

# Willy the Water Drop

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.

# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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



# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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 the leaf.



# Willy the Water Drop

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?





# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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 its gills.



# Willy the Water Drop

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!



# Willy the Water Drop

Many cities get their water from reservoirs. And this is exactly where Willy the Water Drop 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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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, only here they are actually cleaning water instead of using water to clean something else.



# Willy the Water Drop

*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.*



# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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



# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.



# Willy the Water Drop

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.





# Willy the Water Drop

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...



# Willy the Water Drop

*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!*



# Willy the Water Drop

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

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



# Willy the Water Drop

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What is the difference  
between fresh, salt and  
wastewater?



# Willy the Water Drop

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

Where does wastewater  
come from?

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.



# Willy the Water Drop

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

Why are water treatment plants important?

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.





# Willy the Water Drop

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

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

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.



# Willy the Water Drop

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

What are clouds made out of?

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.



# 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*

# Willy the Water Drop

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.



## Willy the Water Drop

**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.

# Willy the Water Drop

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...”

Willy the Water Drop

What's the word we have been talking  
about?

Let's clap it out.



## Willy the Water Drop

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

## Willy the Water Drop

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

## Willy the Water Drop

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



## *Willy the Water Drop*

*We bring in our own snacks each day.*

## Willy the Water Drop

We had hamburgers for dinner last  
night.

## Willy the Water Drop

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