POST TITLE: Green Means Go … Go Green

People have told us they're using our sisterly banter to start conversations with others (family, friends, and even in classrooms), so Black created "Conversation Starters".

RED

I keep thinking about global warming and weather events, especially as it seems they're becoming more catastrophic with each passing year. And as a mom, I can't help but think about what kind of world we want to leave our children, grandchildren, and hopefully generations beyond that. It makes environmental issues, such as the importance of recycling and the impact humans are having on endangered species, even more critical.

When it comes to "saving" the environment, I'd like to believe that we all want to do our part. But sometimes, I don't know what to do since it's such an overwhelming issue. Plus, and I almost hate to admit this, sometimes it's difficult to "buy green" or environmentally friendly when you're on a fixed or limited budget. Although, thanks to Black, I've learned about greenwashing and that just because a business says they're environmentally "friendly", that doesn't mean they are.

BLACK

When it comes to climate change and the environment, many blame the "older" generation, saying we allowed this to happen because, for decades, we did not do anything to prevent it. Increased use of cars and electricity. Burning an ever-increasing amount of fossil fuels. Not "going green". Not even thinking about it. All of which led to where we are today.

Red often calls me a "debate queen", so I want to point out that our generation drank water from the tap, used cloth diapers, returned glass milk bottles (also soda and beer bottles) for deposits so they could be reused, and saved/reused plastic grocery food containers. We even reused brown paper grocery bags by repurposing them into textbook covers. All before recycling was "a thing". (FYI, there are 3-Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, and recycling is not necessarily the best option.)

I also want to point out that if you do not know you are causing a serious environmental problem, why would you change what you are doing? But, the more important question is who did know, and why were we not told?

THE CONVERSATION STARTERS
- What is "environmental literacy"? Before now, have you ever thought about it? Why is it important?
- Why do environmental issues seem so daunting?
- People often use the phrase, "Actions speak louder than words." How does that apply to the environment? What actions have you taken? What actions can you take?
- Do you believe human activities contribute to climate change? If so, what should we do about it? If not, what do you think causes climate change?

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY RESOURCES

1. GLOBAL.WARMING: https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/climate-change
2. WEATHER.EVENTS: https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58073295
3. MORE.CATASTROPIC: https://www.axios.com/2021/08/09/un-climate-report-global-warming-faster-ipcc
4. RECYCLING: https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle/Municipal-Recycling-Resource-Center/As-A-Matter-of-Fact
5. ENDANGERED.SPECIES: https://www.redandblackbanter.com/extinction-endangered-more-than-names-2655208169.html
6. GREENWASHING: https://www.redandblackbanter.com/greenwashing-vs-green-2655060998.html
7. BLAME.GAME: https://www.redandblackbanter.com/climate-change-climate-of-blame-2657278543.html
8. GOING.GREEN: https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/going-green
9. THREE.Rs: https://www.epa.gov/recycle
10. NOT.RECYCLING: https://www.onegreenplanet.org/lifestyle/why-reusing-and-repurposing-is-better-than-recycling/
11. WHO.DID.KNOW: https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53640382