

Be an Energy Sheriff

by Bruce Watson Illustrated by Janise Gates

You can become the energy sheriff of your house by checking to see where energy is wasted. The ideas listed here will help you to conserve natural gas, electricity, gasoline, and heating oil. How many good energy habits does your family already practice?

A Cover pots while cooking on stove — Save heat lost in steam.

B Use copper-bottom pots and pans — Copper heats faster than other metals.

C Let leftovers cool before refrigerating — The refrigerator must work hard to cool hot foods.

D Take short showers (5 minutes) — Long showers waste hot water. Install water-saving shower heads.

E Know what you want from the refrigerator before you open the door — Leaving the door open makes the refrigerator work harder to cool.

F Use compact fluorescent bulbs — Fluorescent bulbs use less electricity.

G Let the car engine idle at lights — Revving the engine wastes gasoline.

H Drive 55 miles per hour maximum — This speed results in better gas mileage.

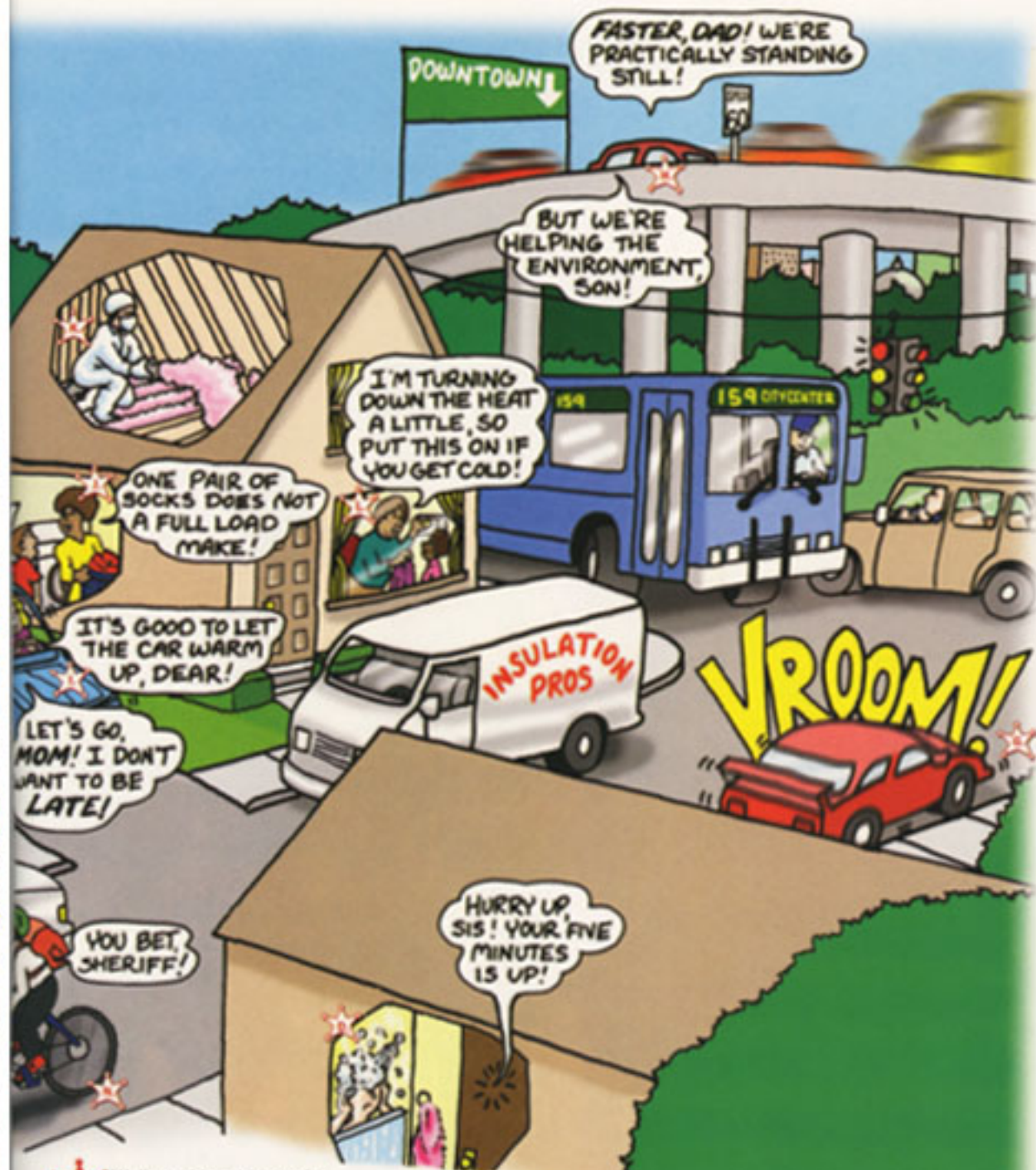
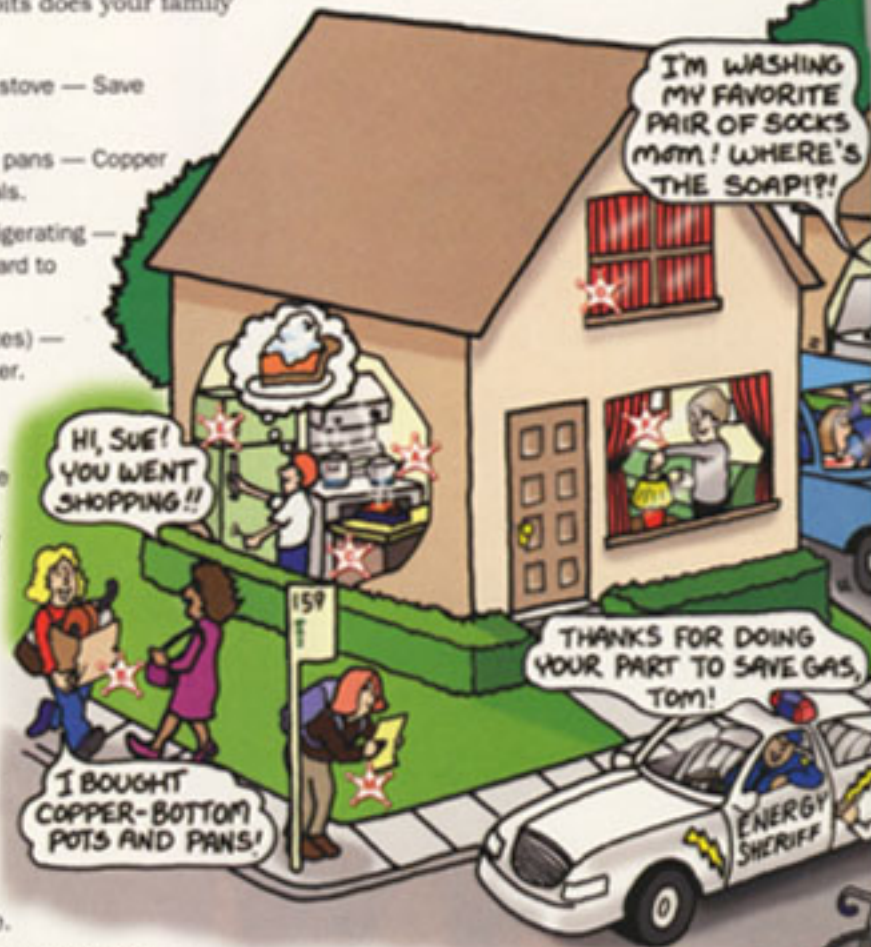
I Let the car warm up 1 minute before driving — A warm engine uses less gas.

J Wash/dry full loads of clothes, not a partial — A full load uses no more energy than a half load.

K Insulate house with storm windows and doors, foam in attic and walls — Insulation cuts heating costs.

L Heat house to 68°F maximum and turn heat down at night (50°F to 60°F). Put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat — Lower temperature saves energy and heating costs.

M Take public transportation whenever possible — Buses and trains use less gas per passenger-mile than cars.



N Walk or ride a bicycle for short trips — Your feet use no gasoline.

O Close curtains or blinds during winter — Keep heat from leaving through windows.