



Nita's Beautiful Bag

When Nita sees her father burning plastic bags, she tries to think of a better solution. What will she come up with?



Nita's Beautiful Bag
Pao Makara

Let's Read



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"What is that black smoke?" Nita asks her mother as they were doing the laundry "Your father is burning some things. Go see what he is up to," she replied.



"Stand back Nita. The fire is dangerous!" her father shouted. "Why are you burning those plastic bags Dad?" "Because they would last a very long time if we buried them. Plastic does not decompose into the earth. Burning is the only way to get rid of them." "But burning is not good for the earth either. Plus, the smoke smells terrible," Nita complained. "Yes, but this is the only way I know to keep these bags out of the earth," her dad said.



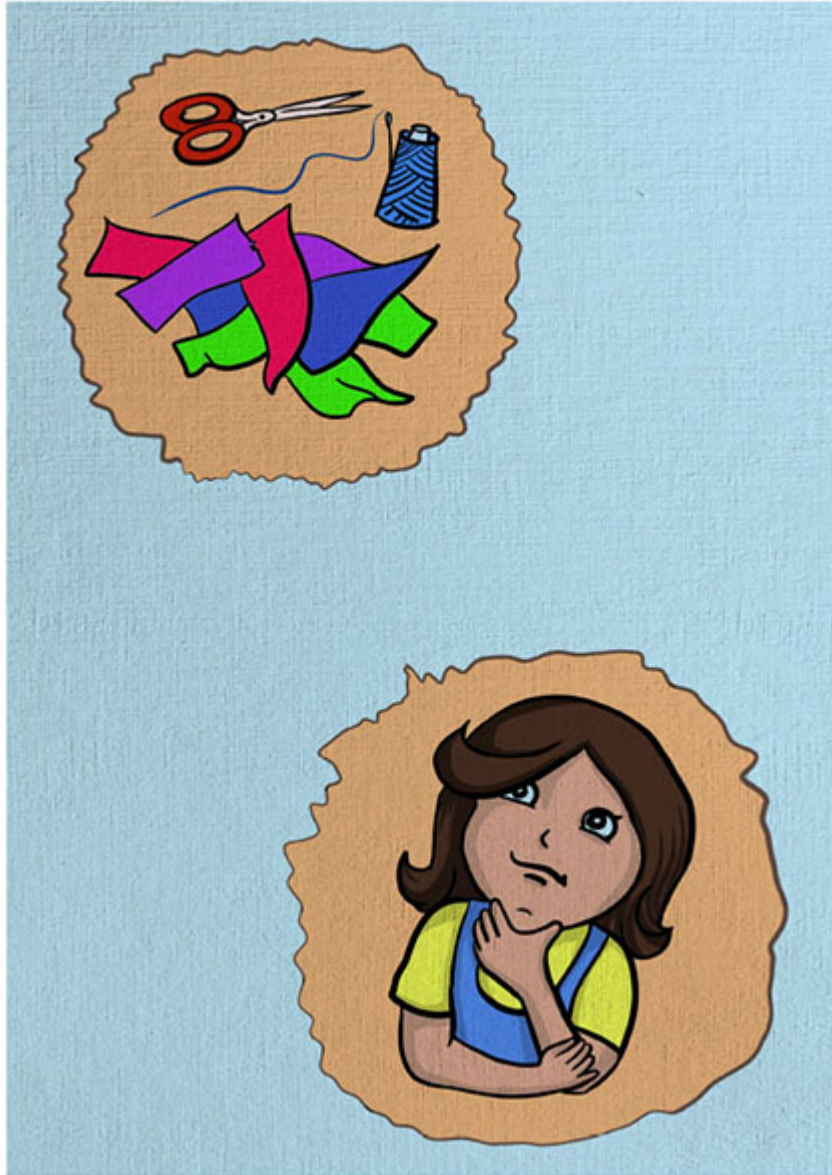
That afternoon, Nita's mother returned from the store with more plastic bags. "Do you have to use so many plastic bags?" Nita asked. "It is only way I have to bring groceries home," her mother said.



Soon, Nita's parents made another fire to burn trash. Nita wished there was a way to stop using plastic bags and having to burn them.



Later that day, as she was watching her father cut pants for his clothing business, Nita had an idea.



"Maybe I can make something with the scraps of leftover fabric!"



Nita borrowed her father's scissors, some thread, and a needle. "Stop, Nita," her father said. "I don't want you to stick yourself!" "But I want to make a bag for Mom to carry the groceries. Then we won't have to use so many plastic bags."



"What a great idea, I will help you." Nita and her father worked together to make a beautiful bag. Nita couldn't wait to surprise her mother with it.



The next day, Nita went with her mother to the market. When the vendor started to put the vegetables in a plastic bag, Nita said, "Stop!"



"We don't need a plastic bag. We brought our own cloth bag to carry food in." "What a great idea!" the vendor said, "You could really change the world with bags like this."



Nita's mother loved her new cloth bag and she was happy they no longer had to burn trash near their home. When other people heard about Nita's bags, they wanted one, too. Nita's father made bags for everyone who asked. From then on, the village was clean of trash and smoke, and everyone felt proud carrying their beautiful bags!





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More About the Environment To reduce the use of plastics, all supermarkets in Phnom Penh are now required by law to charge customers for plastic carry-out bags. The government has also created an outreach campaign to educate people about the negative impact of plastics on the planet and how to reduce the use of plastics. For more information, please visit: <https://plasticfreecambodia.com/individuals/> <https://youtu.be/Wyt3H0XGThM> Additional environmental information provided by Conservation International in collaboration with The Asia Foundation



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