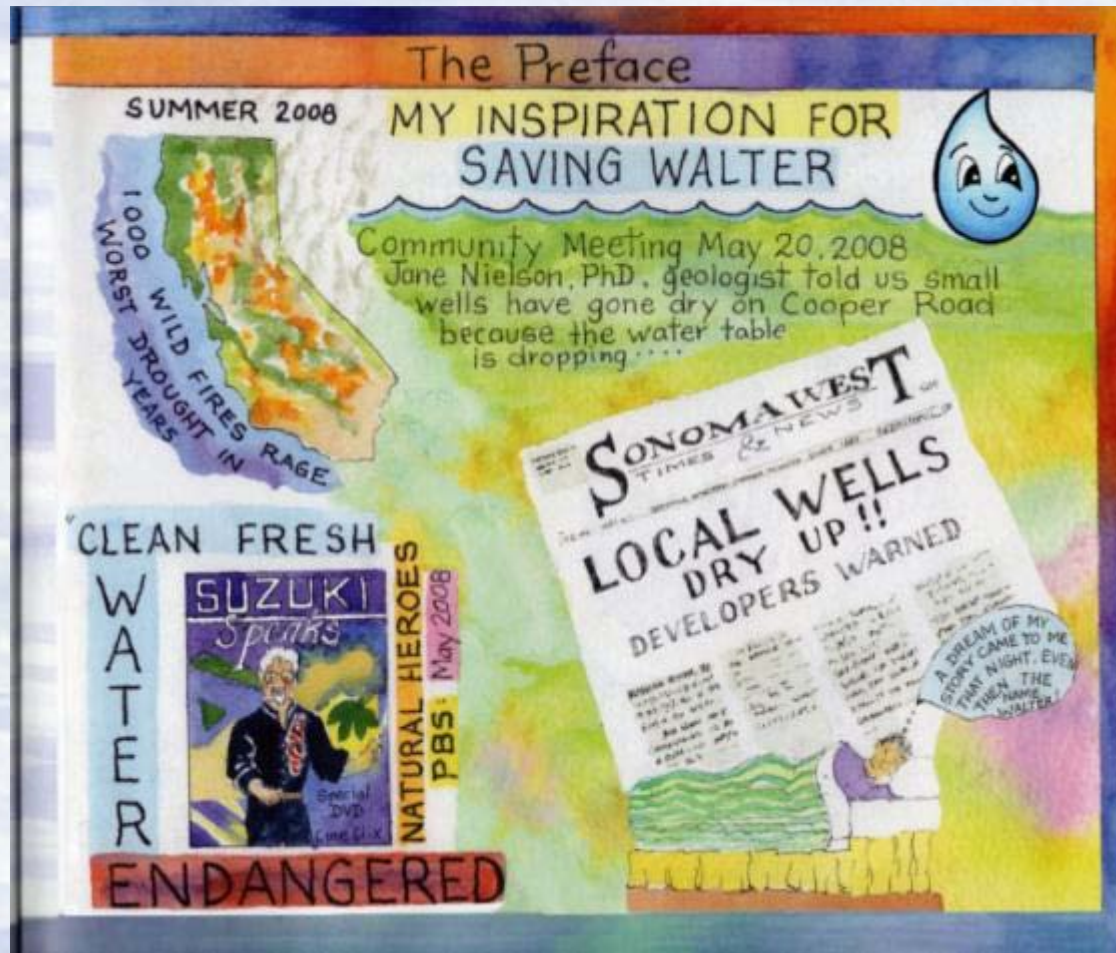


"Every Drop Counts"

Written and Illustrated by
Paula Cumming Pearce

Using the book '**Saving Walter**' as a
tool to inspire our children to
conserve water.

My Inspiration



The Beginning

The Beginning of Walter

Once upon a time, during a rainy and windy storm, two raindrops clung to a branch side by side.

A big gust of wind made them bump together and they became one extra large raindrop. Heavier now, they splashed down to the branch below.

When they hit, they broke apart into three drops...

and the little one came to be known as Walter.



Here is Walter!



As you can see, he's a happy little raindrop made from the freshest water in the world!


Awareness

There is no new water on Earth

Only 3 percent of water is freshwater

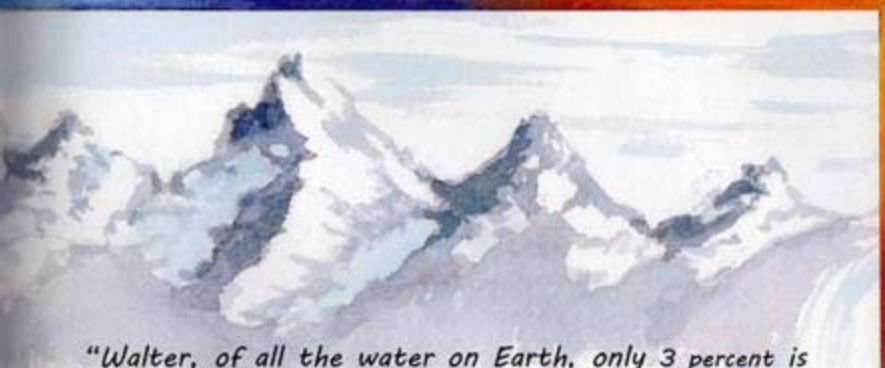
Two-thirds of that are frozen in glacier, so not available to us

Every living thing on Earth needs water to live



"Walter, I know that being a raindrop is new to you. The most important thing I can tell you about our history is that there is no new water on Earth."

All the water on Earth today is the same water that was on Earth when it first cooled as a new planet," explained Walter's mom.



"Walter, of all the water on Earth, only 3 percent is freshwater in nature, and about two-thirds of that freshwater is frozen in glaciers."



"Wow Mom, really?"

"Yes son, it's true."

Walter, we water drops are extremely important because every living thing on Earth needs water to live."

Worried Walter



But now Walter was worried!



He overheard his parents' serious talk of how the water supply is getting low. There just isn't enough.

Appreciating Water

Walter just had to ask, "But Mom, what do you mean the water supply is getting low?"

"That means the amount of water in many regions is less available because there is not enough rain and snow.



We call this condition a drought," said Walter's mom.



"And, Walter," said his father, "Some people think our water supply is unlimited. They use as much water as they want, and they waste a lot, too!"

They take us water drops for granted!" said Walter's dad.



"If people waste a lot of water and there is no new water, how come we don't run out of water altogether?" asked Walter.

"Water recycles itself constantly. Come with me, Walter, I'll show you! We'll start with evaporation."

Evaporation

"Evaporation is when liquid water changes into water vapor which is just tiny bits of water in the air."

"So Dad, how do we evaporate?"

"Son, we have to get into a shallow puddle of water where the sunshine is very warm.

The heat from the sun will give us enough energy to evaporate."

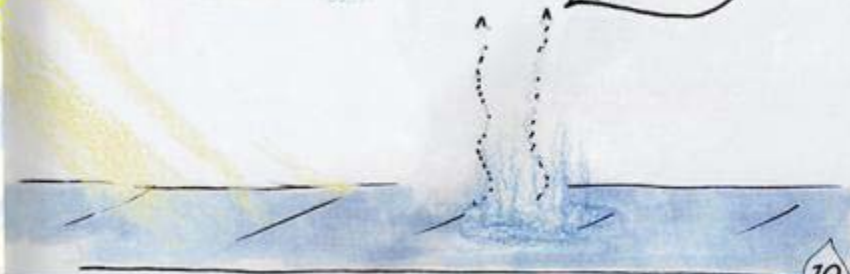


"Will it hurt?" asked Walter.



"No, not at all. It's really fun floating all the way up to the clouds! Are you ready, Walter?"

Here we go!"



The Water Cycle

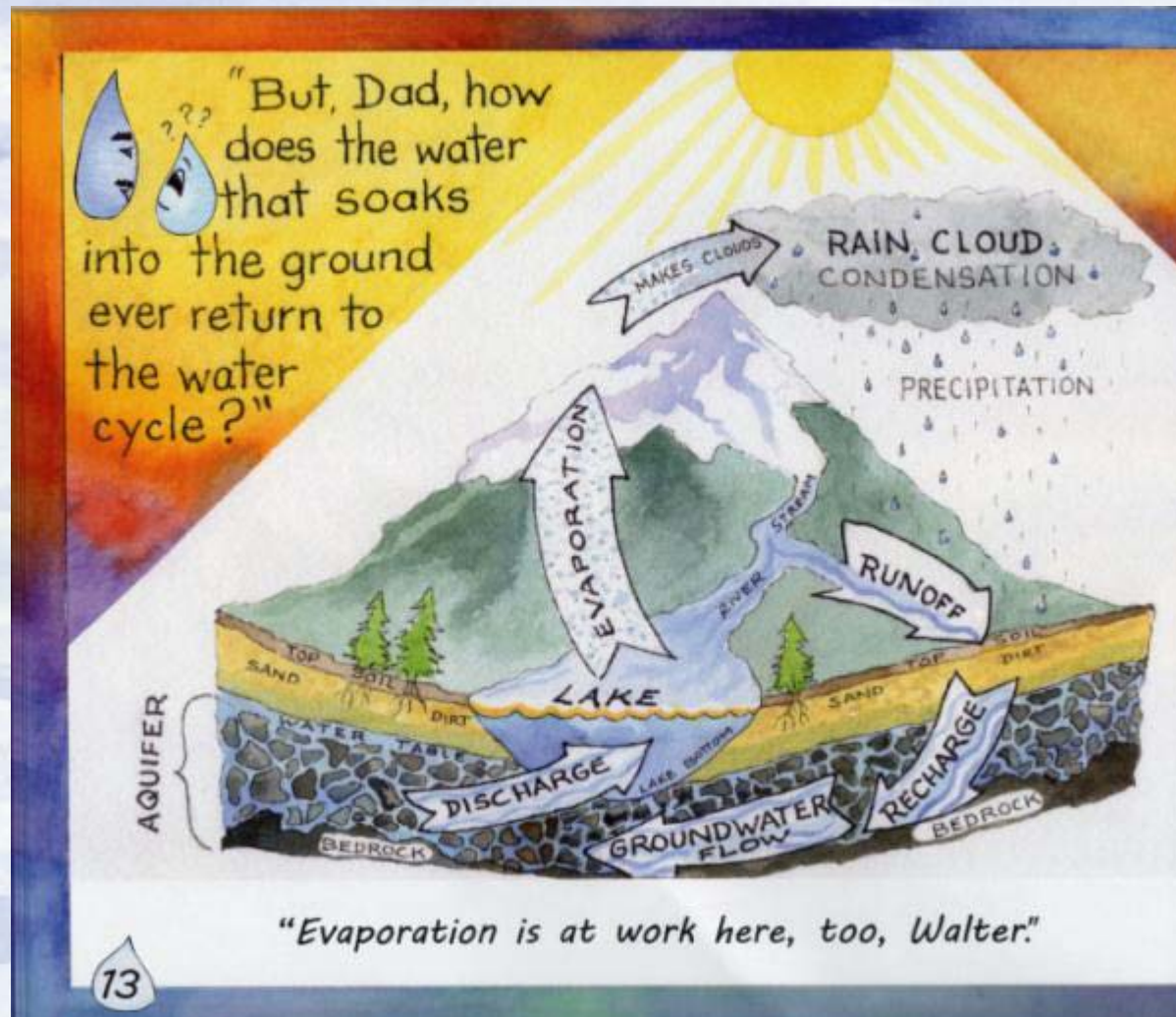
Stand Up !

Go Seek

Good Job !



Groundwater Recycles



What about Ocean Water?



"Dad, why can't people use the ocean water?
There is a lot of it."

"Well son, here's
Uncle Salty from the ocean
to tell you himself."



"Hi Walter! I am too salty to be used
for drinking, bathing,
or for watering
most crops."

All sea life, however, thrives in me."

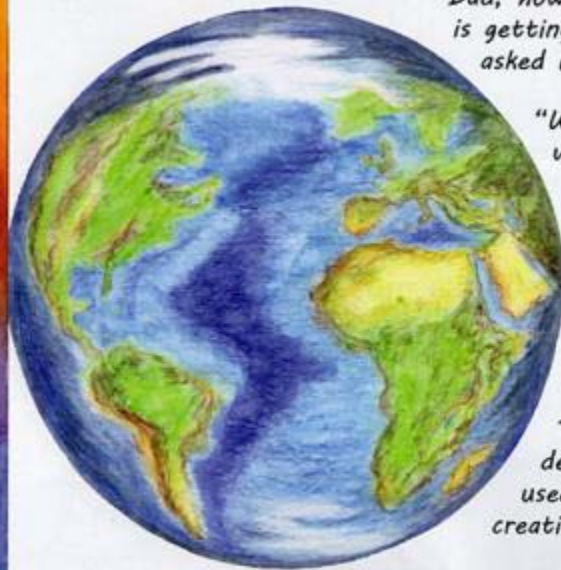


"Ocean water is salty.
People need usable water, not salt water."

Increased Demand

Wells are going dry in some regions

We need to understand ground water and wells



"Dad, how do you know water is getting low?" asked Walter.

"Well, people are using water faster than it can be replaced by the water cycle.

There are millions more people on Earth now than ever before.

This increased demand for useable water is creating a shortage.

In some places wells are going dry!"

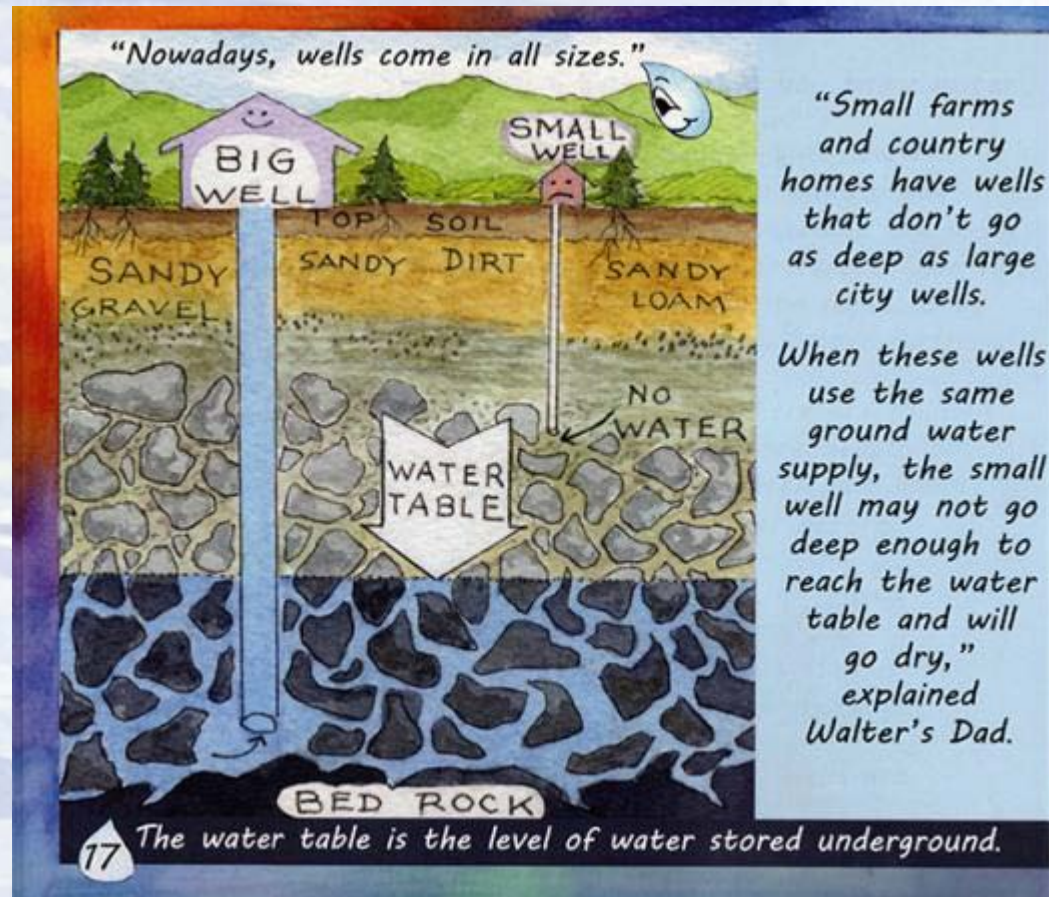
"What's a well, Dad?"

"A well is a deep hole reaching all the way down to the ground water. The ground water is found in the spaces between rock and gravel, deep underground.

A long time ago, wells looked like this," explained Walter's father.



Water Beneath Our Feet



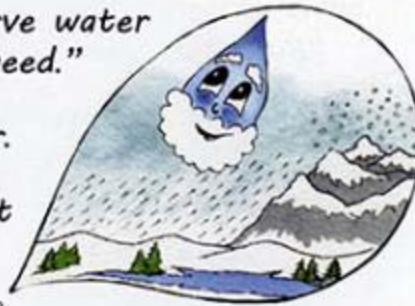
Conservation

"Gee, Dad, what can people do about not having enough usable water?"

"They must learn to conserve water by using only what they need."

"But how?" asked Walter.

"We need to ask your great granddrop, Pops. He lives up in the clouds."



He will know how people can conserve our precious water supply."

Critical Thinking About a Finite Resource

Before long, through evaporation, Walter and his father found themselves in a dark rain cloud that was very damp and cold!

"But Dad, where's Pops?"

"Here I am, over here," said Pops.



"What brings you two way up here?"

"Well, Pops, we need your advice. The water that people use is getting low. What can people do about this?"

"This is a very serious problem. In fact, I've been watching people waste water for a long time now."

Just then they heard a voice from a nearby cloud.

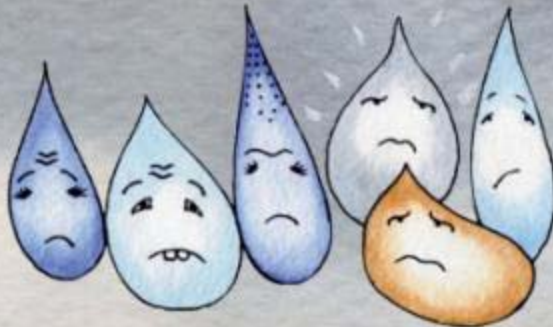
"Hey, Pops," called his neighbor, Drip. "We're having a meeting about conserving water and we'd like you to join us."



"Great, because we were just talking about conserving water and Walter has a lot to learn!"

Unhappy Water Drops

On the other cloud they saw a whole group of water drops and they looked very unhappy !



Drip announced, "We are all here to share our stories of how we were carelessly wasted!"



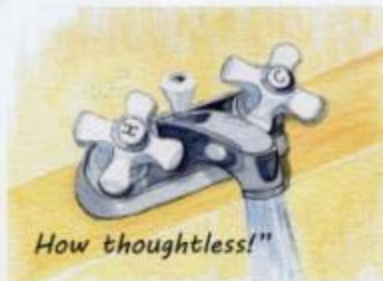
"I'd like to start off by saying, I was one of those annoying drips that people listen to in the quiet of the night.

I was a faucet drip. Lots of good water is lost this way.

I could have been saved if people just turned the faucet all the way off or fixed the leak!"

Flo and Gush

"My sister Flo complains that people also waste water when they brush their teeth and let the water run while they brush.



How thoughtless!"



"Hi, I'm Gush.

The same thing happened to me! I was sent down the shower drain before I could do any good at all!

People waste huge amounts of COLD water while waiting for the HOT water to reach the shower."



A Solution : A Bucket



"I can help with that!
My name is Buckey.

Some people make sure that they
have low flow shower heads that
save a lot of water.



Some people use a large
bucket in the shower to
collect that
COLD water.

I am the water saved in a
bucket to be used
in other ways."

"Like what other ways?"
asked Walter.

"I can be used for:
washing or rinsing,
watering plants or
trees,
filling bird baths,
flower vases,
pet water bowls...

and that's just to
mention a few ways,"
boasted Buckey.



Colly and the Sink Bucket

Pops explains to Walter
how a bucket and colander in the sink
saves water too!

Next, a shy water drop came forward.
"I'm Colly," she said.

"I was poured
through a
colander and
destined for
the drain.

But my hero,
Buckey,
saved me."



"What's a colander?" whispered Walter.

"It's a bowl with lots of holes to allow water to
pour through," explained Pops.

"How did Buckey save Colly?" asked Walter.



"A bucket was placed
under the colander to
catch and save that
clean water.

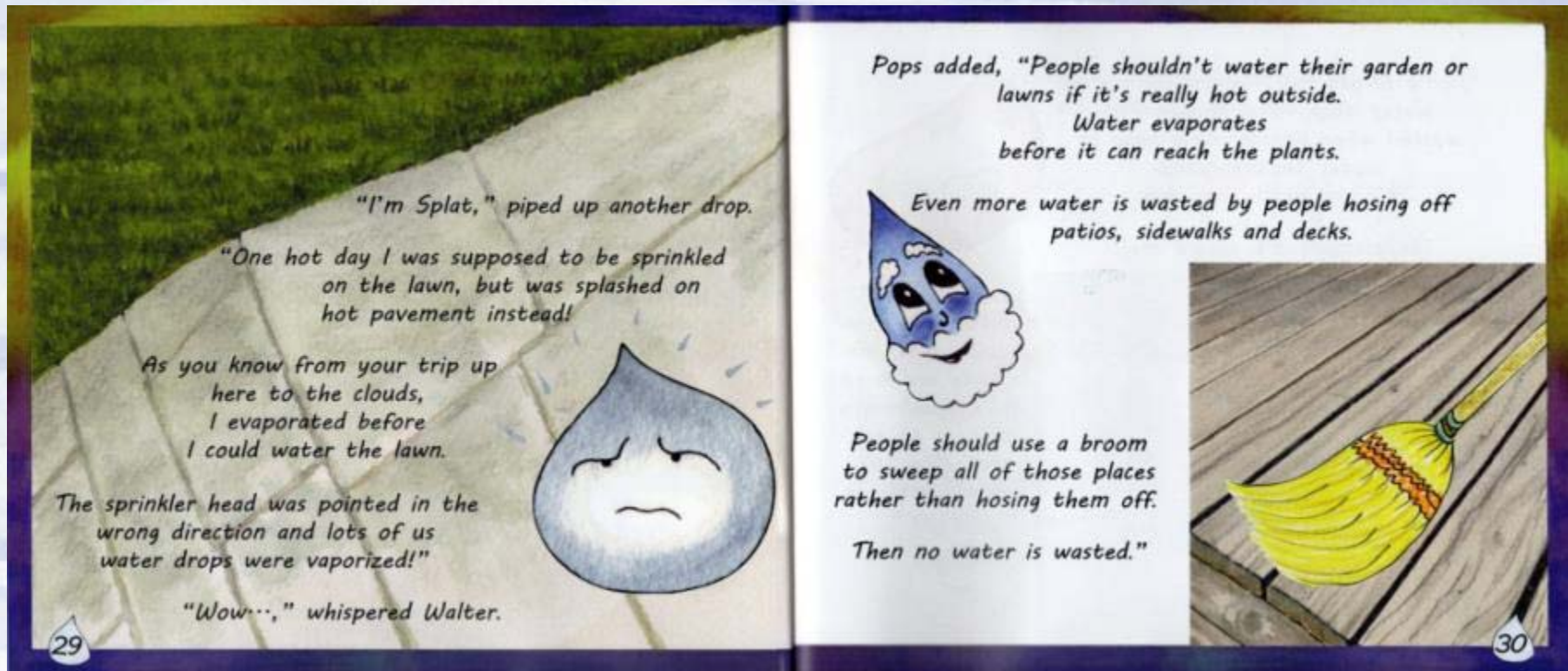
People should always keep
a small bucket in their
kitchen sinks," said Pops.

Conserving Water Outdoors

Sprinklers waste water when misdirected, and that water evaporates when it hits hot pavement instead of plants.

More water is wasted by hosing off decks and sidewalks.

Watering the garden when it is hot wastes water too.



Being a Water-Wise Gardener

Water runs off and gets muddy
when you use a hose to water.

It's better to use drip irrigation so plants get watered gradually.

"Don't forget me!" grumbled a gruff water drop. "I'm Muddy. I'm wasted when people use a hose to water their gardens. It's too much, too fast.

The plants can't absorb me!



It's better to use a drip irrigation system to get water to the roots a little at a time."

"Better yet, people should use plants that are water-wise," said Pops.

"What do you mean water-wise plants, Pops?" asked Walter.

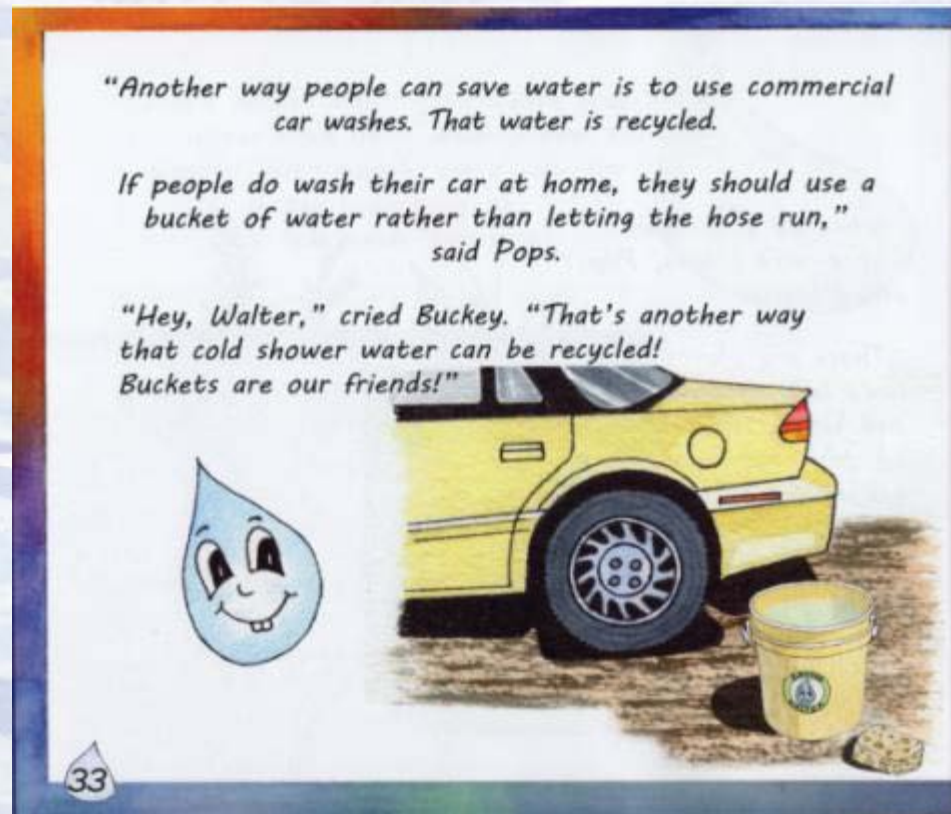
"Those are plants that need less water to grow and thrive. The best thing to do is ask a plant expert for a list.



Also, if you grow a garden or have a yard, cover bare soil with dried leaves or bark chips to prevent unwanted evaporation," said Pops.

Car Washing

To wash your car at home, use the Bucket with some of your saved water.



Urgent Global Problem

Then Pops said, "We've all shared how we water drops have been wasted indoors and out.

Most of all, people must know that water is an essential ingredient for all life on Earth.

It is one of our most precious natural resources and it is limited.

This is an urgent global problem that requires each person to make every drop count for today and for the future!"



Walter's Mission

To help people conserve
water everywhere!

Just then, the cloud shook and the thunder roared. A sudden rainstorm carried them all back to Earth again.



Walter returned truly happy as he vowed to make it his mission to help people conserve water everywhere.

This is just the beginning of



*To make your own
Saving Walter bucket label, just
copy, cut out and laminate the
logo above or on the next page.*

*To attach label to bucket, cover
with clear packing tape. Ask an
adult to help as needed.*

For more information and ideas for saving water,
see Walter's website: www.savingwalter.com

Good Advice to Remember

- ◆ **From Walter:** "Don't take us water drops for granted... pay attention and think before you waste water!"
- ◆ **From Drip:** "If you turn off all the water in your house, then go look at your water meter, you can test for leaks. If the meter numbers have not stopped, then you have a plumbing leak!"
- ◆ **From Fix:** "When soaping up in the shower, turn OFF the tap. You'll save a lot of water and you'll still be clean once you rinse off."
- ◆ **From Gush:** "Did you know you can buy a water heater that gives you instant hot water for your shower? Then you won't waste all that cold water."
- ◆ **From Buckey:** "If you don't have an instant water heater, then be sure and keep a bucket to save all that cold shower water. Put it to use watering plants, washing your car or filling pet water bowls."
- ◆ **From Colly:** "Another reason you should keep a small bucket near your kitchen sink is to carry out vegetable cuttings to a compost system. That will save a lot of water from running through your garbage disposal."
- ◆ **From Muddy:** "Be sure your garden irrigation system is working properly. Set timers to irrigate early in the morning or in the early evening. Avoid watering in the heat of the day."
- ◆ **From Split:** "Carefully use precious water in the garden and for landscaping. Don't let it be wasted by evaporation on pavement or by running into the street or sewer system."
- ◆ **From Pops:** "Don't put any medicine or strong chemicals like ammonia down the toilet or sink. They are terrible for a septic system and are hard to filter out at the water treatment plant."

Opportunities for Learning

Using Saving Walter in the classroom

Saving Walter is a supplemental resource book, perfect for reading in the classroom.



Our website has lots of lesson plans to bring home the water-saving message of Saving Walter. <http://www.savingwalter.com>

An Ongoing Mission for Me



WEBSITE

Translations
for Global Use

Events

Activities

Research