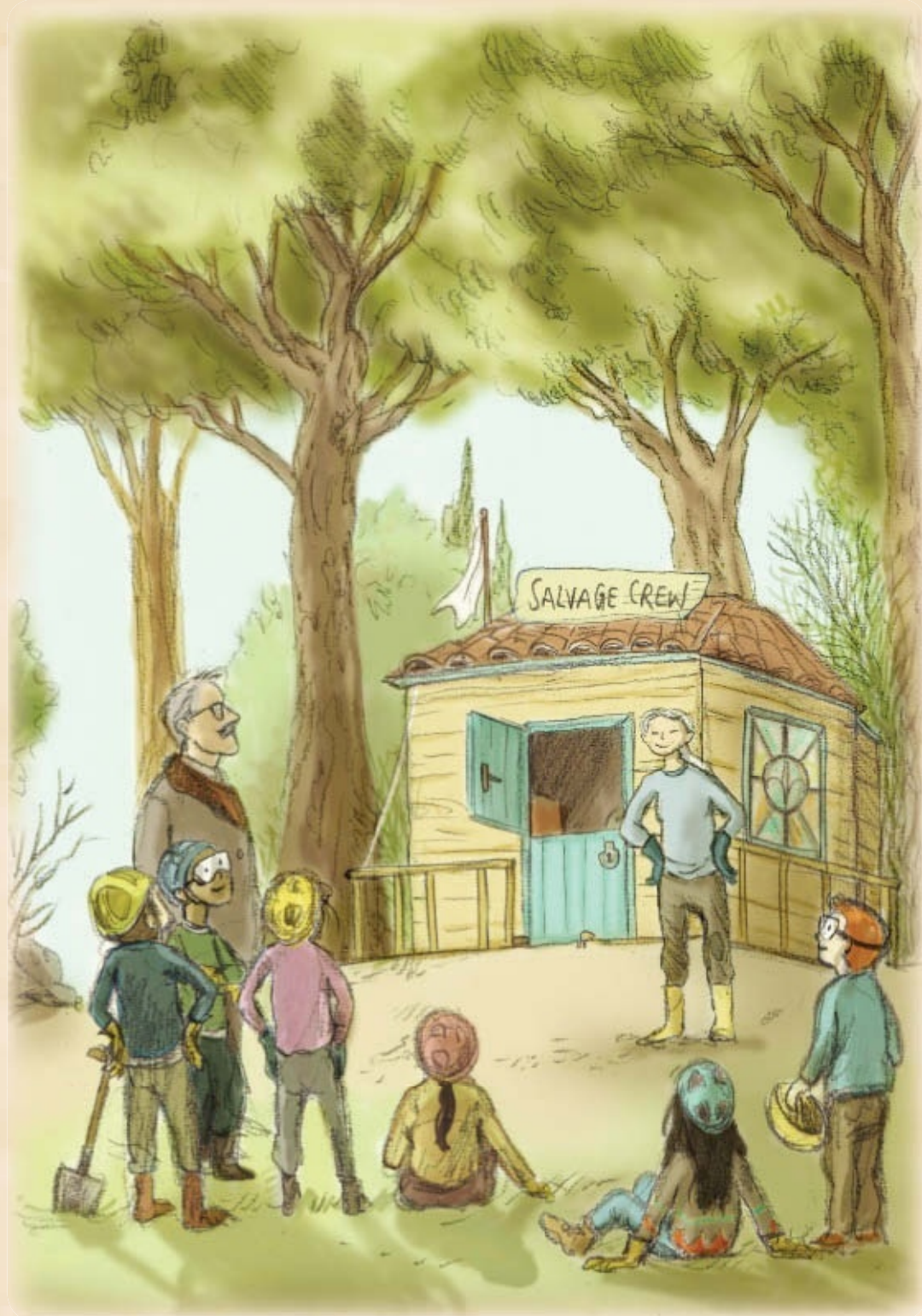
Before they started building, Jaimie made sure they all had safety gear. They wore helmets, safety goggles, thick gloves, and sturdy shoes.

Everyone helped carry lumber to the site. It was hard work. Granddad cut pieces of lumber to the right size. Then he nailed them together.

Gran had found some stained glass. Darius asked if they could put it where it would catch the sun. Noah had uncovered an amazing door. You could open just the top half if you wanted.

Granddad said, "That's called a stable door. It came from an old cottage. I tinkered with it to get it working again."

At last, the Salvage Crew's headquarters was finished. The group gazed at their new clubhouse. They felt jubilant that they had built something new with recycled materials.



Chapter 4

Forging Ahead

A week later, the Salvage Crew held the first meeting in their clubhouse. They discovered that they had a guest. Curled up on a rocking chair was Gran and Granddad's new kitten.

"Hey," exclaimed Jaimie as she picked up the kitten and cuddled it. "The Salvage Crew has a mascot!"

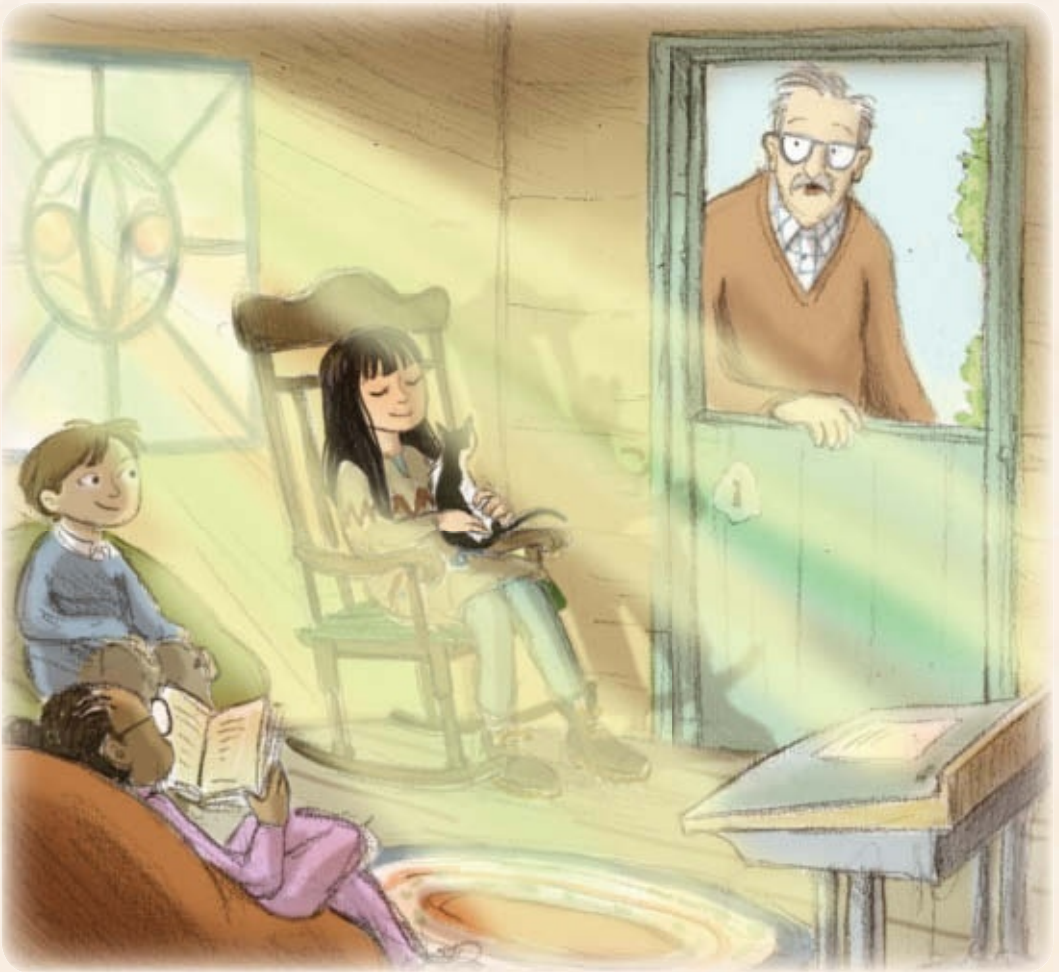
Granddad poked his head through the door. "This looks great. Where did you get the furniture?" he asked.

"We asked our families to give us things they didn't need," said Jaimie. "My brother didn't want his beanbags any more."

"My mom made the cushions out of old pillows and old clothes," said Noah. "See, they look like patchwork!"

“My parents brought over a rug and rocking chair they don’t use anymore,” said Onawa.

“Dad had this old school desk in his shed. He thought we could keep the club’s papers in it,” said Tomás.



“Mom and Dad have some leftover paint. They offered to help us paint the outside, but we like it as it is,” said Darius.

Just then, Gran called to them, “Anyone home? I’ve brought a picnic.”

As they sat around drinking lemonade and eating muffins, Tòmas stood up and said, “The Salvage Crew would like to thank Gran and Granddad for all their help. Without them, we wouldn’t have a clubhouse.”

Everyone clapped.





“This is cool,” said Tomás, lounging on a beanbag after his grandparents had gone.

“We’re not supposed to be relaxing,” declared Onawa. “We have to get started on our next recycling project!”

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use details from the story to summarize *The Salvage Crew*. Your Point of View Chart may help you.

Details

↓

Point of View

Text Evidence

1. How can you tell that this story is realistic fiction? Identify one feature that tells you this.

GENRE

2. How do we know that Tomás is grateful to his grandparents for their help? Use examples from the text to support your answer. **POINT OF VIEW**
3. Find the word *shed* on page 6. What clues in the sentence help you understand the meaning? **HOMOGRAPHS**
4. Write about Granddad's point of view about building the club headquarters. How does he influence the members of the Salvage Crew?

WRITE ABOUT READING

Compare Texts

Read about a new way of recycling.

From Trash to Treasure

Like many places in the world, India has mountains of trash. Every year there is more and more trash and no place to put it.

A group called Conserve India has found one solution to the problem. Conserve India pays people to collect plastic bags, fabric, and even seatbelts from garbage dumps. This trash is then recycled into items such as jewelry, handbags, and organizers.

Workers cut open the plastic bags so that the plastic can be properly washed.



The bags are sorted, washed, and pressed together to make sheets of plastic. Since the bags are already brightly colored, there is no need to dye the plastic. Then the sheets of plastic are made into colorful bags, wallets, belts, and other items.

The goods made by Conserve India are sold throughout the world. Some of the profit goes to schools in the areas where the workers live. Some is spent on health care for people who have very little money. Some is used to train the workers so they can get better jobs.

Organizers are among the products made from recycled materials.



Recycle a Shoe Box

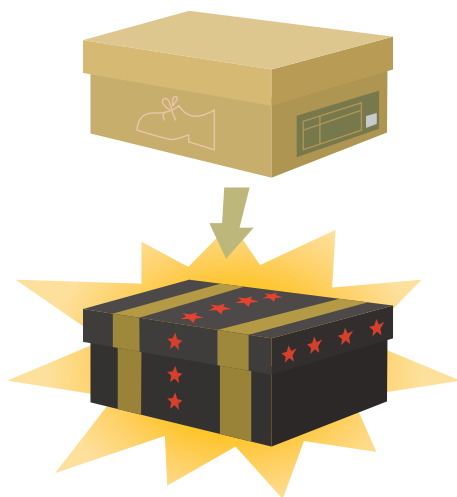
Turn an old shoe box into a treasure chest. You can use it to store your favorite things.

You Need

- a shoe box
- colored stars
- scissors
- silver or gold foil
- glue
- black paint and paintbrush

What to Do

1. Paint the box black.
2. Let the paint dry.
3. Glue two strips of foil over the box and the lid, so that they match.
4. Decorate the box and the lid with stars.



Make Connections

Think of a way to reuse something that you no longer need. **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How are the characters in *The Salvage Crew* and the people in *From Trash to Treasure* alike? **TEXT TO TEXT**

Focus on Genre

Realistic Fiction The characters in realistic fiction do things that real people do. The things that happen to them are things that happen in real life.

Read and Find Read Chapter 4 of *The Salvage Crew*. Think about the things that happen. Could they happen in real life?

Your Turn

Think of the next project for the Salvage Crew. It should be something that encourages people to reuse or recycle materials. Then write a realistic story about how the characters complete the project. You can pick one of the characters and tell the story from his or her point of view.

Thinkmark

Characters

Who are the main characters in *The Salvage Crew*?

Who are the other characters?

What characteristics do the main characters have that make the plot possible?

Sequence of Events

What happens in *The Salvage Crew*?

What happened *first*, *next*, and *finally*?

Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Make Connections

How are the characters in *The Salvage Crew* like your friends at school?

Grade 3 • Unit 5 Week 2

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