

Chapter – 2

Me and the Ecology Bit

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What we mean by Ecology?

- Man's relationship with all living and non-living things in nature is Ecology.

Our attitude to ecology

- Most of us are not willing to do anything about ecology.
- We disturb the balance of nature by our various actions:
 - We cut trees which give us oxygen.
 - We use vehicles which emit poisonous gases.
 - We set up more and more factories which cause pollution.
 - We throw waste here and there and pollute the environment.
- We should keep the waste in dustbins to save our environment.
- If each of us do our bit, there will be a balance in ecology.

Examples of ignoring ecology in the story

- Most of the characters in the story ignore their duties regarding ecology.
- Jim's mother uses the electric mixer instead of the eggbeater.
- Several characters use modern appliances like refrigerator, A.C.:
 - These appliances also emit harmful gases, smokes and fumes.
 - These poison the atmosphere and affect ecology.

Jim's Attitude to ecology

- Jim shows awareness to ecology.
- He finds that people around him are not taking care of ecology.
- So he himself takes initiative.
- He keeps reminding his neighbours to be careful and save ecology from destruction.
- He asks Mrs. Greene to separate non- recyclable waste from recyclable waste.

Neighbours' response to Jim's initiative

- The neighbours do not respond favourably. They charge him of being careless to ecology.

Why do people not listen to Jim?

- Jim preaches his neighbours about saving ecology .

- However, he himself does not practice ecology measure sincerely:
 - He himself throws gum wrapper in Mrs. Greene's compound.
 - He avoids walking and always uses motorbike and snowmobile.
 - He also wastes electricity by watching TV whole day.
- So people do not take him seriously.

Jim's acts which are not ecology friendly

- Mrs. Greene scolds Jim for throwing gum wrapper in her lawn.
- Mr. Johnson points out to a tree and says that Jim has killed that tree by jumping over it everyday.

Importance of the issue Jim raises

- Jim may not be using ecology measures seriously. But the question he raises is serious.
- He points out the irresponsible acts of all characters.
- In the process, his own irresponsible acts are also exposed.

Now, on the basis of your understanding of this chapter try to answer the following questions:

1. Do you think that Jim is a real ecology friendly boy? Give your opinion.
2. Does Jim understand why his advice is being questioned? Explain.
3. Is Jim aware of all the aspects? Does he always practise ecology measures?
4. Did the narrator succeed in getting Ms. Greene to do something about ecology?