

No Impact Man Model Journals

Chapter 1

Bevan shows us how not only are humans affected by Climate Change, but also animals, "Worse: sometimes, too, desperate in their starvation, the polar bears cannibalized each other's young. We burn too many fossil fuels, the sky gets blanketed with carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, the planet warms up, the ice caps melt, the polar bears can't get their food, they eat each other's babies" (8).

Climate Change affecting more than just Us

This is the saddest consequence of Climate Change. Yes, humans all over the world is affected by Climate Change and some countries have people that are starving due to the dramatic climate variations, but I believe the animals that are affected by Climate Change are the most innocent bystanders, because they are not contributors to the problem. They didn't contribute to the greenhouse gases that are deteriorating our environment, yet, it feels like they are paying the highest price. They cannot fight for themselves or speak on their own behalf. It is up to us, humans, to protect those and everything that is around us.

I think Bevan is very smart to choose the polar bears out of all animals to talk about when trying to prove how Global Warming is affecting all of us, because everyone associate polar bears with cute and cuddly. When things that are supposed to be cute and cuddly are endanger we seem to get a sense of will to help them. We, humans, has always had more compassion when it came to animals than each other. I can't help but wonder why we always seem a lot more concerned when animals are endangered versus human beings, our own kind.

Chapter 2

"I read an article in *The New York Times* about the corporate rush to label products 'green.' Companies were slapping environmentally friendly labels on everything from tree-killing chainsaws that used less gas to highly toxic bug sprays. "Greenwashing" abounded, and to obsessively try to figure' out which products truly harmed the planet less seemed like a fast path to an ulcer" (23).

1) There is an endless array of information that tells which method or product cuts down on waste

or more eco-friendly but all this information just contradicts each other and makes it more confusing.

2) I definitely noticed a lot more companies talk about how their products are "green." For example, there's organic cotton for clothes and how this product is made in an eco-friendly processing plant. I wonder if companies say this because they care about the planet or they think by labeling this, they generate more profit. I think it's the latter because it's a business after all. I agree though with the writer that it is better to use less than to choose a different product because there are so many decisions to decide from. It's the dilemma of whether buying a plastic

Christmas tree or a real one. If you want to be environmental friendly, just don't buy one at all. I mean, it is a cultural object but it's not like you need one in your house. You can enjoy it at the park or at Union Square.

Chapter 3

Bevan has a sudden realization as to why we use black trash bags, "With my trash all packed up and hidden in the black bags, I realized there is a reason I didn't want to look at it. There is a reason why trash bags aren't made of transparent plastic that would allow us to see inside. It is the same reason I and my kind keep bodily remains in closed coffins. We're uncomfortable with what we might see" (42).

Black to Hide the Shame

I never really thought of why a trash bag would be black or better yet, I've never wanted to waste my time considering why a trash bag is black, but Bevan makes a very good point. Human beings tend to hide the things that are an eye sore. A huge amount of garbage is an eye sore. We don't want to know how much we actually waste. We don't even want to think about whether we are wasting or not. If, I had to see how much garbage I actually throw out I just might be disgusted with myself and who would actually want to feel like that? I know I do not about to be ashamed of myself, therefore I would rather not know. I definitely agree that there are many things that we never realize until we take the time out to consider all the possibilities.

Before I did the chart for Karen regarding how much garbage or water I waste a week I've never taken the time out to consider how much I am adding to Global Warming. I probably didn't even want to know. I always feel bad and write about how sad the polar bears have it, but I never find myself taking action. Rather, I sit here on my high horse, thinking I do my part, because I recycle. If only, it was really that simple. If only, recycling can save our planet. I am not sure how and if we can save the damage we have done to our planet, but we can surely stop damaging it. This book has really got me thinking about how I can stop my part in damaging this planet, our home.

Chapter 4

Bevan points out, "We know that for all the material that ends up in our products, the manufacturing process has already trashed seventy times that much material. Do the math and that means that, of all the raw material taken from the earth to make consumer products, only 2.5 percent of it actually ends up in our hands. Meanwhile, 98.5 percent of what we suck out of the ground, the rivers, and the forests ends up being trucked straight to the landfill or the incinerator without it ever being used by us"(68).

- 1) Companies are creating so much more waste compared to consumers.
- 2) That percentage is astounding because I never thought much about the other side of the coin: businesses. It is true that we are made to think that we, the consumers, are the ones harming the planet but companies are creating so much more waste. It shows that we do live in a corrupt society because businesses only care about profit rather than about the

planet. If they could just put a little more effort to be more eco-conscious, it would help reverse our planet by tenfold. Companies need to own up to their faults or at least the government should create more regulations. But of course, it's the companies that give money to fundraise for the politicians ...