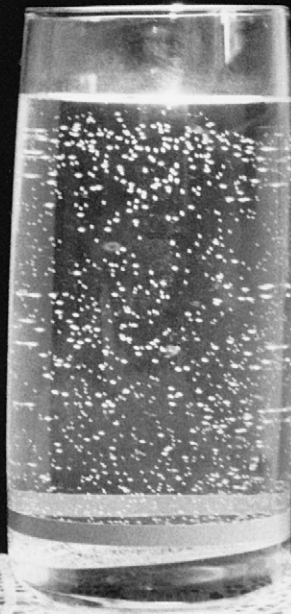


Water



Written by Jeannette McNeely
Selected Photographs by Wayne Andreason

Plop!

A tiny drop of water tickles my eyelashes
and makes me look up at the sky.

Big, dark clouds are moving in.

Plunk!

A big drop of water lands in the fish pond.

It disappears, making circles that grow
and flatten in the water.

Plunk, plop, plunk, plop, plunk!

More and more raindrops fall.

I hold my face up to feel them
before I run into the house.



From the warm room, I watch the rain fall.
Little raindrop rivers run down the windowpane
in zigzag lines.
The inside of the window gets foggy.
I write my name in the mist on the glass.
In one place, a bead of water grows.
It gets so big that it runs down through the mist
on the glass, making a trail.





I ask my dad where the rain comes from.

“Water comes in three forms,” he tells me.

I fill a glass with water and look at it.

“This is the only kind of water I’ve ever seen!” I say.

Dad smiles and shakes his head.

He fills a tea kettle and turns on the burner under it.

Then he gets an ice cube and puts it in my glass.

“I just gave you another kind of water,” he says.

I drink the water as my dad tells me more.

“The water in your glass is a liquid. That means it can’t hold its shape. It has to be kept in a jar, a glass, or anything with sides.”





“When water gets cold enough, it becomes a solid.”

Dad rubs his chin and looks at me.

I can tell he is wondering how to explain that word.

“That means the tiny water parts slow down and cling tightly together. A solid holds its shape.

It is firm to the touch. When water turns into a solid, we call it by another name.”

“Ice!” I say. I take the ice cube out of my glass and put it in my warm hand. I hold it until it melts into a puddle of water again.

“What if water gets hot?” my dad asks.

I point to the steam coming from the kettle.

He puts a tea bag in a cup and pours hot water over it.

I watch the steam moving up fast. It spreads out into the air until it disappears.





Dad sits down and sips the tea. “You can’t see water when its parts spread out in the air. But it’s still there.

Water in the air is a gas. We call it vapor.”

The rain has stopped. We look out of the window.

“When vapor cools, does it become a liquid again?” I ask.

My dad points to a cloud. I think I understand.

I go outside again.
The sun dries up the wet sidewalk.
I put out my hand to feel the vapor.
The air feels damp and warm.
“Goodbye, water vapor!” I say.



I sit in the swing and imagine wind blowing the water vapor far away until it makes a cloud that rains onto a mountain.

The rain runs into a river and into a lake.

Then I imagine some of the lake water turning to vapor again and being blown to the North Pole where it falls down as snow instead of rain.





It freezes and becomes part of an iceberg.

It waits there.

It waits and waits and waits until the sun
and the wind make it change again.

Someday, maybe, those very same
water drops will come back to me.
Will I drink them, or take a shower
in them, or play in them?



Reading

Read-along books are designed to be enjoyed together and to foster a love of reading. These books help children build comprehension skills and learn new vocabulary. It is helpful to develop these skills in any language!

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