

Short Story: The Green Thing

Here is a story handed in to me by one of our clients, I thought you might appreciate this! It turned out to be a good discussion activity.

The Green Thing

At a store checkout, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own shopping bags in future because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised and explained "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days".

She was right - our generation didn't have the "green thing" back then. We returned milk bottles, pop and beer bottles to the shop. The shop then sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so the same bottles could be used over and over - they really were recycled.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced razor blades instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade was blunt. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every shop and office building. We walked to the shop and didn't climb into a 300 horsepower machine every time we had to travel two streets away. But she was right we didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house, not a TV in every room, and the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?) not a screen the size of the County of Yorkshire.

In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn, we used a push mower that ran on human power.

We exercised by walking so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. Back then kids walked to school instead of turning their parents into a 24 hour taxi service. But she's right, we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Isn't it sad that some of the current generation laments how wasteful we oldies were, just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then.