Outside of town in his beautiful home,

Jose could see the flowers through his polished windows.
He could not stay inside on a day like today.

His mom said: “Finish Your chores, then you can go out and play.”
After he swept off the porch, He made a lil’ snack. He said “Goodbye” to his Mom, “by dinner I’ll be back.”
He walked away from his yard, away from his home, finished his sandwich, and walked into the unknown...
Deep in the woods he tossed away his trash.

Then he heard a voice, it said:

“Hey! You dropped your bag.”
“Who said that!?"
Jose was startled, and responded quickly.

“I am Aya, the Ocelot, and I live under these trees.”
“I am Jose,
I live in a house down the Road.
I am sorry for the trash,
I did not know this was your home.”
Aya smiled and said;

“I forgive you, Jose.
Can I walk with you, on this beautiful day?”
Together, Aya and Jose walked down by the shore.

“I’m not the only one living here, there are many more.”
“Look over there, it’s Sammy the Seal swimming around!

That rock is his home, and this beach is his town.”
“Nice to meet you, Jose, could you do me a favor?” asked Sammy the Seal, as he pointed to his neighbor.
“A lot of trash lands here, things that people throw away. Maybe there is somewhere else trash could go, maybe some other way...”
Jose was sad the seals home was littered with trash.

He knew he had to do something and he had to do it fast!
Jose said: “I think all the trash is supposed to land in the dump.”

“Let’s go there,” said Aya,

“if that’s where it’s supposed to end up.”
Jose and Aya walked to the landfill.

They smelled the stink from miles away.

When they saw the big mountain of trash, they did not know what to say.
The local stream was filthy, and they saw a fish with a can holder around his waist.

Jose couldn’t believe what had happened to these homes, “There must be some other way...”
Aya stopped a man on a bike as he rode by the dump. She said “Hi, me and my friend were wondering: What happens when all this fills up?”
“Well, the more we throw away, the more homes like yours we pollute.”

“Unless,” he explained, “we can turn trash into something we can use!”
“What do you mean? Like turning a tire into a swing?” Jose was open to any ideas to help make his environment clean.
“That’s one good idea, but there are many more,” said the bicycle man named Michael. “Walk with me, and pick up that can, I am going to show you how to recycle.”
“You see that doesn’t have to be trash, it can be used for many things. Like a space shuttle, some crutches, or even that bike I was riding!”
Aya was excited, and asked

“What about Jose’s plastic bag that I found?”

“That can be many things,” explained Michael, “like a toy, a chair, or part of a playground.”
"What else can be recycled? asked Jose.

"Just about anything plastic, metal, paper, or glass, so not much should go to waste."

"So just separate these items into a separate container, and tell your parents and teachers to go to the recycling center!"
Jose and Aya couldn’t wait to share the good news. Jose rushed home to teach his friends what to do. Jose went to his room to grab a special box. His mom cooked dinner, and asked, “How was your walk?”
“Oh, it was great, mom, but I forgot one of my chores!”
His mom was surprised, and asked,
“What’s the box for?”
“Well, my FRIEND’S homes were all still covered with trash...”
“Hey! Don’t throw that away, Mom. We can RECYCLE that can!”