

# caillou

The Magic of Compost



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## The Magic of Compost



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Caillou loved spending the day with his grandma.

"Grandma, look! I'm a magician! Abracadabra!" Caillou said.

He really wanted to be a magician and do amazing magic tricks.

"Do you think you can make a lunch disappear?" Grandma asked.

"Oh, yes!" Caillou answered.





After lunch, Grandma dropped the banana peel into a small bucket beside the door. Caillou was curious, so he looked in the bucket. "Is that your garbage can?" Caillou asked.

"No, it's not," Grandma replied.

Caillou made a face. "But it's all gooshy and yucky."

"I need it for my garden," Grandma explained.

"Your garden?" Caillou asked.

"Come, I'll show you."





Grandma took the bucket outside and went to a large barrel. She took the lid off and dumped the contents of the bucket inside.

"Is that a garbage can?" Caillou asked.

"No, it's a composter," Grandma explained. "I put in food scraps like fruit and vegetables, but no meat and no dairy. That means no cheese or milk."



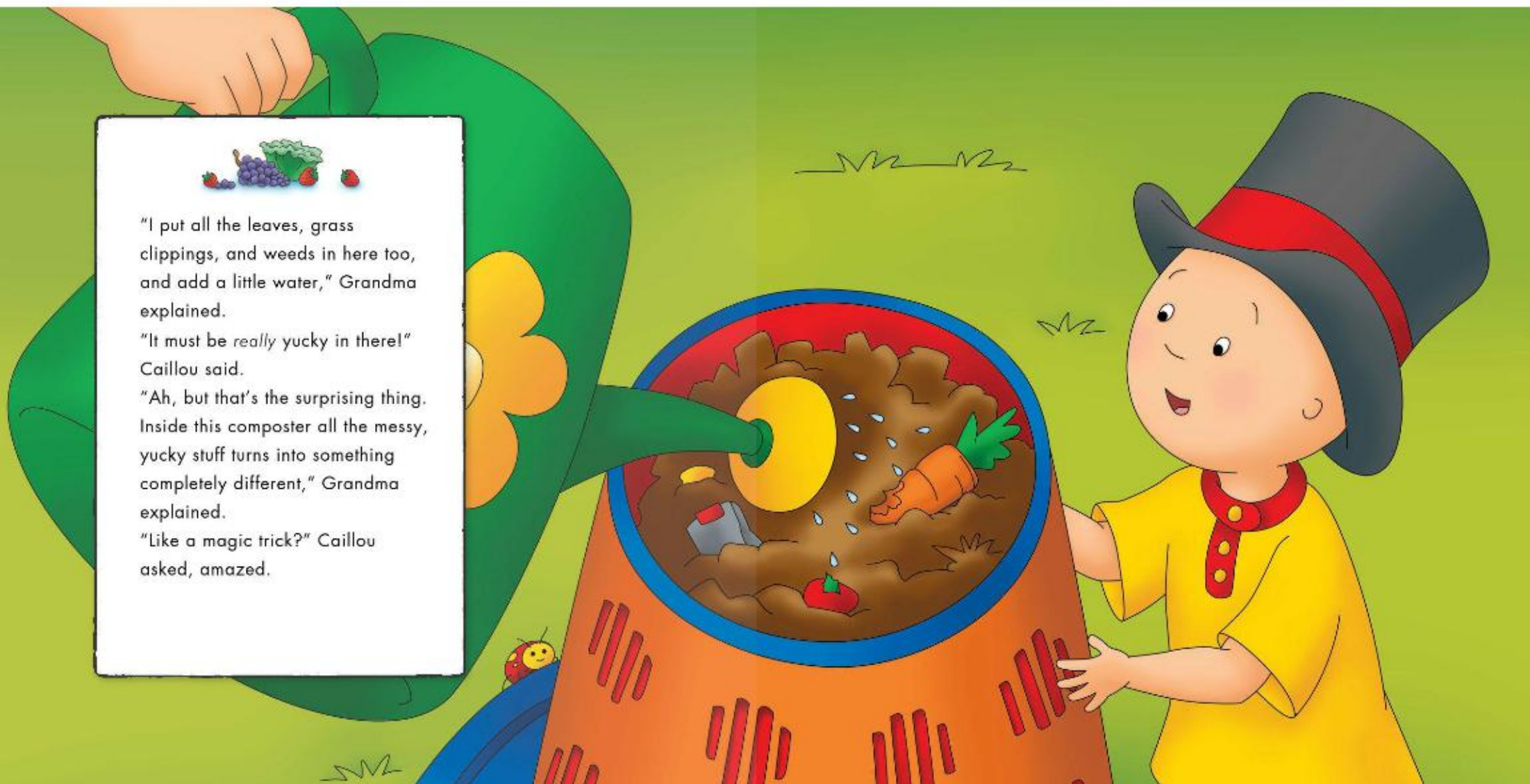


"I put all the leaves, grass clippings, and weeds in here too, and add a little water," Grandma explained.

"It must be *really* yucky in there!" Caillou said.

"Ah, but that's the surprising thing. Inside this composter all the messy, yucky stuff turns into something completely different," Grandma explained.

"Like a magic trick?" Caillou asked, amazed.





"Yes, it is rather like a magic trick. Would you like to see what it turns into?" Grandma asked.

"Yes, please!"

Grandma pulled up a small panel at the bottom. Caillou leaned in closer to see black dirt spilling out! "It's dirt! Did all that stuff turn into dirt?" Caillou asked.





"It's not dirt. It's called compost, and it takes weeks and weeks to happen."

"A compost makes compost," Caillou said.

Grandma shoveled some compost into a wheelbarrow and took it to a flowerbed. "That's right. Compost is nice, rich soil that helps my plants to grow," Grandma explained.

"Wow, that's the best magic trick ever!" Caillou was impressed.





As soon as he got home, Caillou went to the kitchen cupboards and pulled out a plastic container.

After supper, he put the dinner scraps into his container. Potato skins, bread crusts, and corn, but no cheese – that's dairy.

"Caillou, what are you up to?" Mommy asked.

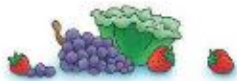
"I'm going to show you the best magic trick ever," he said. "I'm going to change all of this yucky stuff into plant food, but we need to get a composter."





Daddy got a nice large composter. Every time Daddy cut the grass, he put the clippings into the composter. Caillou put Mommy's teabags and his apple cores into the composter. Every day something was added to the composter. Caillou looked inside week after week, but everything looked the same. He started to think his magic trick wasn't working.





Caillou waited a whole month.  
It seemed like days and days,  
but the wait was finally over.  
"Come on, everybody!" Caillou  
called.

He was excited to show everyone  
his big magic trick. He reached  
the composter and waited while  
everyone gathered around.  
Caillou was a little worried. What  
if it didn't work?





Caillou got his courage up and put on his show.

"It's time for the best magic trick ever: turning food and grass and leaves and water into compost. That's plant food," Caillou said. He turned to the composter and waved his hands.

"Abracadabra, COMPOST!" Caillou knelt and put his hands on the bottom panel.





Everyone leaned in close. Caillou pulled the panel aside and a small amount of black compost spilled out. Caillou grinned from ear to ear. "Ta-daaaaa!" Caillou yelled. "How wonderful!" Mommy applauded. "Hooray!" Daddy cheered. "For my next trick, I'm going to use my new compost to grow flowers," Caillou said.





TV Tie-In Books  
Age 3 and up

Every little bit counts



Grandma shows Caillou a great magic trick:  
turning scraps of leftovers, grass clippings,  
and apple cores into plant food.

In this series:  
The Magic of Compost  
Every Drop Counts!  
As Good as New  
Plants a Tree

chouette

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1001 Lenoir St., Suite B-238  
Montreal, Quebec H4C 2Z6  
Canada  
[www.chouettepublishing.com](http://www.chouettepublishing.com)

