

A Fourth Grade Field Trip Gone Way Wrong

“RING! RING!” rang the morning school bell at Elfbrook Elementary School. Today is field trip day and I wish I could tell you I was excited about it. We are going to the smelliest and most disgusting place on Earth - the DUMP! Why does Mrs. Hayes think a bunch of 9 year olds want to go learn about garbage? My best friend, Alex, doesn't mind because he likes learning about a lot of interesting things like science and recycling. See, he's the smartest kid in the class and he never complains, but the rest of us think this sounds like the most boring field trip ever. Oh well, anything beats a day at school.

“Ok class, time to line up in ABC order!” says Mrs. Hayes. “Hey Arrow, are you excited about this field trip?” my friend Phoebe whispers to me. “I'm *not* looking forward to spending a whole day at the dump, Phoebe!” As we load onto the bus, Phoebe reminds me that at least we don't have to do boring schoolwork today. I find my usual spot in the back of the bus next to Phoebe and Alex. We're having fun until a classmate starts feeling sick and throws up at the front of the bus. I've never smelled something so sickening in my life! Then, we all start to hear loud bumping and crackling sounds coming from the engine, the bus starts shaking like a wet dog, and when I look out the window I see a massive cloud of black smoke escaping our school bus. The bus finally breaks down on the side of the road, and I'm afraid I might poop my pants because I'm so scared. “Off the bus now!” orders Mrs. Hayes. We all start to panic and bolt off the bus. Our bus driver, Mr. Nathan, is the last to leave. He got out just in time because as soon as he jumps out, the bus catches on fire. First the vomit, now this? This field trip is chaos!

We're still waiting for help, and I don't know how many minutes have passed, but I do know that the class is starting to get hungry. Alex asks Mrs. Hayes if we can eat our sack lunches while we wait for help. She gets a worried look on her face as soon as she realizes that our lunches were left behind on the bus. The bus that is now covered in flames. Now, I can't decide what's worse: the field trip that was planned, or this disaster.

While I'm talking with Phoebe, Alex nervously comes up to us and says, “Guys, I really have to use the restroom!” I tell him to go talk to Mrs. Hayes because she'll probably know what to do. Mrs. Hayes says “Come this way, I'll take you to those port-a-potties up there.” A bunch of us start following them because we have to go, too. I immediately notice a green gooey liquid coming out of the bottom of these port-a-potties, but what's worse is the unbearable odor that fills the air. Alex shares that the green ooze must be old rotten toilet water, and the smell is too bad to even try to guess what it is. Mrs. Hayes is crazy if she thinks any of us are going to use these things. This is turning out to be the worst field trip ever!

While we're standing there, I notice a blue wall behind some trees further up the road. I show it to Mrs. Hayes and ask “Can we go check it out? Maybe they can help us.” Mrs. Hayes agrees. She gathers the whole class and we walk towards the blue structure. As soon as the class gets close, we start to see the letters on the side of the building appear through the trees. First there's an A, then an R, and a C, and as soon as we get past this last line of trees, we notice the whole sign says ‘ARCADE PLANET’. Did we literally just find an *arcade*?! Inside, I immediately notice 18 rows of arcade machines, all with bright flashing lights and cool game sounds. The smell of pizza and popcorn fills the air and I instantly feel the butterflies in my stomach,

reminding me how hungry I am. Then I spot something in the back of the arcade. It looks like a door that leads to the food stand. Before we can check it out, the manager approaches our group, and Mrs. Hayes tells her all about our interesting afternoon. The manager feels bad about all we've been through, so she announces that she's giving us all free pizza, burgers, sodas, and an unlimited game pass for each student. We all jump and shout and cheer!

Since it's already way past our normal lunch hour, we go eat right away. Then, it's time for fun! Me, Phoebe, and Alex head straight for our favorite game – skeeball! I easily win the first round, but Phoebe comes back and takes the second game. Alex loves basketball so we head over there next, and of course, he beats Phoebe and me. There's just enough time for a round of air hockey, a few arcade games, and another round of sodas before it's time to head back to school. By now, the new bus is here, ready and waiting for us.

On the way back to school, my friends and I are remembering all of the crazy things that happened today. I'm glad we didn't actually go to the dump, but all the other parts were pretty bad. I still can't believe we ended up trading our dump field trip for a day at the arcade. Maybe this wasn't the worst field trip ever.

THE END.