

As Emma sat in her yard she saw a person carelessly toss a handful of trash out of his car window. Helplessly she watched as it all danced away on the wind. Scrambling out of her chair she frantically ran after the trash, but it was too late. Her hands grasped the air. She slowly sat back down. What was that about? She looked at where the car was headed. The man in it made a sharp curve and Emma could see his face for a split second. He was laughing at something his friend said-he didn't even notice all the trouble he had caused. Looking at him Emma felt a surge of anger. She stood up. That was wrong! That man *must* open his eyes to the dangers of litter. Then Emma realized that although she knew littering was terrible she knew little else. She sat back down and thought about it. She had so many questions! Did litter hurt animals? Is food considered litter? What about things made from wood? Emma decided to puzzle over those as she took a stroll around her neighborhood. Unfortunately, she saw more litter than she expected. This was terrible! She needed to do something about it, but first she would learn about it. Emma hastily turned and jogged past her house to the library. She consulted the librarian who then gave her some good books on the dangers of littering. Once she got back to her home she settled down under a patch of sunlight near her garden. As she dove into the book, all of Emma's questions that had been lurking around in her mind were answered as she dived into the book. She ate it up, learning much. Who knew that 100,000 marine animals and turtles and 1 *million* seabirds are brought to their deaths by pollution? Or that many small animals crawl into bottles and can't get out therefore staring to death? That is cruel! Also, litter is just ugly. Who wants to live with piles of litter heaped nearby? Yuck.

The next day, Emma decided to take action. She could maybe make posters? Yes! That was it! She got out her gel pens and racked her brain for a good idea to get the message to the world with a simple sign that was noticeable. Now, to be fair, Pennsylvania was actually doing a good job preventing litter. Emma realized that she may have been overreacting, but there still was a lot of trash and stuff just laying around. That was not good. Once the others saw the litter they would, thinking it was ok, probably add to it. Maybe a sign wasn't the best idea. She thought about it some more then decided to go to the store to buy some environmentally friendly trash bags. She then walked around her neighborhood collecting litter. A week later she hopped onto her bicycle and peddled around looking at the improvement. The neighborhood looked amazing! Without litter around the beautiful views were so much more beautiful. Tomorrow she will get to work on a poster. She knew it was just a start, but even one person caring today would make more people care tomorrow.