Common Core Standards Addressed:
R.L.K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

Arkansas K-12 Science Standards Addressed:
K-ESS3-3 Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

Learning Goals:
Students will...

Understand that throwing away and recycling items helps to protect our earth.

Know
• Recycle: to make something new out of something that’s already been used.
• Why it’s important to recycle?

Do
Create an art project out of recycled materials.

Materials Needed:
The Dumpster Diver by Janet Wong
Tub of Water
Trash for pollution experiment
Miscellaneous items for “recycled” craft

Procedures:
• Ask students if any of them have seen trash on the roads as they’re driving to school, or in a lake or river. What happens to this trash? Today we’re going to do an experiment to learn why it’s important that we put our trash in the right places.
• Collect some trash, some recyclable and some not (an apple core, Styrofoam cup, piece of paper, an aluminum can, coffee filters, etc.). Place these items in a tub of water.
• Have students use tongs to try and remove all the trash from the water.
• After students have removed all the trash they can, discuss:
  - Was some trash harder to get out than others?
  - Was the water the same after we got all the garbage out?
• Even after working hard to remove all the trash, it’s impossible to get all of the pollutants from the water.
• It’s important that we put trash where it belongs to help keep the earth clean.
• One way we can do this is recycling.
  - Explain that recycling means we make something new out of something that’s already been used.
• Why do you think it’s important that we reuse things instead of throwing them away?
• Read The Dumpster Diver.
• How did they use “junk” to make something new in The Dumpster Diver?
• Steve and his friends transformed an old blender into a lamp, and even an old lamp into a table. Today we’re going to be transforming old things into art.
• Explain to students that art can take many different forms. We can even recycle old things that might have been thrown away for our art projects.
  - Explain that we’re recycling by taking old trash and making it into something brand new
• Students will then use an assortment of old items that otherwise would have been thrown away (bottle caps, toilet paper rolls, broken pencils, paper scraps, etc.) to create their own unique art piece.