Fred the Fish Script

Grades Preschool–4

(provided by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful)

1. Imagine Mill Creek as it meanders through a protected wilderness area. In this creek lives Fred the Fish. Fred has lived in this stretch of the creek all his life. But he has heard that Mill Creek eventually runs into the Ohio River, and he’s never seen the river, so he is going on an adventure downstream.
2. (*Instruct the group to respond, “Oh, no! Poor Fred!” every time you dump an unsafe substance into Fred’s bowl.*)
3. Fred swims into farm country. He passes a freshly plowed riverbank, where all the trees have been removed to make room for more farmland. It begins to rain and some soil erodes into the river. (*Dump “soil” into Fred’s bowl*.) **“Oh, no! Poor Fred!”** Why is erosion bad for the water and for Fred? (*It fills the creek with soil, chokes plant life, clouds the water, and pollutes the water via runoff.*)
4. Fred passes through the farmland and into a suburban housing development. The homeowners have been using fertilizer on their property and some of that fertilizer has been washed into the creek. (*Dump “fertilizer” into Fred’s bowl.*) **“Oh, no! Poor Fred!”** Why is fertilizer bad for the water and for Fred? (*It causes plant life to grow too fast and too thick. As plants die and decompose, they take a lot of oxygen out of the water, making it hard for animals to breathe.*)
5. Fred swims under a highway bridge. Some of the cars traveling over the bridge are leaking oil, which is running off into Mill Creek. (*Dump “oil” into Fred’s bowl.*) **“Oh, no! Poor Fred!”** Why is oil bad for the water and for Fred? (*Oil coats the fish’s gills, making it hard to breathe. Oil also coats the top of the water, creating a barrier similar to plastic wrap, making it hard to find food.*)
6. During a recent snowstorm, ice formed on the bridge and city trucks spread salt on the road to prevent accidents. Now that the ice has melted, that salt is washing into the creek. (*Dump salt into Fred’s bowl*.) **“Oh, no! Poor Fred!”** Why is the salt bad for the water and for Fred? (*The salt in the water would dehydrate fish and kill plants.*)
7. Fred swims past the city park. Some picnickers didn’t throw their trash into the garbage can. As soon as the wind blows, the litter blows into the river. (*Dump litter into Fred’s bowl.*) **“Oh, no! Poor Fred!”** Why is the trash bad for the water and for Fred? (*Six-pack rings, cans, and jars can become traps for fish and animals. Shiny wrappers can be mistaken for food and eaten, making animals very sick.*)
8. Several factories are located a few miles out of the city, and they have not been obeying the regulations for how much pollution they can dump into the creek. On top of that, hazardous waste has been slowly leaking into the creek from a dump located on it. (*Dump “toxic waste” into Fred’s bowl.*) **“Oh, no! Poor Fred!”** Why is the toxic waste bad for the water and for Fred? (*It poisons the plants and animals.*)
9. Finish the program by asking, “What can we do to help Fred?” (*No littering; pick up litter; fix the family car if it is leaking oil; cut six-ring tabs; and share information with your family.)* “Do you like science?” (*Maybe you will work for an organization or a company that makes products that are environmentally friendly.*)