Today you will hear about the journey of a water drop named Willy. Water drops don't really have names; Willy is a make believe character; he cannot actually feel things. His travels are similar to those that real water drops take. As Willy travels from place to place, he turns into different types of water. The three basic forms of water are fresh water, salt water, and wastewater.

Fresh water is clean water that you can drink. Salt water is salty water from the ocean or sea. We cannot drink salt water. Wastewater is water that is no longer clean because it has been used by people to wash or flush away materials such as dirt and chemicals. Drinking wastewater can cause animals and humans to become very sick.



The presence of toxic wastewater is one reason why we need water treatment plants. A water treatment plant is a place that cleans dirty water. You will hear about Willy's journey to different places, including a water treatment plant, where Willy will be cleaned and made ready to continue on his travels.



Listen for the different places that Willy goes on his journey as a little drop of water.

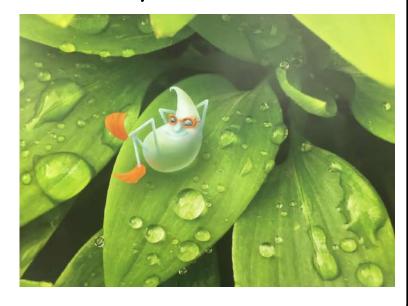
Water is one of the most important resources on Earth. No matter who you are, what you do, or where you live, you'll always need plenty of water. Luckily, I have a lot of water on my surface. Remember there is more water than land on the surface of the earth.



But I'm here to tell you that you need to help take care of the water if you want to help make sure that Earth is always a happy, healthy place to live.



Water is such an important natural resource that I decided to tell you a story about a special little drop of water that I named Willy. I found Willy a few weeks ago resting on this leaf with a bunch of other water drops.



A drop is a small, rounded amount of water. Drop also means to fall.

Yes, Willy is just one little drop of water--not much compared to all the water there is on Earth. But you should know that every single drop of water is important, especially fresh water like Willy.

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Fresh water is what you need when you're thirsty, or when you need to take a bath, or for any of the thousand other things you use water for. It's very precious, and less than one percent of the water on my surface is fresh!



Willy the Water Drop

One percent means that for every one hundred drops of water, only one drop is fresh water.

You might be surprised to learn that Willy the Water Drop is actually a very busy fellow. Like most water drops, he is always on the move. I decided to follow Willy and see what happened to him after he landed on

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Willy wasn't on the leaf for long. A breeze came along and shook the leaf, sending Willy into this winding river. I wondered what would happen to Willy when he washed through all the litter in this river. Sure enough, he picked up a little dirt and grime along the way. Willy used to be fresh water, but do you see how easily he becomes dirty?



Later, Willy the Water Drop passed a big factory. People produce many different things in factories. Unfortunately, almost all factories produce wastewater. Wastewater is water that is no longer clean because it has been used by people to wash or flush materials such as dirt and chemicals.



Whatever they're making inside the factory--whether they're mixing paint, or making ink, or mopping the floors at the end of the day--people are using water. That dirty water needs to go somewhere when they're done with it.



Wastewater is the dirty water that comes out of factories like this one. But it doesn't go to the landfill like the trash from your kitchen. Instead, it goes down the drain and sometimes ends up back in a river or other body of water.



What do you think is coming out of this pipe?

Willy went past this wastewater pipe on the other side of the factory. Trust me, you don't even want to know what was coming out of this pipe. This pipe, and many others like it, can pollute the fresh water supply.



Supply means the amount of something available for use. The fresh water supply is the amount of fresh water available to all the creatures on Earth.

What's the water supply? That's pretty much the whole point of this story.
Willy the Water Drop is part of the fresh water supply--or at least he was when he first started out on the leaf.



You, and all the creatures and plants on Earth, depend on the fresh water supply. There's plenty for everyone as long as everyone is careful not to use too much or pollute it.



One morning in the river, Willy passed through a trout's gills.
Remember how you learned that polluted air is bad for your lungs? Well, polluted water is bad for a fish's gills, too. When the fish swam by, Willy the Water Drop passed right through



Any pollutants, or dirty harmful things, that Willy picked up when he passed the litter or wastewater pipe could have been left inside this fish. That's not good for the fish!



Many cities get their water from reservoirs. And this is exactly where Willy the Water Drip ended up after a week or so in the river. A reservoir is a place made by people to collect and store water. Reservoirs are created by building a dam, like the one in this picture, across a river. By damming the river, people are able to make a big lake.



After Willy the Water Drop floated around in the reservoir for a few days, he went down a pipe and into this water treatment plant. This is like a big bathtub, on'ly here they are actually cleaning water instead of using water to clean something



After Willy sat in this treatment plant for a while, and the people were sure that he didn't have any more pollutants or other dirty stuff in him, he was ready to go through the pipes to someone's home.



Once he left the treatment plant, Willy went into another pipe, and then another and another, until finally he ended up flowing out of someone's bathroom faucet. A boy was washing his hands before dinner. That's a good thing, because there were all sorts of germs on that boy's hands.



This is why Willy likes being a water drop: he knows he's helping boys and girls grow up to be healthy and clean.



Where is Willy going now?

Willy the Water Drop was happy to have helped the boy get ready for dinner, but then it was straight down the drain for Willy! He went down the sink drain and into the drainpipe.



Do you think that was the end of Willy the Water Drop? Is that the last we'll ever see of him?

Actually, the answer is no. Willy will be back again. Right now, he could be in a wastewater pipe, or floating around in a reservoir. However, there's really no telling exactly where he'll end up.



Hopefully, Willy will go through another water treatment plant so they can clean off all the dirt and pollution before he is washed out of a big pipe like this and into another river.



Once he's back in the river, Willy. could flow to another reservoir. He could flow to the ocean. Maybe a bird will drink him! Or, maybe Willy will wind up in a sunny spot like this. The heat from the sun will make him evaporate, turning him into water vapor.

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Instead of being a water drop, he'll be part of the air for a while. He'll float up into the sky, and there he could become part of a cloud.

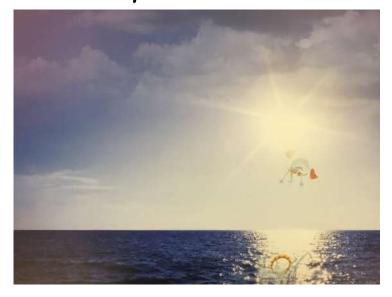
You heard it right! Clouds are actually fluffy bundles of tiny little water droplets up in the sky.

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The water in clouds was once part of a river or lake or stream on the surface of the earth.

Once he becomes part of the clouds again, Willy the Water Drop will float across the sky until, one morning...



It will rain, and there you'll find Willy sitting on a leaf waiting to start his journey all over again. Perhaps he'll end up in a bathtub or swimming pool near you!



Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLease answer in complete sentences.

Which important resource did Good Old Earth tell you about in this read aloud?

Comprehension Questions:

PLease answer in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

What is the difference between fresh, salt and wastewater?



Comprehension Questions:

PLease answer in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

Where does wastewater come from?

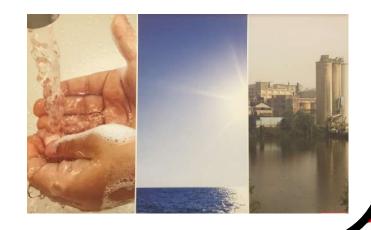


Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Why are water treatment plants important?

PLEASE ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.



Comprehension Questions:

PLease answer in complete sentences.

Why is it important to have clean water drops like Willy?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal

COMPLETE SENTENCES.

please answer in

What are clouds made out of?



Think. Pair. Share.







I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

Think Pair. Share.



Evaluative:





Do you think what happens in this read aloud could really happen? Or is it pretend or fantasy?

Word Work

Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

In the read aloud you heard, "This pipe, and many others like it, can pollute the fresh water **supply**."

Say the word **supply** with me.
Whisper supply to the ceiling.
Whisper supply to your neighbor.
Let's clap it out.

Supply means the amount of something that is available to use.

Before the storm, we got a supply of food and water to keep at home.

Tell about something that you have a supply of at home or at school. Try to use the word supply when you tell about it.

"We have a supply of ____ at home/school for..."

What's the word we have been talking

about?

Let's clap it out.

If any of the things I describe are examples of a supply of certain items or materials, say, "I hat is a supply." If the things I say are not examples of a supply of items, say, "That is not a supply."

Everyone brings in a box of tissues at the beginning of the school year.

My dad got me a big box of pencils to last me the whole school year.

We bring in our own snacks each day.

We had hamburgers for dinner last night.

The water in the reservoir is enough for the whole town.