

COMING UP NEXT ON NEWSDEPTH...

WE'RE GOING GREEN!

EARTH DAY IS THE 22ND - SO THE ENVIRONMENT'S A BIG TOPIC TODAY - FROM CLEARING OUR OCEANS OF PLASTIC...

TO LEARNING WHAT A BOTANIST IS - AND WHAT THEY DO FOR US...

TO LEARNING HOW YOU CAN 'ADOPT' A LITTLE CHUNK OF EARTH... TO CARE FOR ON YOUR OWN!

THEN; WE'LL WATCH FIREFIGHTERS ACTUALLY SET BLAZES IN HOUSES - TO FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAYS TO FIGHT THEM. SOUNDS DANGEROUS -- BUT SOUNDS SMART TOO!

STICK AROUND - NEWSDEPTH IS NOW!

WE'RE THINKING GREEN, AS WE TAKE A DAY TO REFLECT ON THE HEALTH OF OUR BLUE PLANET.

HELLO, EVERYONE! I'M RICK JACKSON. THANKS FOR JOINING US.

THIS WEEK, WE OBSERVE EARTH DAY, A NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO THINK ABOUT OUR PLANET, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP KEEP THEM HEALTHY.

THE FIRST EARTH DAY WAS OBSERVED ON APRIL 22, 1970 – WHICH IS CONSIDERED THE BEGINNING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

THAT'S WHEN MANY PEOPLE STARTED BEING CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET. EARTH DAY WAS FOUNDED BY U.S SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON AFTER HE WITNESSED A LARGE OIL SPILL OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA -- WE'VE BEEN COMMEMORATING THE DAY EVER SINCE.

WE KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT – AND FOR GOOD REASON! AS A YOUNGER GENERATION, YOU'LL SOON BE INHERITING THIS PLANET...SO, OF COURSE, YOU WANT IT IN GOOD CONDITION!

SPEAKING OF: LAST WEEK, NASA GAVE US ALL A BRIGHT NEW VIEW OF OUR HOME. IT'S A COMPOSITE MAP OF NIGHT LIGHTS IN CITIES ACROSS THE WORLD. A COMPOSITE IS SOMETHING MADE UP OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS. IN THIS CASE, THE PHOTOS WERE CREATED FROM HUNDREDS OF SATELLITE IMAGES.

ACCORDING TO NASA, THIS IS THE CLEAREST VIEW OF 'HUMAN SETTLEMENT' PATTERNS EVER ACHIEVED.

RECENTLY, THOUGH, THIS *SPACE* AGENCY BECAME AN *ADOPTION* AGENCY.

IN ORDER TO GET US EARTHLINGS TO GIVE OUR PLANET A LITTLE EXTRA LOVE AND ATTENTION FOR EARTH DAY, NASA SPLIT THE WORLD INTO 64,000 INDIVIDUAL PIECES -- TO BE ADOPTED BY INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR WEBSITE.

EACH PIECE IS ABOUT 55 MILES WIDE, BUT USERS DON'T GET TO PICK THEIR SLICES.

THEY COULD GET MIDTOWN MANHATTAN OR A CHUNK OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN. NASA PROVIDES ADOPTERS WITH SCIENTIFIC DETAILS ON THEIR SLICES OF PARADISE GATHERED FROM INSTRUMENTS IN SPACE.

ADOPTERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES THEY CAN PRINT OR SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTING THEIR SECTIONS OF EARTH...BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE: THIS IS JUST FOR FUN -- NO LEGAL OR PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE INVOLVED HERE!

ALTHOUGH NASA DOESN'T GIVE YOU A CHOICE, WE WANT TO KNOW: IF YOU COULD CHOOSE, WHICH PIECE OF EARTH WOULD YOU ADOPT? WRITE IN AND LET US KNOW!

IF I COULD CHOOSE...HMMMM...I MIGHT STAKE A CLAIM TO A SANDY BEACH SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA – OR MAYBE A BIG OL' CHUNK THAT INCLUDES CEDAR POINT – OR KINGS ISLAND! OKAY, ENOUGH ABOUT MY DAYDREAMS....

AS WE MENTIONED EARLIER, EARTH DAY ISN'T JUST FOR *LEARNING* ABOUT OUR PLANET – IT'S ALSO A DAY TO ENCOURAGE PROTECTING IT! AND ONE THING WE CAN ALL DO TO PROTECT OUR PLANET; IS TO ELIMINATE WASTE.

IT TAKES ABOUT 450 YEARS FOR PLASTIC BOTTLES TO BREAK DOWN IN A LANDFILL – SO THE KEY IS TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE MATERIALS LIKE THESE! RECYCLING MEANS USING THINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED, TO MAKE NEW THINGS. FOR US, IT'S AS EASY AS TOSSING OUR BOTTLES IN A RECYCLE BIN, BUT TRUE RECYCLING REQUIRES A SPECIAL TREATMENT PROCESS.

IN THIS WEEK'S SPOT ON SCIENCE, MARGARET THOMPSON TAKES US ON A LITTLE FIELD TRIP, TO THE BEGINNING OF THIS PROCESS.

When you take that last sip of milk – you toss the jug.

NO! Not in the trash! In the recycle bin!

There, it joins cans, bottles, and newspapers that are destined for another life as recycled products.

But – how exactly do these materials go from a bin on your curb to sorted-out materials ready to be reused?

Well, to start, they're brought to places like this.

Kimble Companies' Recycling Center in Twinsburg.

**[KEITH CORDESMAN CLIP]**

Your recycling is probably somewhere in this mountain of garbage – and soon it's loaded on a series of conveyor belts.

In fact, most of the plant consists of these conveyor belts. They're everywhere!

That's because this material has to be sorted – paper, glass, and the different types of plastic and metal have to be separated because they're all recycled into different things.

And the conveyor belt brings them to machines that help with the sorting.

ALT LINE: The conveyor belt brings the recyclables to machines that help with the sorting.

One uses a magnetic current to collect cans –

**[KEVIN EIDENS CLIP]**

Another uses infrared lasers to separate different kinds of plastic -

**[KEVIN EIDENS CLIP]**

And gravity helps too – glass is heavy, so it sinks to the bottom, where it is broken up into little bits before it's recycled – and paper is light, so it rises to the top on a conveyor belt.

But much of the sorting of materials is done by people – they're called sorters. And they're at every stage, working with the machines to separate materials.

They're even at the very beginning of the process, taking out the weird things that shouldn't be in a recycle bin –

**[KEVIN EIDENS CLIP]**

--and that includes plastic bags.

**[KEVIN EIDENS CLIP]**

The last sorter at the plant rescues recyclables that managed to sneak through the system without being properly sorted.

Finally, all the separated materials are crushed into these giant cubes -- like bales of hay! These cubes are stacked all around, waiting to be taken to their final destination, where they are cleaned and given another life.

It's for this reason, that Plant Manager Kevin Eidens (EYE-dens) has a recycling tip:

**[KEVIN EIDENS CLIP]**

But even if you can't scrape out that last bit of peanut butter, Kevin says you should still go ahead and toss it in the recycle bin!

THANKS, MARGARET. YOU JUST SAW A LOCAL RECYCLING CENTER IN ACTION – AND, NOW, WE WANT TO KNOW: DO ‘YOU’ RECYCLE? TELL US YES, OR NO, BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICKING THE POLL BUTTON.

RECYCLING KEEPS TRASH OUT OF LANDFILLS – AND OUT OF OUR OCEANS, WHICH IS A GREAT THING, BECAUSE THIS KIND OF POLLUTION IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM. SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE EIGHT MILLION TONS OF PLASTIC WASTE IS THROWN INTO THE WORLD'S OCEANS --- EVERY YEAR... AND COUNTLESS ANIMALS PAY THE PRICE FOR ALL THAT POLLUTION.

THE MOST DISTURBING IMAGES COME FROM MIDWAY ISLAND – THAT’S AN ISLAND IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN, NEAR HAWAII. IT’S BEEN CALLED “PLASTIC ISLAND” BECAUSE IT’S BLANKETED WITH GARBAGE. IN FACT, EVERY SINGLE ALBATROSS ON THE ISLAND WILL LIKELY DIE WITH A STOMACH FULL OF IT.

UP NEXT, NICK PATON WALSH HAS A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THIS PACIFIC ISLAND-‘HAUNTED’ BY PLASTIC.

**[PKG]**

THANKS NICK. WHILE CARELESSNESS -- AND A RELIANCE ON PLASTIC -- HAS CREATED THIS PROBLEM...OUR INGENUITY MIGHT BE WHAT SOLVES IT!

22 YEAR-OLD INVENTOR BOYAN SLAT IS ON THE CASE. HE FOUNDED “THE OCEAN CLEANUP” WHEN HE WAS JUST 17 YEARS OLD, AND RAISED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO RESEARCH AND TEST A SYSTEM OF FLOATING BARRIERS -- DESIGNED TO CAPTURE PLASTIC, AND OTHER TRASH.

THE FLEXIBLE BARRIER, SHOWN IN THIS ANIMATION, WILL FLOAT ATOP THE OCEAN’S SURFACE, ITS ARMS OUTSTRETCHED IN A “V” SHAPE. A SCREEN WILL EXTEND SIX-AND-A-HALF FEET BELOW WHICH THE DESIGNERS CLAIM IS DEEP ENOUGH TO CATCH PLASTICS, BUT SHALLOW ENOUGH THAT MARINE LIFE CAN SWIM UNDERNEATH IT. AS PLASTIC ACCUMULATES IN THE CENTER OF THE BARRIER, IT WILL BE PULLED UP INTO A TOWER AND STORED UNTIL IT CAN BE TRANSPORTED BACK TO SHORE AND RECYCLED.

SLAT AND HIS TEAM OF ENGINEERS WILL SET THEIR SIGHTS ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN, NEAR MIDWAY ISLAND, WHERE THEY HOPE TO DEPLOY THIS FULL-SCALE 62-MILE BARRIER BY 2020.

ANOTHER INNOVATIVE TRASH COLLECTOR IS TURNING HEADS IN BALTIMORE’S INNER HARBOR. BECAUSE THE HARBOR IS LOCATED AT THE MOUTH OF THE JONES RIVER, ALL THE TRASH THAT WASHES INTO THE JONES RIVER FROM SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES IS BROUGHT TO THE HARBOR BY A POWERFUL CURRENT. TIRED OF LOOKING AT THE FLOATING GARBAGE, ONE LOCAL ENGINEER CREATED THE TRASH WHEEL, A FLOATING SYSTEM OF RAKES AND CONVEYOR BELTS THAT SUCKS IN FLOATING DEBRIS. THE DEVICE IS POWERED BY SOLAR PANELS, AND IS ALSO HYDRO-POWERED – THAT MEANS IT’S POWERED BY THE WATER’S CURRENT.

MR TRASH WHEEL, AS IT CAME TO BE KNOWN, HAS BECOME A BIT OF A LOCAL CELEBRITY IN BALTIMORE. HE’S GOT A LIVE STREAM – AND A TWITTER ACCOUNT!

HE EVEN GOT SOME GOOGLY-EYES LAST YEAR, TO MAKE HIM A BIT MORE, UH, APPROACHABLE?

IT'S NO WONDER THE LOCALS LOVE HIM: SINCE HE WAS INSTALLED IN 2014, MR TRASH WHEEL HAS PULLED MORE THAN ONE MILLION POUNDS OF TRASH FROM THE HARBOR.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST GARBAGE POLLUTING OUR WATERWAYS – IN FACT, AS WE MENTIONED, IT WAS AN OIL SPILL THAT INSPIRED EARTH DAY.

AND WE'VE CONTINUED TO SUFFER FROM OIL SPILLS SINCE – INCLUDING A LARGE ONE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN 2010. CLEANING OIL FROM THE OCEAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT – BUT SOME ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATORS THINK THEY'VE FOUND A SOLUTION: THE OLEO SPONGE. WHEN PLACED IN OILY WATER, THE REUSABLE FOAM SPONGE IS ABLE TO SOAK UP NEARLY 90 TIMES ITS WEIGHT IN OIL. IT'S CURRENTLY BEING TESTED IN SALTWATER TANKS, AND FOLKS AT THE ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY, WHERE THE SPONGE WAS CREATED, SAY IT COULD BE READY FOR WIDESPREAD USE IN FIVE YEARS.

SO FAR, WE'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TALKING ABOUT THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERWAYS – BUT, HERE ON LAND, WE'VE ALSO GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.

MAKING OUR CITIES AND TOWNS GREENER WITH PLANTS AND TREES IS ONE WAY TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT – BUT, ACCORDING TO SCIENTISTS, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT SOME OF THESE PLANTS ARE NATIVE. UP NEXT, KNOW OHIO'S MARY FECTEAU FILLS US IN ON SOME OF OHIO'S NATIVE PLANTS.

When you take a walk outside, you probably see all kinds of plants. But the ones you see most often are likely not native plants. Native plants are plants that grow in Ohio naturally. The grass on your lawn, the roses in your neighbor's garden, and even some of the weeds your parents can't seem to get rid of -- were all brought here, at one time, by people.

The native plants and wildflowers that grew here before white settlers arrived are colorful, vibrant, and uniquely beautiful. Ohio's official state wildflower – the white trillium – grows a gorgeous white flower with 3 petals. But this plant grows veeeery slowly. In fact, it takes 7 to 10 years to even grow flowers. And it's virtually impossible to grow one of these guys in a nursery – according to experts, it only grows in the wild.

But Ohio's native plants aren't just eye candy – they're also like candy...candy. Like the pawpaw. The pawpaw is a small tree native to Southeastern Ohio, but the real prize is the fruit that grows on it – I would describe the taste as a cross between a banana and a mango. Although it was enjoyed by Native Americans and early White settlers, the pawpaw was a forgotten fruit for years – but it has recently seen a resurgence in popularity. The folks in Athens, Ohio are so crazy for the pawpaw that they have a festival devoted to it!

Parks are one place you're likely to see a lot of native plants – but sometimes it takes work. At the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Chris Davis, a plant biologist, has been growing natives in a green house, and plants them all around the park. He says native plants are important because native animals and insects rely on them – and the more native species there are, the healthier and more vibrant the park becomes.

One thing I like to do when I'm out for a hike is look for some of these native plants. Maybe you can impress your friends by identifying them. But one thing you shouldn't do is pick them – an old saying that many hikers live by is “take only pictures, leave only footprints” – unless, of course, a delicious ripe pawpaw is staring you in the face. Then, I say, pick away!

SO, MARY JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT PLANT BIOLOGIST CHRIS DAVIS – BUT HE'S NOT ALONE IN KEEPING OUR PLANET GREEN!

IN A NEW SEGMENT FROM OUR PARTNERS AT C-E-T AND THINKTV, WE HEAD TO THE CAREER LAB, TO LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER CAREER IN IN THE *GROWING* FIELD OF PLANT SCIENCE.

FLASH: According to my research into the career of Interior Designer, adding plants to the Lab will make us all a bit more happy.

TI: Ohh, are we adding things to the Lab that make us happy? What about a working kitchen so I can really get hands-on with careers in the culinary arts?

CHARLEY: Ti, by my calculations, your mind is in your stomach, 99 percent of the time.

TI: At least I spend the other one percent, sharing what I've learned... and tasted.

FLASH: Oh, that reminds me: Plant Food.

(A friendly CHIRPING sound, followed by an announcement - woman's voice) Attention. Attention. The Office of the Alphabet is calling with an urgent career request. Please stand by.

FLASH: I guess it'll have to wait.

CHARLEY: Sounds like kids are hungry for more career ideas!

TI: Brilliant! We're looking into a career that starts with the letter B. I wonder which one?

CHARLEY: Bookkeeper?

FLASH: Baseball player!

TI: Baker. Maybe one who makes delicious, gluten-free brownies?

CHARLEY: There he goes again.

FLASH: (reads aloud) Botanist? Who's been researching “botanist”?

CHARLEY: That sounds familiar. Isn't that like a plant doctor?

TI: Oh, I've got that one. It's more like scientist who studies plants. To learn more, we're going to talk to Suzanne York, who's a botanist at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

CHARLEY: Hi, Suzanne!

SUZANNE YORK: Hi, Lab Squad!

FLASH: So...tell us about what you do as a botanist.

SUZANNE YORK: I work at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife. And here, we study endangered plants, and how to conserve them. So just like animals, plants can become endangered and even extinct if we don't help save them. Botanists are important because everything around us has to do with plants. The clothes that we wear, the makeup on our face, the food that we eat. The medicines that we take. It all has to do with botany and with plant science. And so by understanding these things, we're better able to take care of our bodies and better able to take care of the world around us.

CHARLEY: That sounds awesome. But besides conservation, what other types of things do botanists do?

TI: Suzanne, do you ever get to go to the Amazon rain forest?

SUZANNE YORK: I've never been to the Amazon, but I have been to the tropics. I did my research in Panama and Costa Rica, and I studied tropical woody vines, so think Tarzan vines.  
FLASH: What's your favorite thing about being a botanist?

SUZANNE YORK: My favorite thing about being a botanist is that we can work with plants that are endangered and are on the brink of extinction, and we can study them, and understand them and try to conserve them. We can take parts of the plant and we can store it in liquid nitrogen, which is very, very cold. It's called cryopreservation. And we can store those pieces of the plant in a frozen garden for many, many years. And then if we ever need more of that plant, we can take it out, thaw it, and then we can grow as many different types of that plant as we need.

CHARLEY: Thanks for talking to us, Suzanne!

SUZANNE YORK: Thanks so much! Good luck in the Career Lab!

TI: Here... you can use this to keep an eye on your plants as they grow.

CHARLEY: And we can use these plants to show kids all about being a botanist.

FLASH: I knew adding plants to the lab would make us all a bit more happy.....Now to feed my new curiosity.

TI: Did someone mention food?

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING NEW CAREERS – YOU'RE IN LUCK!

NEXT SEASON WE'LL BE REGULARLY STOPPING BY THE CAREER LAB, TO MEET MORE PROFESSIONALS WITH SOME FASCINATING JOBS.

WELL, OUR A PLUS THIS WEEK MIGHT HAVE A CAREER IN BOTANY AHEAD OF HER... SHE'S A LITTLE GARDENER WITH A BIG GREEN THUMB!

THIRD GRADER RILEY SUCHY OF STREETSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WON \$1,000 FOR THE NEARLY 40 POUND CABBAGE SHE GREW. RILEY'S BIG GREEN GUY OUTGREW ALL THE OTHER 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS' IN THE STATE; AS PART OF THE BONNIE

PLANT COMPETITION. EACH YEAR THE COMPANY PASSES OUT MORE THAN 1,000 FREE CABBAGE PLANTS TO STUDENTS; TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO LEARN HOW TO GROW VEGGIES.

NICE JOB RILEY – I BET WE CAN ALL GUESS WHAT SHE'LL BE HAVING FOR BREAKFAST.... LUNCH AND DINNER TOO PROBABLY!

GROWING THINGS HELPS KEEP OUR PLANET HEALTHY – BUT ONE DANGEROUS THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT CAN SWALLOW UP HEALTHY HABITATS WITHIN MINUTES: WILDFIRES. IN FLORIDA, DRY CONDITIONS HAVE CAUSED UNPREDICTABLE WILDFIRES ACROSS THE STATE -- PROMPTING GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

CARSON CHAMBERS REPORTS.

Brad Rhoads/ Homeowner:

"We definitely need some rain here pretty soon."

A STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN FLORIDA

107 ACTIVE BRUSHFIRES TWO OF THEM SMOLDERING IN PASCO COUNTY.

THE SILVER PALM FIRE ABOUT 100 YARDS AWAY FROM HOMES.

STILL NO EVACUATIONS AT THIS HOUR.

Brad Rhoads/ Homeowner:

"When you get so dry like this it's so easy you know, a rock from a lawnmower lawn care company just doing some mowing or cigarette butts is a big issue for us as well."

BRAD RHOADS SHOULD KNOW, HE'S A FIREFIGHTER WHO'S WORKED IN FLORIDA AND CALIFORNIA.

Brad Rhoads/ Homeowner:

"You know a lot of people like to burn stuff in their backyard and stuff. It's probably not a good idea at the moment with it being so dry."

A COUNTY-WIDE BURN BAN MAY BE PUT IN PLACE AS EARLY AS TOMORROW FOR PASCO.

FOR NOW FIREFIGHTERS USING HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND A HELICOPTER AND REMAIN CONFIDENT THEY CAN PROTECT HOMES.

Judith Tear/ Florida Forestry Service:

"It's not running. It's not a fast moving fire so it gives us some time to get things in there and as Kevin said, it's about 12 homes that we're doing structure protection on."

FIREFIGHTERS SAY THEY WILL GO DOOR TO DOOR IF NEEDED TO EVACUATE HOMEOWNERS BUT RIGHT NOW THEY'RE HOLDING TIGHT.

Brad Rhoads/ Homeowner:

"Right now it's a pretty big deal."

AUTHORITIES BLAMED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE WILDFIRES ON CHILDREN WHO WERE PLAYING WITH MATCHES -- WHICH GIVES US A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND YOU: *DON'T PLAY WITH MATCHES!*

IN SOUTHEASTERN OHIO, ANOTHER FIRE WAS RAGING – BUT FOR A MUCH BETTER REASON! IN THIS WEEK'S BUCKEYE BEAT, ANNE GLAUSSER EXPLAINS.

***IT'S A HOUSE FIRE! BUT NO NEED TO CALL THE FIREFIGHTERS...IN FACT, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO SET IT ABLAZE!***



**THE ROME VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SET THIS ABANDONED HOUSE ON FIRE AS PART OF A TRAINING EXERCISE. CLOSE TO 60 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FROM TEN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND TWO COUNTIES PARTICIPATED.**

**IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS AREA FIREFIGHTERS WERE ABLE TO SET FIRE TO A BUILDING FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. THE FIRE FIGHTERS WORKED ON HOW TO BEHAVE WHILE IN A BURNING BUILDING, HOW TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND RESCUE, AND DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES FOR PUTTING OUT A FIRE.**

**16-YEAR-OLD MITCHELL CLEM IS ONE OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE TRAINING.**

SOT:

*"I ATTENDED THE FIRE TRAINING TO BETTER MYSELF. WE LEARNED A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF THE OTHER DAY AND IT JUST HELPS ME OUT WITH MY FUTURE CAREER BECAUSE I PLAN ON BEING A PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTER AT THE CITY OF ATHENS. I JUST LOVE IT. IT JUST EXCITES ME FOR SOME REASON. I SEE ALL THESE GUYS ROUND AROUND. AND I JUST THINK WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. I JUST WANT TO DO THAT."*

VO:

**THE HOUSE BURNED FOR TEN HOURS UNTIL THE FIRE FIGHTERS CLEARED IT AROUND MIDNIGHT.**

THANKS, ANNE. ANOTHER THING ON FIRE THIS WEEK: YOUR FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK'S SHOW! WE ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF WRITING, AND MOST OF YOU – A WHOOPING 83% -- TOLD US YOU LIKED CREATIVE WRITING BEST! BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP YOU FROM SUBMITTING YOUR POWERFUL POETRY IN HONOR OF NATIONAL POETRY MONTH. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR IMAGINATIVE VERSE, BY OPEN OUR INBOX.

NOAH FROM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SHARED THIS DELIGHTFUL POEM ABOUT A PESKY INSECT:

ALL OF THE SUDDEN, I HEARD, I SAW.  
IT WAS A FLEA ON MY KNEE.  
IT FELTED LIKE ONE SCRATCHY SAND PAPER KEY.  
I USE WATER, SOME JUICE AND A BUCKET OF TEA.  
I ITCHED WITH A ROCK, SOME SAND AND A TREE.  
I EVEN USED A BEE CALLED MCMARVIN MCMEE,  
BUT THE FLEA WOULDN'T FLEE AT ALL CAN'T YOU SEE.  
I SPLASHED IN THE OCEAN, A LAKE AND A SEA.  
BUT NO, THIS ONE LITTLE FLEA WOULDN'T FLEE AT ALL CAN'T YOU SEE.  
SO I HAD TO LIVE WITH A FLEE ON MY KNEE.

HANNAH FROM NORTON PRIMARY REALLY CAPTURED A MOMENT WITH HER VERSE, WRITING:

THE SUN FEELS WARM ON MY SKIN.

THE SAND FEELS SOFT ON MY FEET.  
WHEN I PICK THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS IN OHIO, I PUT THEM IN A VASE.  
WHEN I AM IN MY HOME, OHIO, I FEEL SAFE.

MAISY FROM COLUMBUS GIFTED ACADEMY WROTE ABOUT A PLACE SHE KNOWS WELL: HER CLASSROOM:

I HEAR SILENCE EXCEPT FOR PENCILS SKETCHING ACROSS NOTEBOOK PAPER.  
31 HEADS ARE CROUCHED OVER THEIR WRITING.  
MY FRIENDS ARE SITTING NEXT TO ME, JOTTING DOWN THEIR RESPONSES.  
A LONG, GREEN CHALKBOARD STRETCHES ACROSS HALF THE CLASSROOM.  
I LOVE MY CLASSROOM.

TWINS MAYA AND KEIRA FROM MARYLAND ELEMENTARY GOT TOGETHER TO PEN THIS FUN POEM ABOUT BEING TWINS:  
SHE'S ALWAYS THERE, WHERE EVER I GO  
SHE CAN BE ANNOYING, BUT I LOVE HER SO  
WE DO EVERYTHING TOGETHER, WE ARE NEVER APART  
IN ANY WEATHER, YOU CAN'T TEAR US APART  
WE STICK UP FOR EACH OTHER, WE LOVE EACH OTHER, IT'S ALWAYS A WIN,  
SHE'S MY SISTER I LOVE HER AND...SHE'S ALSO MY...TWIN!!!

FINALLY, IVY FROM CARLIN ELEMENTARY SHARED A DIFFERENT KIND OF POEM, CALLED A HAIKU, SHE WRITES:  
WHEN BLOSSOMS HAVE BLOOMED  
AND BIRDS ARE TWEETING THEIR SONGS  
YOU KNOW SPRING HAS SPRUNG

WOW, THANKS IVY. THANKS ALSO TO NOAH, HANNAH, MAISY, MAYA, AND KEIRAI THINK WE'VE GOT SOME BUDDING SHAKESPEARES ON OUR HANDS! BUT IT WASN'T JUST POEMS IN OUR INBOX! WE ALSO GOT THIS LITTLE CRITIQUE FROM HAYDEN AT FIRELANDS ELEMENTARY, SHE WRITES:

I am tired of hearing about April the Giraffe and her baby. I think you should only talk about her when she has her baby.

OK, MAYBE WE DID GO A LITTLE OVERBOARD WITH THE APRIL LOVE – BUT I GUESS WE CAN TALK ABOUT HER NOW BECAUSE...IT'S A BOY!

THAT'S RIGHT, APRIL THE GIRAFFE, THE MOM-TO-BE WE WERE NOT-SO-PATIENTLY WAITING ON, FINALLY GAVE BIRTH – WITH ABOUT ONE-AND-A-QUARTER-MILLION PEOPLE WATCHING ON A LIVESTREAM.

AND IT'S A BOY! HE'S STILL A BIT CLUMSY THOUGH! OUCH! THE 15-YEAR-OLD NEW MOM AND BABY LIVE AT THE ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK, IN NEW YORK.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A CALF WAS BORN IN THE PARK, AND OFFICIALS WILL HOLD A CONTEST TO NAME THE BABY BOY.

**[MEOW]**

WHAT'S THAT? **[MEOW]**

OH – NEWS CAT'S WORRIED THAT I'M TRYING TO TAKE OVER HER BEAT: CUTE ANIMAL STORIES! SORRY NEWS CAT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO STEP ON YOUR TOES – ERR, I MEAN PAWS! LET'S SEE WHAT OUR FELINE REPORTER HAS FOR US THIS WEEK!

**[INTRO: PETTING ZOO]**

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, NEWS CAT'S BEEN PUTTING IN SOME MAJOR OVERTIME, TO TRY TO FIND A STORY THE RIVALS THE CUTENESS OF APRIL'S NEW BABY!

AAAAND -- SHE THINKS SHE FOUND ONE!

SHE SEES APRIL'S BABY GIRAFFE AND RAISES HER A BABY GOAT...DOING YOGA! TO MEET LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LATEST – AND CUTEST – FITNESS CRAZE, CLICK THE PETTING ZOO BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE.  
THANKS NEWS CAT! NAMASTE!

AND, AS ALWAYS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER YOU VOTE IN OUR POLL, WRITE TO US. SEND YOUR E-MAILS TO NEWSDEPTH AT IDEASTREAM.ORG - OR MAIL YOUR LETTERS TO 1375 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115.

YOUR LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY AFTERNOON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT SHOW. YOU CAN ALSO TWEET AT US @ NEWSDEPTH OHIO.

THANKS FOR WATCHING, I'M RICK JACKSON. WE'LL SEE BACK HERE NEXT WEEK!