

Target audience:

- Kids 4-8 y.o. (the material can be used autonomously by the target audience or with the support of "teacher, parents and other informal educators)
- Teachers and informal educators can use this material with kids.
- Kids reading the fairy tale to peers

Educational Objectives:

- To raise awareness on the bioeconomy and the bio-based products through storytelling
- To convey the concept of circularity and reuse

Fairy tale - The apple's dream

A long time ago, in a peaceful orchard in the green hills of Trentino, a little apple named Melania was born. From her earliest days, she had a dream, she had a dream that set her apart from her peers – a longing to explore distant lands and see the world beyond.

Her fellow apples laughed at her when she talked about faraway and wonderful places she would visit. "Silly Melania!" they said. "We are apples! Destined for tasty snacks, delicious cakes, healthy juices, or yummy jams. Can't you just ripen like the rest of us?"

But Melania remained undeterred, lost in her own reveries while her companions basked in the warmth of the summer sun.

As harvest time approached, the apples were gathered into fragrant heaps on wooden counters for sale. Melania found herself purchased by a family in Rome and embarked on a thrilling journey, gazing out of windows as they traversed Bologna, the Apennines, and Florence before reaching the bustling capital.

The next day, there was a festive atmosphere, and Melania's new owner, the mother, gently cradled her and proposed: "Would you like to be the star of Andrea's birthday cake?" Melania's heart leapt with joy, she liked the idea of her pulp becoming a fragrant cake to celebrate the child's 5th birthday. It was a wonderful party, and everyone praised the sweet treat!

During the party, Andrea's sisters, Francesca and Chiara, took the apple seeds and ran to plant them in the garden: "You will become a beautiful tree that will give us delicious apples every year to remember our vacation in Trentino!"

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Meanwhile, the mom set aside both the core and the peel of the apple to be collected with the organic waste. "Hold on!" said the children's father. "The peel is for me!"

While the core decomposed into compost, enriching the soil to nurture new growth, the father had grander plans for the peel. An enthusiast of technology and sustainability, he envisioned transforming waste into valuable resources through bioeconomy.

In his laboratory, he approached Melania with an intriguing proposition: "Would you like to become apple leather, an eco-friendly material used for shoes, sofas, and handbags?" "Yes!" she exclaimed eagerly, anticipating a thrilling new adventure.

And so began Melania's remarkable journey! Crafted into a magnificent backpack by a skilled artisan, the apple leather accessory found its way into the hands of Claudia, a globetrotting enthusiast. Together, they embarked on adventures across Europe, the United States, and even the Amazon rainforest! Claudia proudly showcased her eco-friendly backpack, earning admiration for its softness and durability wherever she went.

Years later, Claudia decided to visit Trentino and stopped in the same valley where the apple had grown. Melania couldn't contain her excitement! She would meet the tree she had grown on again and tell everyone about her adventures around the world!

And so, while Claudia was asleep reading a book in the shade of the big tree, Melania recounted her travels to the other apples, who began to sway on the branches, shouting, "Long live circular bioeconomy! We too aspire to become new products and explore the world!"

And so, Melania continued her travels with Claudia. Wherever they went, the apple leather backpack attracted attention and awe. It was more than just an accessory; it was a symbol of courage and determination.

Melania's story serves as a poignant reminder that dreams know no bounds, and with unwavering belief, even the most improbable aspirations can be realized. In embracing sustainability, waste can be transformed into invaluable resources, fostering a brighter future for our planet.

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