

A Drop of Water

by Gordon Morrison

Subtle monochromatic illustrations and a poetic admiration of nature capture the attention of children, as they follow the journey that a drop of water takes from a rain cloud to a small boy's finger.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever wondered where rain drops go?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what this boy is looking at?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *A Drop of Water*

- meadow: grassy area
- brook: small freshwater stream
- drifting: to be carried along by the flow of water or air
- soars: to fly or rise high in the air
- flows: to move freely in one continuous mass
- spruce: an evergreen tree of the pine family with a pyramid shape, short needles, drooping cones and soft light wood
- fir: an evergreen tree with needle-shaped leaves
- scented: a pleasant sweet smell such as that of a flower
- trickles: to flow slowly in a thin stream or in drops
- soil: the top layer of most of the Earth's land surface
- crevices: a narrow crack or opening, especially in rock
- stream: a narrow and shallow river
- tumbles: to flow, fall, or spill out over something
- echoes: the repetition of a sound caused by the reflection of sound waves from a surface
- cluster: a small group of people or things that are closely packed together
- birch: a tall slender tree with papery peeling bark
- mist: a fine spray of liquid
- ripples: a small wave or series of gentle waves across a surface
- thrush: slender-billed songbird
- catkins: a long soft group of small flowers that hangs from the branches of willows

Rare Words in *A Drop of Water*

- laurel: a tree or bush whose leaves, aroma, or berries are similar to those of the bay
- upland: land that has a high elevation
- bog: an area of wet marshy ground
- sphagnum: moss forming peat
- perch: a place for a bird to land or rest
- dam: a barrier controlling the flow of water
- bloom: to open into flower
- gnawed: chewed up
- stumps: the base of a tree trunk after the tree has fallen or been cut down
- smooth: not having a rough or uneven surface
- reflects: to redirect something that strikes a surface, especially light, usually back toward its point of origin
- seeping: to pass through an opening very slowly and in small quantities
- babbles: the low continuous murmuring or bubbling sound made by water as it flows along
- bobs: to bounce up and down quickly and repeatedly
- shallow: not deep
- lowland: land that is relatively flatter than adjacent land
- swamp: an area of land that is always wet and is overgrown with various shrubs and trees
- thicket: a dense growth of small trees or bushes
- roosts: when a bird goes somewhere to rest or sleep
- cavity: a hole or hollow space in something
- dabbling: to paddle, play, or splash in water
- chatter: rapid short high-pitched sounds made by a bird
- chirping: a short high-pitched sound, especially as made by a bird
- bulrush: a plant with leaves like grass that grows in wet conditions
- perfect: without errors or flaws
- lilies: a perennial plant that grows from a bulb
- float: to move or rest on the surface of a liquid without sinking
- meanders: to follow an indirect route, especially one with a series of twists and turns
- crouching: to squat down on the balls of the feet with knees bent and body hunched over

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How did the boy's finger get wet?
- Where did the rain come from?
- What bird flew over the forest and mountains?
- Where did the rain go next?
- Where did the stream travel over? What animal was drinking from the stream?
- Where did the water go after leaving the pool?
- What animal was eating in the forest?
- What kept the water from rushing away? What animal built the dam?
- Where did the water go next?
- Where did the water go after the swamp?
- What animal was drinking from the farm pond?
- What happened to the water when it reached the boy?



Do

Water Sequencing

You will need: markers/crayons, scissors, glue sticks and the *Water Sequencing* sheet

After reading the story, hand out the *Water Sequencing* sheet to each child. The children will color and cutout each water square. Name each picture and help the children glue the squares in the proper sequence order.