Think About It: What Does Your Trash Say?

• Describe the objects you found. (Be descriptive, like: “broken plastic spoon,” “half-eaten apple,” or “week-old receipt.”)

• What were the different categories or kinds of items you found in the trash?

• What was the most common item in the trash?

• Can you tell how many people live in the house by looking at the trash? How?

• Does the trash tell you anything about the ages of the people living in the house?

• What kinds of food do they eat?

• Do they have any pets? What kind of pets?

• What’s the oldest thing in the trash? What’s the newest?

• Can you tell when the trash was last taken out? How can you tell?

• Can you tell who used and threw out each piece of trash? Was it a male or a female, a child or an adult?

• What does all this information tell you about the family who disposed of this trash?