

Mrs. Laber’s first graders—inspired by the detailed writing of Roald Dahl—challenged themselves to write a showing description for the telling sentence “The trash was stinky.”

Below, find the interactive writing they did as a class. On the following three pages, find the brainstorms they created as they prepared to write their showing description.



Mrs. Laber’s first graders

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Our telling sentence: “The trash was stinky.”

Our showing description for “The trash was stinky:”

In April at 3:30 in the afternoon, Lila was walking on the yellow sandy hiking trail to the thousand-foot tall junkyard when she smelled an awful smell. There was a trashcan so she decided to look inside it. The trashcan was overflowing with a dirty diaper, old toys people didn’t want anymore, a dead monkey, someone’s smelly throw-up, pieces of pizza that had been bitten, a moldy banana, a rotten apple, dirty cat litter, a dead bird, rotten runny eggs, moldy green cheese, grass from a lawn mower, and a banana peel.

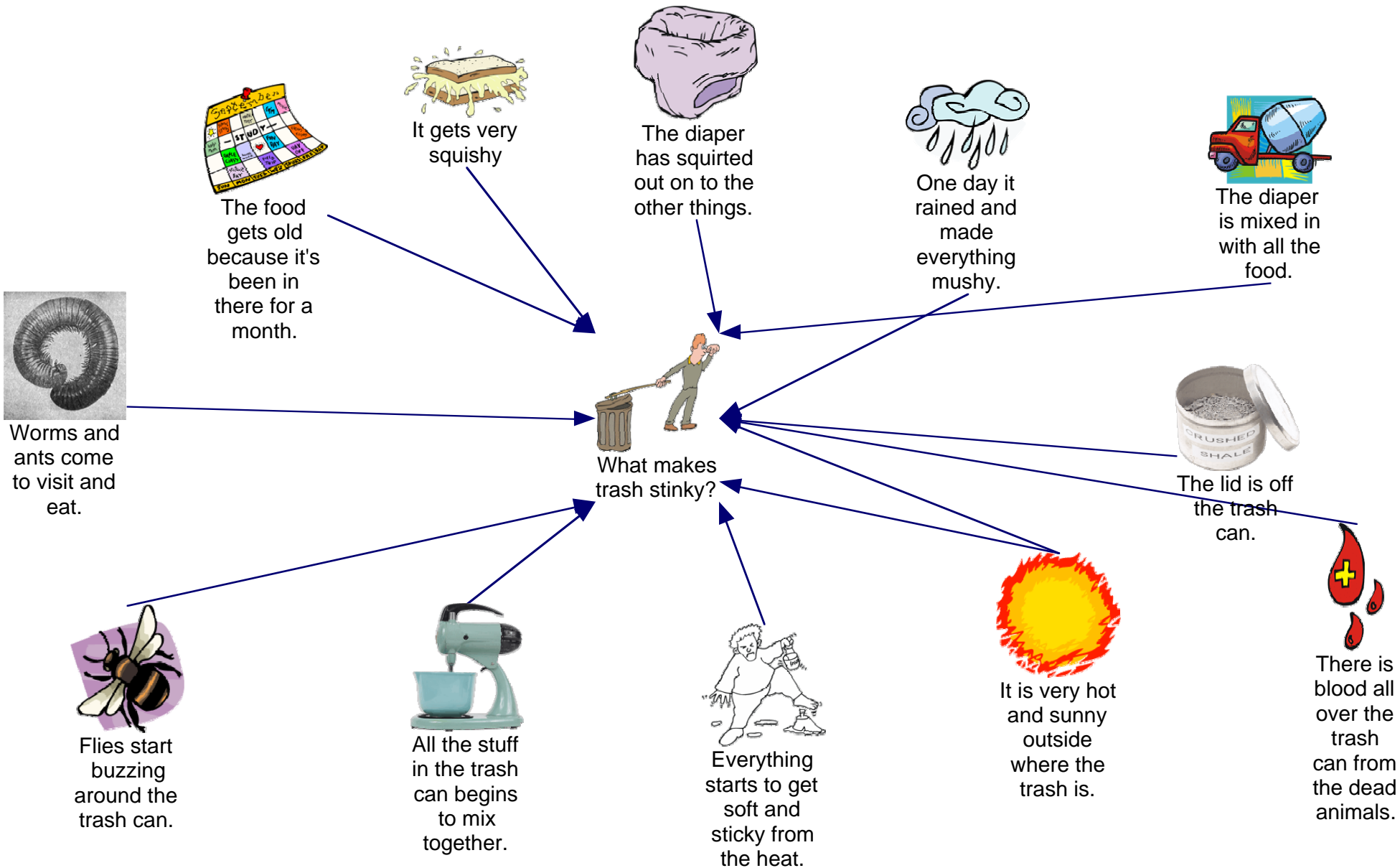
She saw a squirrel visiting the trash can. The squirrel said to Lila, “I want to get away from this trashcan because it smells like throw up!”

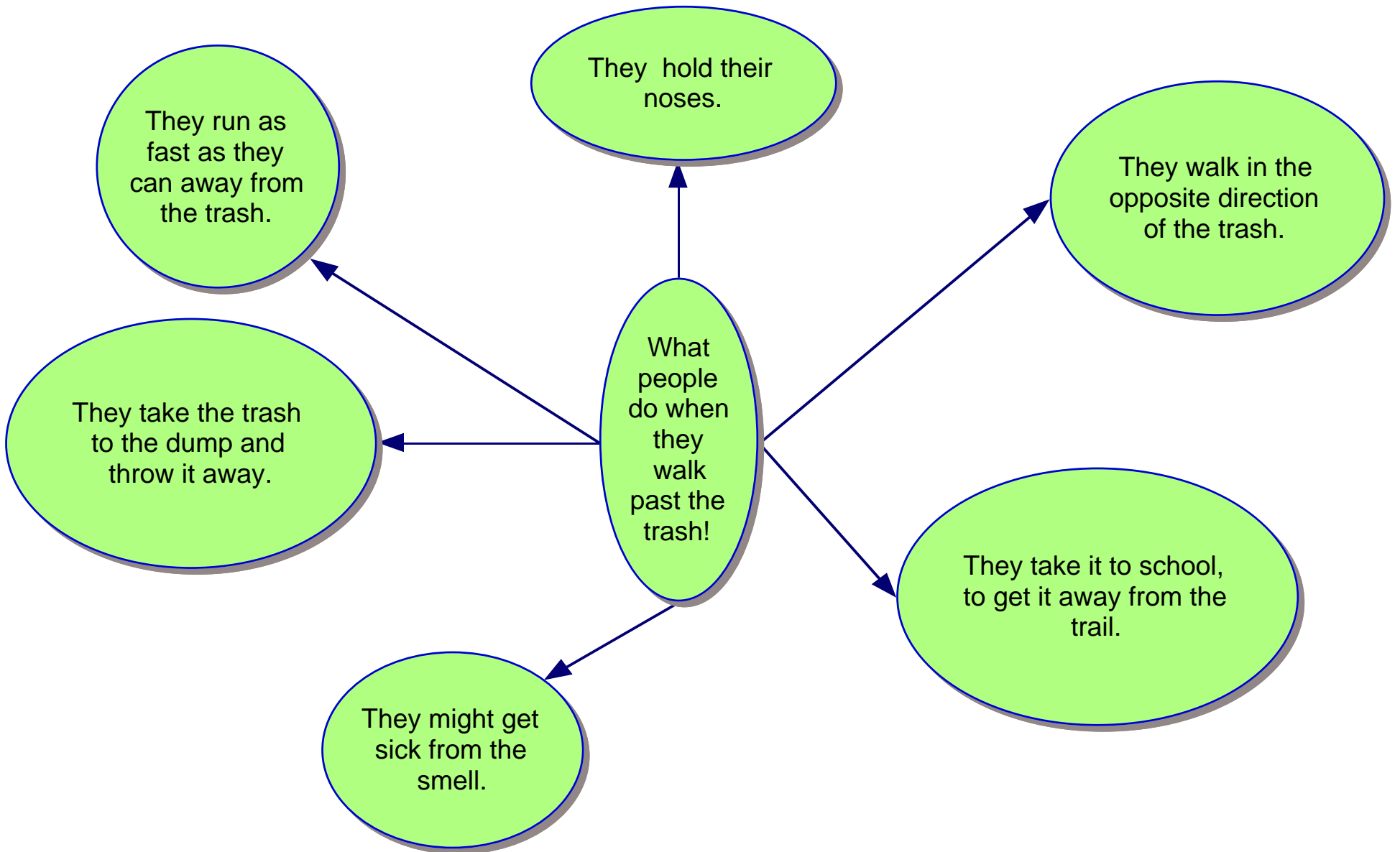
“Why haven’t they picked this trash up yet?” Lila continued by saying, “The trash smells really old and moldy.”

Ashley popped out from behind the trash can and reminded Lila that it had been very hot and sunny outside where the trash was, and that was probably why it started to really stink.

Daniel ran by, holding his nose, and he shouted, “It rained too! The trash got mushy, and it mixed together with the moist rain. Then it squirted out, so the worms and ants started feasting on it. The flies started buzzing when the sun came out.”

Lila just couldn’t take smelling the trash anymore, so she said to Daniel and Ashley, “Let’s get out of here!” They ran as fast as they could back to school.





They run as fast as they can away from the trash.

They hold their noses.

They walk in the opposite direction of the trash.

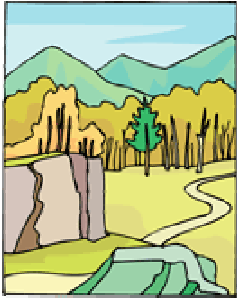
They take the trash to the dump and throw it away.

What people do when they walk past the trash!

They take it to school, to get it away from the trail.

They might get sick from the smell.

Where is this trash?



On a hiking trail



that goes to a junkyard.



1000 foot tall hiking trail to the junkyard



yellow sandy trail



on the trail there were dead grass and other plants



a little squirrel was visiting the trash



in the month of April



3:30pm in the afternoon