



Dear Jax,  
 I get worried about pollution. Why don't grown-ups just fix it?  
 Larry Branch  
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Beakman or Jax  
 P.O. Box 30177  
 Kansas City, MO 64112  
 Questions, name & address

Dear Larry,  
 I think it's safe to say everyone on the planet Earth cares about the health of the planet. Grown-ups usually do work to do the right thing. But there is a lot of arguing over what the right thing is. And people can get greedy about that. One idea is to do what *you* can do. Just you. And the easiest thing to do to protect the planet is to just buy less stuff – a simple idea that you can do yourself.

Jax Place  
 Jax Place



# Let Them Off The Hook

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper - crayons  
**WHAT TO DO:** Instead of waiting for the grown-ups to take care of things, get involved yourself. Use your crayons to design a certificate for your parents. Draw a nice border around the edge of the paper and then write *You Are Off The Hook* in the center. Underneath that

write a few sentences that say: *Larry Branch is working to save the planet and is excusing you from buying me stuff for the holidays. Make me something instead.* Give it to your parents. Now I know that is asking a lot. But you're the one who was looking to fix pollution on the

planet. And less stuff bought equals less pollution. If that's too much for you to do, ask for *less stuff* on your certificate. See, doing the right thing can be really hard. For the next 2 weeks, our comic is going to tell you things you can make for your parents as their gifts.

P.S. from Beakman: This whole idea is about how hard it is to think of something besides ourselves. That's why cleaning up the planet is hard. It's also why you might not let your family off the holiday gift hook.