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## **The Golden Coupon**

Actor notes: wait until audience is quiet. Speak loudly and slowly. Have fun!

- Scene 1: polar bears lost their home
- Scene 2: adventure for search for home begins
- Scene 3: Meet Earth
- Scene 4: Meet Mr. Carbon
- Scene 5: Meet Mother Nature
- Scene 6: Golden Coupons Book revealed
- Scene 7: Coupons found
- Scene 8: Entire book captured from Mr. Carbon
- Scene 9: Polar bears finally find their home

### **Characters:**

- Mama Polar Bear (maternal)
- Koda, Baby Polar Bear (lively, lovable, star of the show)
- Earth (matter-of-fact, a little annoyed)
- Mother Nature (tranquil)
- Mr./Ms. Carbon (loud and brash)

### **Plot: (just think polar bears meet Wizard of Oz)**

Polar bears have lost their home. It's disappeared due to global warming. On their search for home, they run into Earth and learn about global warming and carbon dioxide.

Mr. Carbon is the antagonist causing all the trouble.

On their search for home, bears meet Mother Nature. She tells them they need to find the "golden coupon book" in order to find their home.

Bears start searching for golden coupon book. They find three, but it's not enough.

Mr. Carbon has stolen the book and plans to keep it away from the bears, but the mama bear eventually wins the book.

The bears are hopeful and leave to go home!

**Props:**

- 1 CFL
- 1 Incandescent lightbulb
- 1 disposable water bottle
- 1 reuseable water bottle
- 3-4 grey or dark blankets/strips of blanket
- 3 "coupons" printed for kids to read
- 1 coupon book

Note: Two word plays: "Barry Potter" for Harry Potter; "Aberican Idol" for American Idol.

Thanks for your contributions—they make a difference. Have FUN!

**Music Cue: Cheerful**

*(Mama Polar Bear enter stage right.)*

**MPB:** Oh, what a great day for hunting! Now I'm ready to go home and take a break. *(Calls off-stage)* Koda, come out of the water now honey! We need to go home and take a break from swimming. Koda, come on now! Time to go home.

**Music Cue: Kid playful**

*(Koda enters stage right, excitedly)*

**KODA:** Ok, mom! Here I am. I can't wait to get home and cuddle up on my ice bed! Would you read me a bedtime story when we get home?

**MPB:** Sure, honey. Let's go.

**Music Cue: Cheerful while they swim-MUSIC stops when they can't find their home**

*Bears **swim** to go home—but they can't find home. Mother Bear stops and **gestures** "where is it?" It seems to be gone.*

**KODA:** Mama, when will we be home?

**Music Cue: very light, cheerful...as above.**

*Swimming*

**MPB:** Soon, honey. Just follow me.

**Music Cue: very light, cheerful...as above.**

*Swimming*

**Koda:** I'm getting tired, Mama. Are we there yet?

**Music Cue: a bit less cheerful, more tired**

*Swimming*

**MPB:** Not yet. Please stop asking me that question. It's odd. The ice we have always landed on isn't here.

**Music Cue: a bit less cheerful, more tired**  
*Swimming*

**Koda:** Mama, is there a problem? When will we be home?

**Music Cue: a bit less cheerful, more tired**  
*Swimming*

**MPB:** I'm not sure honey. Our habitat seems to be gone.

**Music Cue: more tired, sad**  
*Swimming*

**Koda:** (*sad*) Gone? But what about my bed? and my books? and my iPod?

**MPB:** (*worried*) Honey, I don't know what's happened. The ice we used as our home and our resting place is no longer here. We can't swim forever. We'd better see if we can find someone to help us.

**Music Cue: a bit less cheerful, more tired**  
*Bears start Swimming. Earth enters stage right. Bears see Earth and go to her.*

*(Earth enters stage right, with one blanket on,)*

**Earth:** Hi there bears. What's happening?

**MPB:** We can't seem to find our home. It's like it disappeared.

**KODA:** Yeah, and I was planning on watching **Abearian Idol** tonight on TV. And now my TV is gone.

**MPB:** We need to find our ice. Earth, can't you make some more ice for us?

**Earth:** (*a bit annoyed*) Oh, I'm so sorry. I want to make more ice for you, but I'm having a pretty big problem myself. You see, I have this

new type of fever—it's called a global warming fever and it's causing climate change.

**KODA:** Can't you just take some aspirin and make it better?

**Earth:** I wish! No, this global warming fever is more complicated than that. You see, I'm having a hard time sending some of my heat out into space. Instead, too much heat is getting trapped in my atmosphere and I'm getting too hot. My temperature's already gone up by 1 degree.

**Koda:** Boy, I really don't like having a fever. I'm sorry for you, Earth.

**MPB:** But, Earth, if you're too hot that means you can't make enough ice for us.

**Earth:** That's right. And it's all happening because of a scoundrel by the name of Mr. Carbon.

*Music cue: Mr. Carbon: menacing*

*Carbon enters, carrying blankets. All characters look frightened*

**Mr. Carbon:** (*Loud and brash*) Hello, I'm Mr. Carbon. I like to make the Earth hot! (*drapes blankets over Earth*).

*Carbon exits.*

**MPB:** Now he did not seem very well-behaved.

**KODA:** Mama, he scares me! Where does he come from?

**Earth:** (*a bit annoyed*) Carbon Dioxide, or Mr. Carbon as we call him, is created when humans drive cars and make electricity for things like lights and computers. When humans create too much carbon dioxide, then it makes my atmosphere so thick the heat is trapped. I start to overheat.

**Koda:** (*Sad*) I don't think I understand about "amotshperes" and "carbon dioxide".

**Earth:** (go slow on explaining this) Here, Koda. Listen to me. I have lots of coal, oil and natural gas in my ground, and they all have carbon dioxide inside of them. Humans burn these things to make electricity, heat their homes and drive their cars. The problem is that by burning them, they release huge amounts of carbon into the air. The carbon acts like a big blanket and traps my heat on me. Got it?

**Koda:** Kind of. I just know I want to go home.

*Music Cue: Mother Nature: lovely, peaceful*

*Enter Mother Nature. Bears approach Mother Nature.*

**MPB:** Excuse me ma'am. We're looking for our home. Would you be able to help us?

**MN:** (*Cheerful*) I can certainly try. I am Mother Nature so I should be able to help!

**KODA:** (*hopeful*) That would be totally cool! Some guy called Mr. Carbon seems to have taken our house.

*Music Cue: Mr. Carbon: menacing*  
*Carbon enters*

**Carbon:** (loud) WHOA! Don't blame me, little guy. It's not like I show up uninvited. Every time humans burn a coal and gas, they make more of me. I guess they like me!

**Koda:** Is that true? The humans like him?

**Carbon:** Yeah, they like me. The US is only a small percentage of total human population, but it's responsible for 25% of all carbon emissions. Go USA. Go USA!

*Carbon exits.*

**MN:** (Calm) Wait, wait.. The humans around the world are just starting to realize that when the Earth has a global warming fever, it means all of

nature is ill. It means the seas are rising, and it means drought in some areas, and heat waves in others. The humans now know this and they will start to take action.

**KODA:** And it means our home is gone. (very sad)

**MN:** Now, now Koda, don't be sad. I have a solution. Go and find the "golden coupon book."

*Music Cue: Mysterious, Wonderous*

**MPB:** Golden coupon book? What's that?

**MN:** The book has information that tells the humans how they can stop creating that scoundrel, Mr. Carbon, and start cooling the Earth. If you find **all** the coupons and find the golden book, your home will start to come back to you and all of nature will rejoice!

**KODA:** Oh boy!!! Let's go find those coupons! Boys and girls will you help me?

*Music Cue: The hunt...happy, hopeful  
...bears search while MN and Earth urge them on.*

**KODA:** Oh, here's one! Mama, what does it say?

**MPB:** Maybe one of the children can come help us read it.

*(Choose child)*

**Child:** It says the humans should change all the lights at their houses to twisty light bulbs.

*Child exits*

**MN:** That's a great idea! Boys and girls, Raise your hand if you have seen one of these before (*Hold up CFL bulb*). These are a new kind of light bulbs are they are called Compact Fluorescent Light. Sometimes we just call them "twisty bulbs". They use much, much, much, much less electricity than these (*hold up regular bulb*) old-fashioned bulbs.

**Earth:** And by using so much less electricity, that means we make less carbon.

**MPB:** Boys and girls, will you ask your parents to change to these new lights that make a lot less carbon?

*Kids say yes.*

*Mother Nature take a blanket off Earth*

**Carbon** enters: Oh c'mon. Leave all the lights on. Don't change to these new ones. I don't like this at all.

**KODA:** But I do like it. Let's see if we can find another!

*Music Cue: The hunt...happy, hopeful*

*Bears go "hunting" for coupons*

**MPB:** Here's one!!! Can someone help us read this?

**Child:** (*with a reusable water bottle and a single-use one*) Use a re-usable water bottle like this (*hold up bottle*). Stop using these that you use once and recycle (*show bottle*).

**MN:** That would save so much carbon. The single use bottles are such a waste. And so much carbon is created to make and ship the bottle. I give you fresh water right from your tap! You could bring a reusable bottle to all your sporting activities and you could even pack one in your lunch.

**Koda:** did someone say "Lunch?" I'm starting to get hungry!



**Earth:** That's two golden coupons. I'm starting to feel a little better. Keep looking Koda.

*Music Cue: The hunt...happy, hopeful*  
*Bears continue to swim to look for coupon.*

**Koda:** Where is one? Where is one? Oh, here's another! Who will help me read this?

**Child:** Talk to your parents about walking, biking or carpooling to school. Taking a bus is also a great option.

**Earth:** Now that would make a big difference. I can't believe how many kids are driven to school. That means burning so much gas. Carpooling or using your bike or scooter would save lots of carbon from my atmosphere.

*MUSIC CUE: Wicked Witch on bicycle*

*(Mr. Carbon jumps out stage left and pretends to drive a car around stage, looking mean and goofy.*

**Carbon:** Forget about all that. Ask your parents to drive everywhere.

*Carbon Exit.*

**Earth:** Oh, if the humans would follow all the things in the golden coupon book, I think I could start getting rid of my global warming fever and you could start getting your ice back.

**Koda:** yippee. Let's keep looking.

Enter **Carbon:** Ha! You've found a few coupons, but you'll never find the whole golden coupon book. Because I have it and you'll never get it from me! (holds up coupon book) Ha!

*Music: The Chase*

*Music: Joy! (when they capture the book)*

*Carbon tries to run off, but **MPB** chases him. Make this scene long...chase should be slow and take several circles around stage (maybe even into audience). **Earth, MN** and **Koda** (and hopefully kids) cheer on Mama.*

*Eventually Mama gets coupon book from Carbon. Everyone celebrates!*

**MPB:** Oh, look at all these things the humans can do to stop global warming and help get our ice back.

**KODA:** Kids, would you help me out by bringing this golden book home and talking to your parents about it? (hopefully kids will say “yeah”) There is also a cool new app called Koda Quest that you can play on your smartphone or tablet. Here’s a postcard that tells you all about it. When you play this game, it helps me! (holds up postcard)

**Carbon:** You can’t get rid of me!!!!

**All:** OH YES WE CAN!! Right kids?!

*(Hopefully kids yell RIGHT!, and Mr Carbon exits sulking, head hung low)*

**Koda:** Thanks, guys. \_\_\_\_\_(school name) kids are the best.

**MPB:** OK, now Koda, tell the kids it’s time to go home.

**Koda:** Bye everyone. Make sure to find me in the App store or on Google play! I’m going home!

*Bears exit. **Music.***

*All return for a bow.*

## **ASSEMBLY OPENING REMARKS (feel free to expand/edit/customize for your audience)**

Hello. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and am pleased to be bringing a program to our school called Cool the Earth. Cool the Earth is a program that teaches us about global warming and things we can do to help fix this problem. First let me ask how many of you have heard of global warming?

Good. Well, as a reminder, one of the reasons global warming is occurring is because too much of the sun's heat gets trapped in the earth's atmosphere—making the earth hotter than it should be. The assembly we're about to see will explain how that's happening.

But before we get started I want to show you the quiet signal (hold up hand with signal). When you see this signal, it's important that you be quiet. Now, on with the show.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Today you will all go home with a coupon book that has lots of different ways you can help polar bear and help cool the earth. When you and your family take one of the actions on the coupon, fill it out, bring it back to school on \_\_\_\_\_ and you'll get one of these trading cards. There are nine different cards to collect, plus some prize cards mixed in, and when you collect all nine, you'll turn in this index card to be entered into a raffle. Pretty cool huh?

We're also sending you home with a postcard about a new app called Koda Quest that you just heard about. If you have a smartphone or tablet at home you can download it for free. Just be sure to ask your parents.

Also, you'll see a big banner on campus (show if you have it) that will help us track how many energy-saving actions we're taking. I bet, our \_\_\_\_\_ community of families can really make a difference in cooling the earth and helping out polar bear. What do you think kids?