

Planet Wow
By Mindy Thomas

<<scene opens to Reggie watching tv>>

Reggie: coo

<<changes channel a few times>>

<<door opens>>

Mindy: Gooooood morning, Reggie!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: So good to be back home, I really missed you, buddy!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: Oh yeah, guy and I were at a week long climate crusader training. And now we're equipped with everything we need to save our planet! Look! I've even got a cape.

Reggie: coo

Mindy: It's gonna be a beautiful day!

<<local news is playing on the tv in the background>>

Gail Richard Simmons/News Anchor: It's gonna be a scorcher of a day today!

Mindy: Wait...what?

Bob Ralph Machio: That's right, gail. In today's top story...here on planet earth, hot is about to get even hotter! <<sfx>> temperatures are heating up to record breaking numbers! <<sfx>>

Mindy: Yikes. You hear that, Reg?

Reggie: coo

Gail Richard Simmons: And that's not all! Meteorologists everywhere are predicting massive storms and even flooding. <<sfx>> In other words, time to get out the canoes, because wet is about to get even wetter.

Mindy: Oof! Hot and rainy?! Reggie, we need to turn up the air conditioning in this gingerbread mansion to keep it from melting!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: I don't know...just turn it as cold as it will go and leave it running at full blast all day long!

<<buttons press>>
<<hvac running>>

Reggie: coo

Mindy: And then plug in all of my electric blankets so we can pile them on top of us to stay warm while we're inside this freezing gingerbread mansion!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: But then leave the refrigerator door open to cool us off when the electric blankets make us too hot.

Reggie: coo

Mindy: But then get out all of the space heaters and plug them into whatever electrical outlets are left to warm us back up again!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: But then turn on all of the ceiling fans, to cool us off from the space heaters.

Reggie: coo

Mindy: But then plug in all the space heaters to heat us back up when the ceiling fans make us too cold.

Reggie: coo

Mindy: And then call everyone over for an emergency neighborhood meeting so I can teach everyone how to be a climate crusader!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: Because we have got to save our planet, Reggie! This is important!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: Now I gotta open all the windows to let the heat from outside warm up the inside of this gingerbread mansion. It's freezing in here with that air conditioner running at full blast!

Reggie: coo

Mindy: <<opening window>> Ugh...these windows are stuck shut! I knew I installed them with too much icing! Sorry window...gotta go! Heeee-ya! <<breaks window>>

Reggie: coo

Dennis: <<from his yard outside>> Oh hi mindy! Are ya practicing karate on your windows again?

Mindy: Yeah! Hey, Dennis...what are you doing right now?

Dennis: Just workin' on the lawn! It's time for the daily greenwashing!

Mindy: Daily greenwashing?!

Dennis: Yeah! I put a bunch of dangerous pesticides on my yard to keep away the bugs! And then I put fertilizers down to help my flowers grow! And then I spray paint the grass green with these aerosol cans of spray paint!

Mindy: Wow.

Dennis: <<sigh>> I love nature!

Mindy: Uh...okay, well hurry up! We need to have an emergency neighborhood meeting about how to save our planet from climate change!

Mindy: This planet isn't gonna save itself!

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Dennis: Fine, I'll be right over! Okay grass! It's time to get green! Hi-yaaa!
<<shakes up aerosol can and sprays>>

<<we hear a large freight truck beeping and backing up outside>>

Thomas Fingerling: There ya go...easy does it...back it up just a little more. That's it. Annnnnnd stop!

Mindy: [to self] Open, there's fingerling's daily delivery.

Freight Truck Driver: Ok, I got a delivery of 75 boxes of boo boo beanie boppers for...thomas fingerling. That you?

Thomas Fingerling: Yup!

Mindy: [to self] 75 boxes?! That's a lot of boo boo beanie boppers!

Freight Truck Driver: This is a lot of boo boo beanie boppers. You a collector or something?

Thomas Fingerling: Yup! Every day I order 75 boxes, keep all the beanie boppers I don't have and throw away the doubles.

Freight Truck Driver: You throw away the doubles?!

Thomas Fingerling: Course I throw away the doubles!! Doubles are a waste of space! And I am not a wasteful person!

Freight Truck Driver: Okay, well, that makes no sense...

Thomas Fingerling: Says you.

Mindy: Hey Thomas Fingerling!

Thomas Fingerling: What now, Mandy?!

Mindy: We're having an emergency neighborhood meeting of the climate crusaders!

Thomas Fingerling: Climate crusaders huh?! Well maybe you can do something about all this heat? I can't even sort through my boo boo beanie boppers without sweatin' all over the place!

Gramma G-Force: <<in the distance>> heeeeeee-ya! That's enough shade outta you, tree!

Mindy: [to self] Oh my.

Guy: Gramma G-Force! What are you doing?! That was my oak tree!!

Gramma G-Force: I didn't like the way it was lookin' at me.

Guy: Looking at you?! It's a tree!

Gramma G-Force: It was throwin' shade at me.

Guy: Ugh!! You can't just go around the neighborhood chopping down trees! We need their shade to cool things down! And we need them to soak up some of the carbon pollution in the atmosphere!

Gramma G-Force: Well where's it comin' from in the first place?!

<<freight truck honks horn and revs up engine>>

Thomas Fingerling: Bye bye, boo boo beanie bopper man!

Freight Truck Driver: Toodaloo!

Guy: Well, it's coming from things like Thomas fingerlings daily freight truck deliveries. Do you know how far the things we order have to travel to get to our front doors?

Gramma G-Force: no.

Mindy: <<from window>> Hey guy! Gramma G-Force! Quick! Come over to my gingerbread mansion! We're having an emergency neighborhood climate crusaders meeting!

Gramma G-Force: Nooooooooo.

Guy: Okay, but first I need to weed my vegetable garden.

Gramma G-Force: What vegetables? All I see is a bunch of rotten cucumbers and one shriveled up little tater. C'mere little tater. I'll still eat you up.

Guy: Ugh...well it used to be a beautiful vegetable garden, but then I got too busy to take care of it, and now it's just a bunch of rotting vegetables!

Gramma G-Force: And they smell like toots.

Guy: Well that's because of all the methane gas they're releasing into the atmosphere! Ugh...what a waste.

Mindy: So? You coming or not!?

Guy: <<feeling a little defeated>> I'm coming, I'm coming... Gramma G-Force? You coming too?

Gramma G-Force: Only if you push me in this wheelie barrow. It's too hot to walk.

Guy: <<sigh>> Hop on in.

Gramma G-Force: Giddy up!

<<scene change to int. Mindy's gingerbread mansion>>

Mindy: <<gavel>> Welcome everyone, to mindy's first ever meeting of the neighborhood climate crusaders!

Everyone but Mindy: <<confused claps and cheers>>

Mindy: Now, as you may have noticed, our world is changing.

Everyone but Mindy: <<rumbles of agreement>>

Mindy: wild weather events like storms, floods, droughts, hurricanes, wildfires. It's like the planet is going bonkerballs!

Everyone but Mindy: <<rumble in agreement>>

Mindy: But as the president of our neighborhood climate crusaders club, I have gathered you all here to say, together, we can make the changes we need for a brighter future!

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Everyone but Mindy: <<cheers>>

Gramma G-Force: And it starts by choppin down all those shady trees with my bare hands!

Guy: No!

Mindy: You may not know this, but planet earth is our home.

Gramma G-Force: No. The diaper house on 5th is my home.

Mindy: No, the diaper house is your house. Planet earth, where your diaper house sits, it's your home. And it's home to all of us! And we all have to work together to take care of it!

Dennis: Or else we'll have to move to another planet?

Thomas Fingerling: Oooh, I like the sound of that! Uh, mandy, how many boo boo beanie boppers can I fit on mars?

Guy: I'm not sure you all realize how special our home here on earth really is.

Mindy: Tell em' guy raz!

Guy: Well, of all the planets in the solar system, earth is the only planet with the perfect temperature for us to live! It's not too hot, like venus, and it's not too cold, like uranus!

Mindy: Yeah! And that's because our home planet earth has this invisible blanket of heat-trapping gasses that traps jusst the right amount of heat for us humans to live here.

Guy: Mindy's right...we couldn't live on mercury because it's blanket is too thin, so it gets too hot in the sun, but too cold in the shade.

Mindy: And Venus's blanket is way too thick, so it's get way too hot.

Guy: Which brings us back to earth. Where that invisible blanket is just right. Made to keep us not too hot and not too cold.

Mindy: But...

Gramma G-Force: Here comes mindy's big butt.

Mindy: Butttt, as you may have noticed...our world is getting hotter.

Thomas Fingerling: Oh I noticed!

Gramma G-Force: Who's messin' with that invisible blanket?! I wanna know!

Dennis: Yeah! Who's the trouble maker!

Guy: Well...we are!

Everyone but Guy and Mindy: Whaaat?!

Mindy: Well, in all sorts of ways, we humans are adding more pollution in the form of heat-trapping gasses into our atmosphere, and we're making that invisible blanket thicker!

Gramma G-Force: I do not even know how to do that.

Thomas Fingerling: Yeah! Me neither!

Guy: Well, we're all doing it in ways that we probably don't even know!

Mindy: And once we know better, we can work together to do better...for our world and each other!

Dennis: Okay, so where is all this pollution coming from?! How am I, Dennis, possibly harming the environment?!

Guy: Great question, Dennis! This extra pollution is coming from all sorts of things. Like how we make and use electricity...

Mindy: Ohhhh you mean like running my air conditioner at full blast all day everyday while opening the windows and turning on all the fans but also the space heaters and leaving the refrigerator door open?

Guy: Uh...yeah! That's actually a great example, mindy!

Mindy: Reggie, I told you that was a waste of electricity!

Reggie: coo

Guy: This pollution also comes from transportation or how we get around...

Mindy: Like my gas guzzling ice cream truck!

Thomas Fingerling: Maybe you should convert it to electric power!

Guy: And pollution also comes from how we manufacture or make things...

Thomas Fingerling: Oh, like a factory makes my mountain of boo boo beanie boppers?

Dennis: Oh yeah, probably.

Thomas Fingerling: No! Leave the boppers out of this!

Guy: And pollution also comes from how we use our land...how we change it and take care of it.

Dennis: Like how I spray paint my dead grass to look green?

Gramma G-Force: Boy, he's talkin' about me! Chopping down all the neighborhood trees!

Guy: That is becoming a problem in our neighborhood...

Gramma G-Force: Boo-yah!

Mindy: The point is, all of this pollution is building up in the atmosphere, and making the planet hotter.

Guy: And a hotter planet changes our climate. Meaning more storms, floods, droughts, wildfires...things that change how we live.

Mindy: And it's impacting all of us. Some more than others.

Gramma G-Force: I would like to make an announcement.

Guy: Uh..Yes, Gramma G-Force?

Gramma G-Force: I would like to say I'm sorry to all of the trees I chopped down for givin' me shade.

Guy: Oh uh...

Thomas Fingerling: And I would like to apologize for buying more boo boo beanie boppers than any one person could ever need. And also sorry for throwing the doubles into landfills.

Mindy: Yeah, but..

Dennis: And I would like to tell Earth that I'm sorry for using all of those harmful chemicals on my yard and spray painting my dead grass.

Guy: Yeah, yeah...and I'm sorry for letting my vegetable garden go to waste...

Mindy: And I'm sorry for building an unsustainable gingerbread mansion that wastes a ton of electricity to heat and cool.

Thomas Fingerling: Oh, for shame.

Mindy: But listen up everyone...the important thing is not to focus on what we've individually done to contribute to pollution or climate change in the past or even the present...

Guy: Yeah...the important thing is to focus on what changes we can make together for a brighter future!

Mindy: If we work together to take better care of our home planet, our planet can take better care of us!

Guy: And the first step is learning all we can about climate change and it's causes so we can share what we learn with others.

Mindy: Because when we know better, we do better!

Guy: And while what we do individually matters, what we do together...in our families, schools, and communities matters even more.

Dennis: Oh, I know! I'm a top contributor on the neighborhood snoop scoop online website!

Thomas Fingerling: Neat.

Dennis: I'll go on there and gossip about all the ways we can stop wasting electricity, and stop buying too much stuff, and stop spray painting our yards!

Mindy: I'm not sure that's what gossip is, but sure! Talk about it all you want! Wherever you want! Spread the word, Dennis!

Dennis: Yaaay!

Guy: And while you're at it, maybe you can gossip about ways we can get more energy from renewable resources like the sun and wind?

Dennis: Eye eye captain!

Gramma g-force: And I'm gonna go stand outside the trees and protect them from anyone who tries to chop em' down!

Guy: I'm pretty sure you're the only one who's been doing that around here...but sure!

Mindy: And maybe talk nicely about the trees to other people. Talk about how good they are at soaking up carbon pollution and compliment them loudly on providing shade so we don't have to use as much electricity to cool things down.

Dennis: Oooh! That's good gossip for snoop scoop online!
<<pulls out phone>>

Dennis: Ahem! Hey everyone! Did you hear about the elm tree on first street!? She just got a great new hair trim! Let's be cool and plant her some tree friends to hang out with!... Post.

Thomas Fingerling: And I'm gonna get out my old filmmaking gear and make a documentary about the lifecycle of a boo boo beanie bopper.

Dennis: oooh!

Everyone: ooooh!

Thomas Fingerling: I'll start with how the materials are made
And end with what it takes to get a finished boo boo beanie bopper to my front door!

Mindy: I'm sure!

Guy: Amazing!

Guy: And I'm going to contact the leaders of our neighborhood schools to talk about how food waste in cafeterias is impacting our planet, and maybe offer to invite students and teachers to my vegetable garden to help maintain, harvest and eat the vegetables grown in it!

Gramma G-Force: Oh snap that's a good idea.

Mindy: And I'm going to continue to host more community climate crusader meetings like this one! Encouraging us all to get out into the world and use our voices to spread the word on how we can work together to create a brighter future for our planet and ourselves!

Guy: Because when we know better, we do better.

Mindy: And it's all gonna be better and brighter when we do it together!

Guy: Climate crusaders! This meeting is adjourned!

Dennis: Now let's get out there and stop spray painting our grass!

Mindy: Well, I was gonna suggest we spread the word on working together to protect our planet, but sure! We can stop spray painting our grass too. Now who's with me, climate crusaders?!

Everyone: Here here! <<cheers>>

The End

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