

Drop's Travels

By Edith Preciosa Kippenhan and LaShawna Weeks

"Goodbye everybody", Drop said as she dropped to Earth. She was excited about her trip through the water cycle - there were rivers, lakes, and even oceans for her to explore!

As Drop fell, she saw where she would land - beautiful green grass. There was an abrupt shift in the wind, and SPLAT! She slammed into a window. She rolled down to the porch roof, seeing a drop covered in dirt. "Why are you SO dirty?" Drop asked. The drop said, "I rolled through a gutter and downspout. YUCK! That gutter hasn't been cleaned in years!"

Drop and her companions rolled down the roof to the driveway below. Drop saw many drops dirtier than the other drop. "Why are they so dirty?" she asked. He replied, "They rolled through an oil puddle that didn't cleaned up when a car leaked oil." "Don't people know the oil ends up in the storm drain?" she asked. "I guess not," the other drop said.

The many drops flowed into the gutter and down the street. They flowed over leaves, got stopped by a pile of grass clippings, and waited until there were enough drops to break through the pile. The many drops were muddy, grimy and gooey. They had carried grass clippings, pet poop, little branches and plastic bits into the drain with them. Drop was amazed! There was so much trash in a street gutter. This realization saddened Drop. "Don't humans know trash and oil in the storm drain goes to the river?"

There were many, many drops flowing through the storm drain now. As it got bigger, more drops joined them. Drop saw a large opening ahead. Soon she and the other drops flowed out the drainpipe and into the river below. The river was much larger than the storm drain - she had never seen so many drops all at once! Most of the drops were still muddy and yucky, and there was a lot of trash in the water. Some of the trash floated to the top (it was less dense than water), the rest drifted to the bottom (it was more dense than water). Many drops lost their layer of dirt, but others stayed covered in goo and yuck.

Soon Drop rose to the surface. The sun shone brightly on the river. Drop noticed how warm she was getting, and she was shrinking. The longer she was exposed to the sun's energy, the smaller she became. Soon she was a single molecule, no longer bound by the other drops holding her tight. She slipped into the air and up to the clouds. "Wow!" she thought, "I like my time in the clouds so much more than on Earth. It is much cleaner in the clouds!"