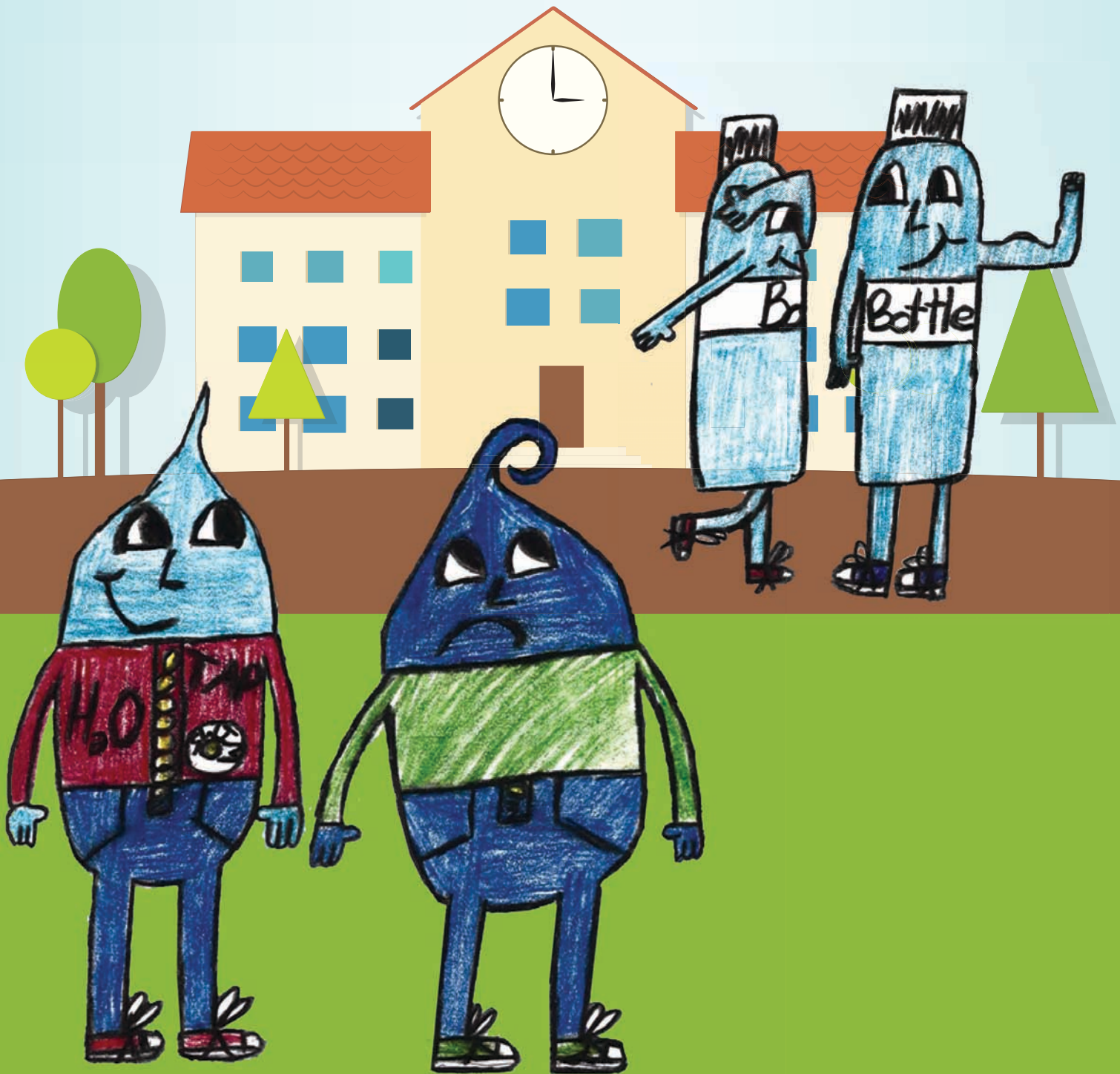
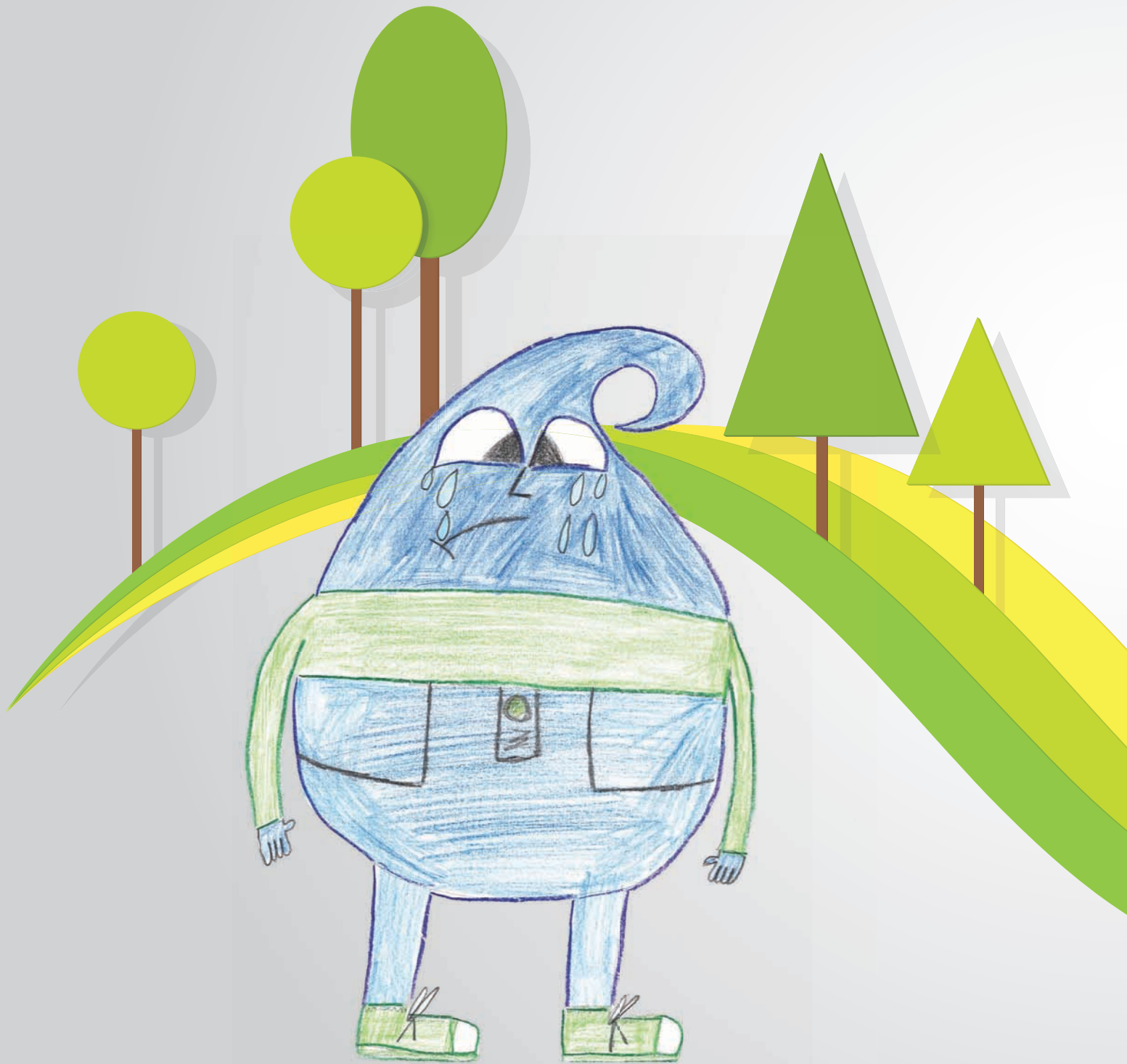


# Aguat's Adventure: *A Tale of Two Waters*

Authored and Illustrated by  
**Haven Vinyard**



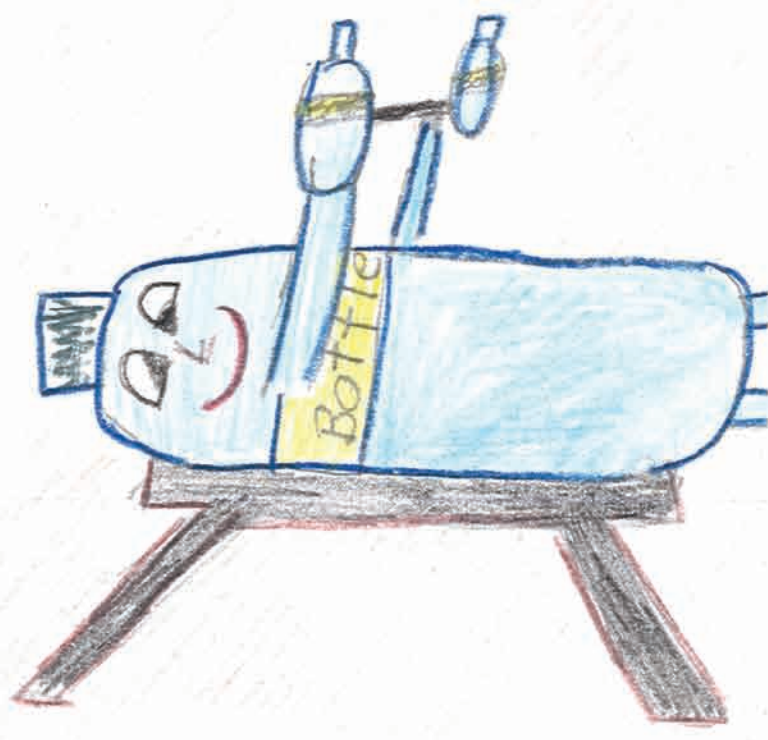
*This book is dedicated to Mom  
for her support and Dad for letting  
me use his computer and printer.  
–Haven Vinyard*



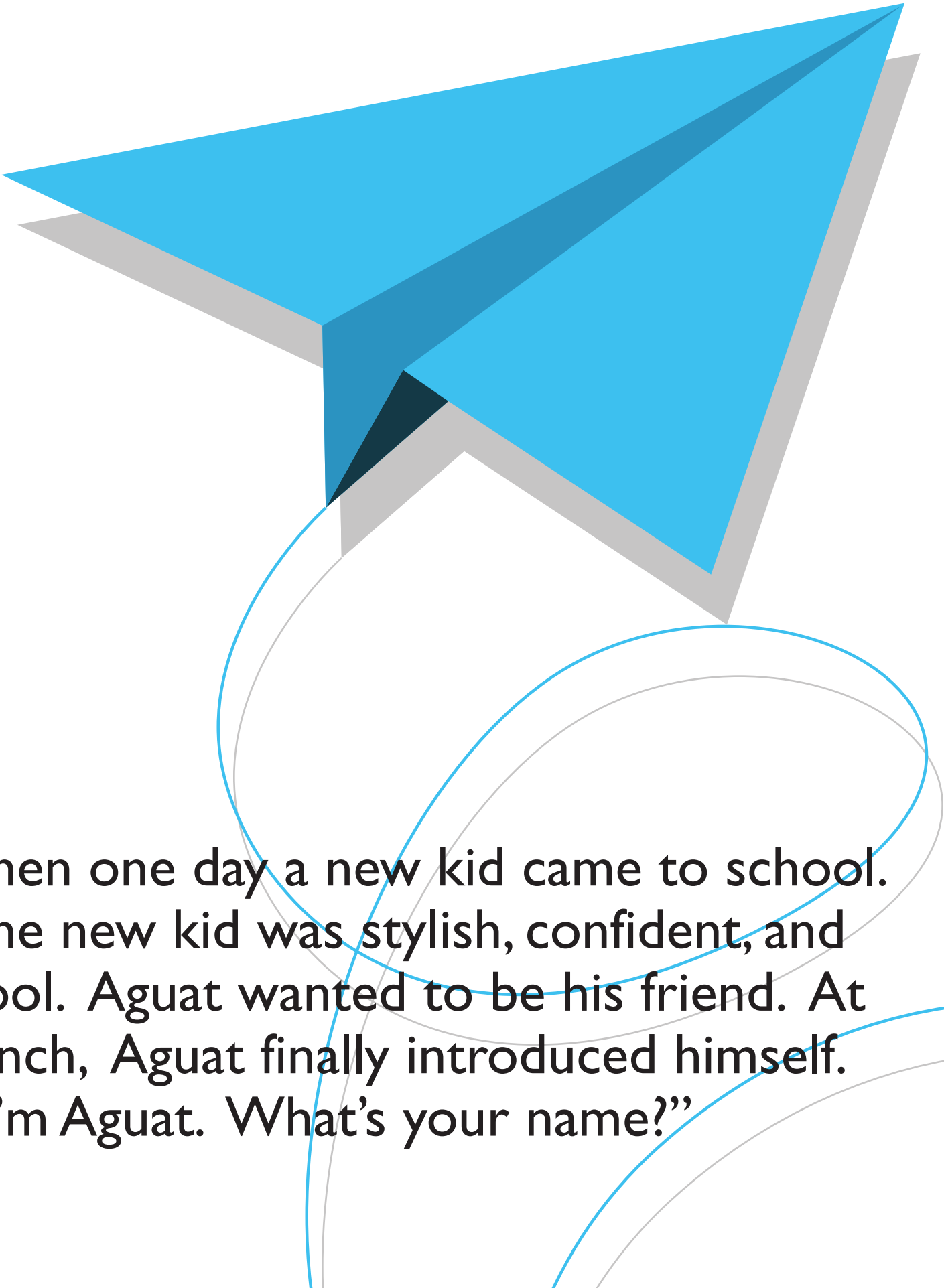


There once was a drop of tap water named Aguat. He was very unhappy with his life.





Every day, he watched others. He wanted to be like bottled waters because they were invited to parties, involved with sports, and more. Let's just say they seemed to be going places. Day after day, year after year, Aguat became sadder and sadder.



Then one day a new kid came to school. The new kid was stylish, confident, and cool. Aguat wanted to be his friend. At lunch, Aguat finally introduced himself. “I’m Aguat. What’s your name?”

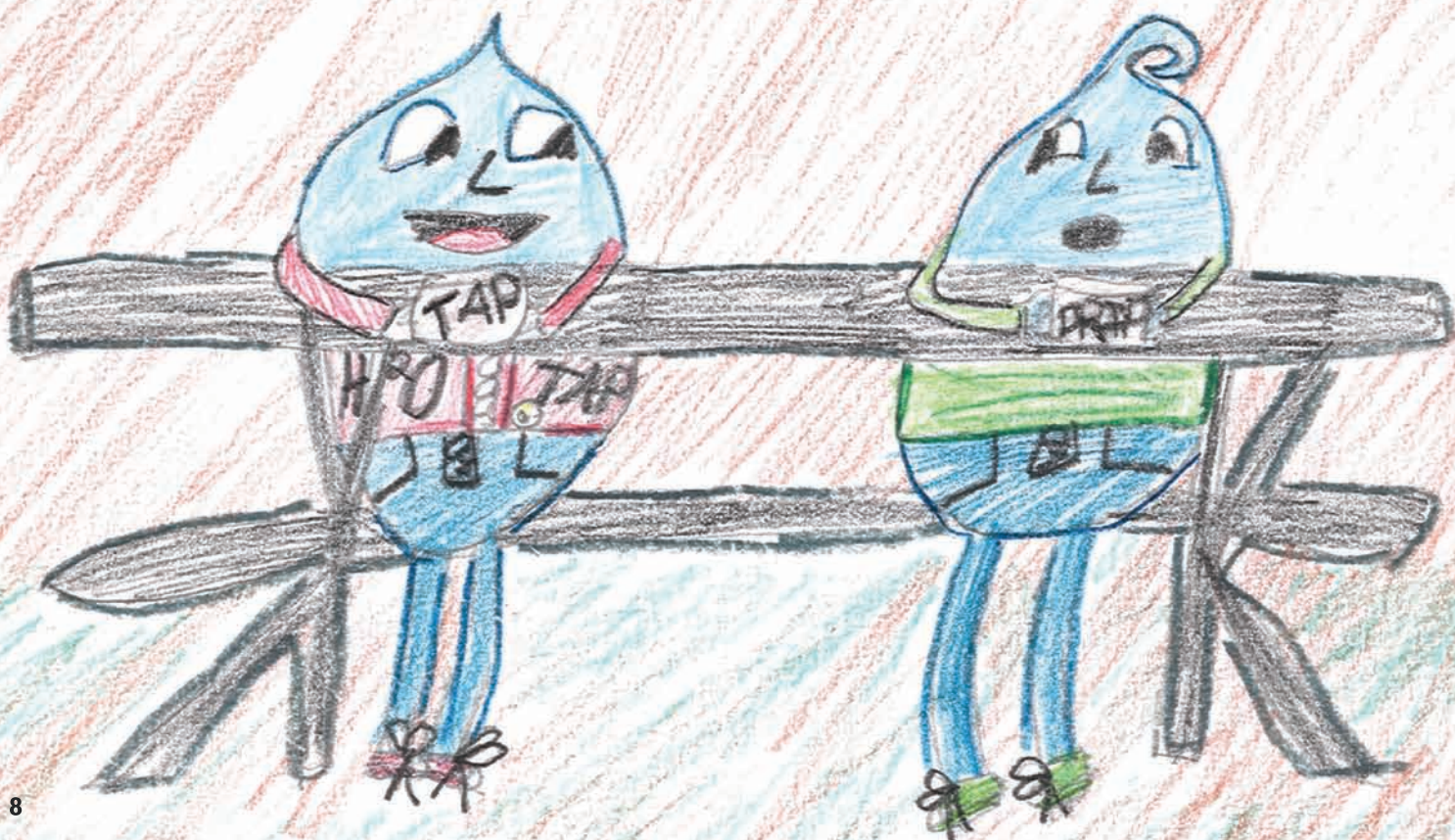


“I’m Gobi Tap Water,” the new kid answered.

“Don’t say that too loudly,”  
Aguat whispered.

“You’re from the faucet just like me, right?”  
Gobi asked. Aguat nodded and looked  
ashamed. Gobi added, “I used to be sad  
too until I really understood who I am.”

Aguat was interested but still said, “Bottled  
waters must be more important than us  
because the Food and Drug Administration  
watches them.”





Aguat listened as Gobi told him that water from the faucet is high quality.

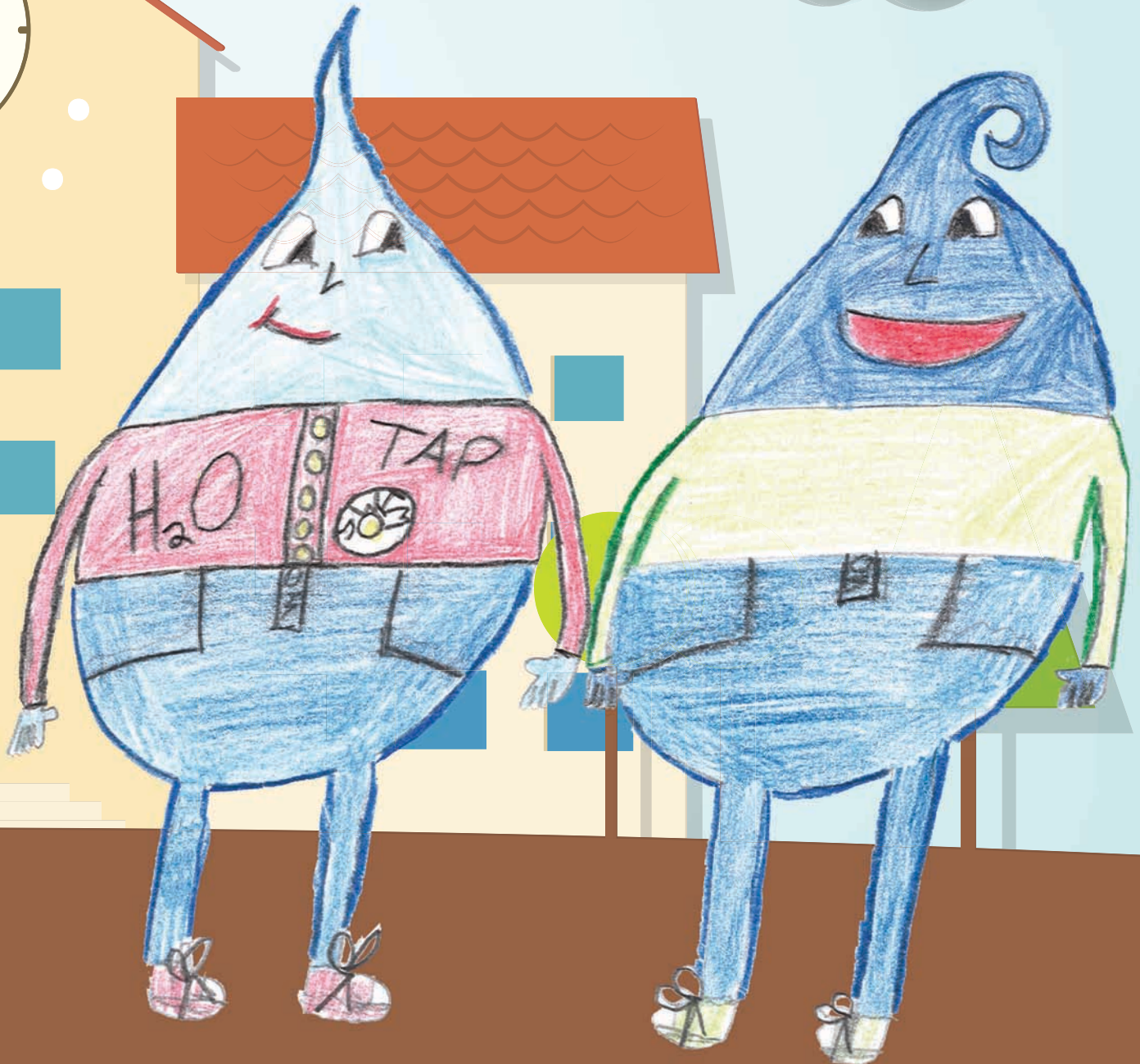
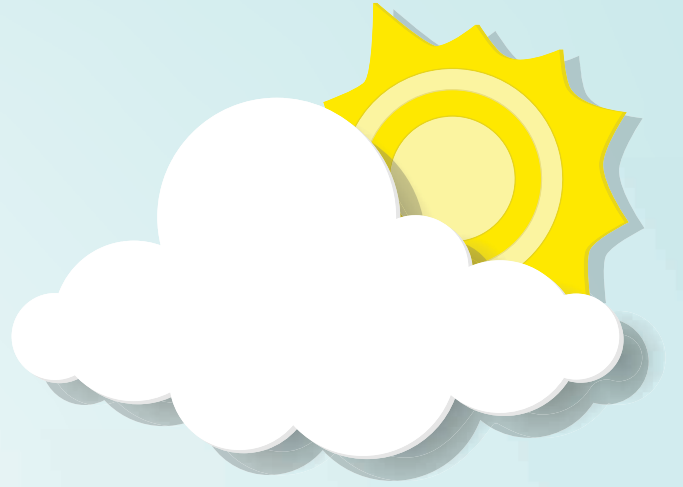
The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California Department of Public Health both oversee tap water. They make water providers like Eastern Municipal Water District test to make sure bad things are not in water. The water is tested for more than 100 chemicals to make sure it is safe to drink. Whatever they find in the water is listed in a report that everybody can see on-line or receive in the mail just by asking.

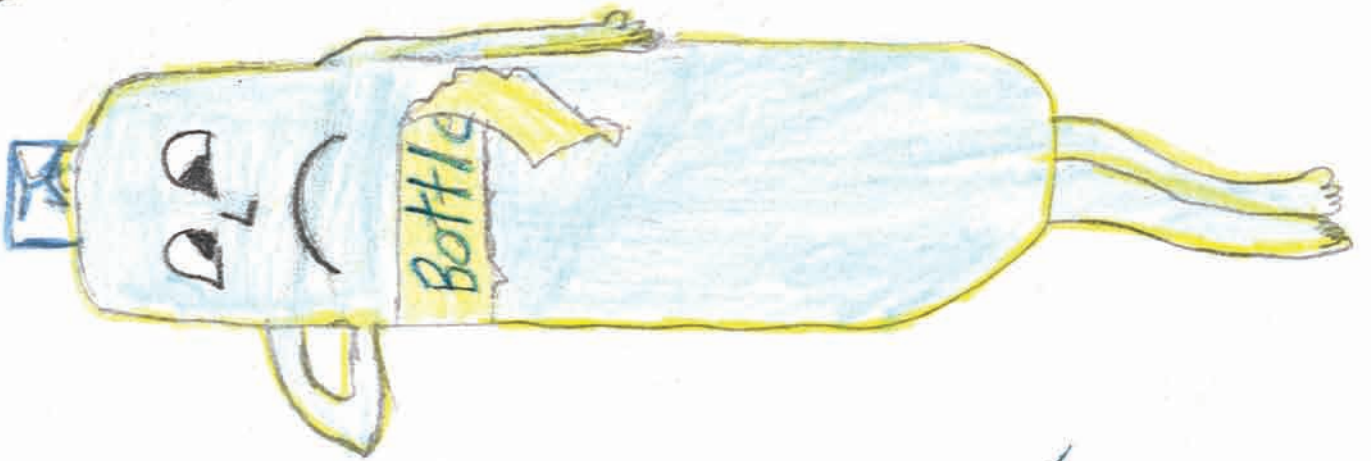



When the bell was about to ring for the students to return to class the last thing Gobi said was,



“Hey, tomorrow is Saturday. If you’re not busy, I want to show you something.”  
Aguat agreed.







The next morning, Gobi drove Aguat to the nearest beach. It was hot. Aguat wondered what they were doing there. Just then, Gobi pointed to the sand. It was a horrible scene. There were the popular water bottles rolling around feeling miserable, warm, and regular. Their labels were starting to curl, peel, and look crusty. Their lids were cracked. The group of them looked trashy, like a bunch of litter. Aguat covered his face and begged, “Gobi, I can’t bear this any longer. This is the scariest thing I have ever seen. Please, get me out of here.”





“Before we leave, you have to face it! Look, look,” Gobi insisted. “It’s good that we aren’t bottled waters.”

“Okay, okay. I’ll look, but just make it stop,” Aguat whined as he peeked through his fingers.

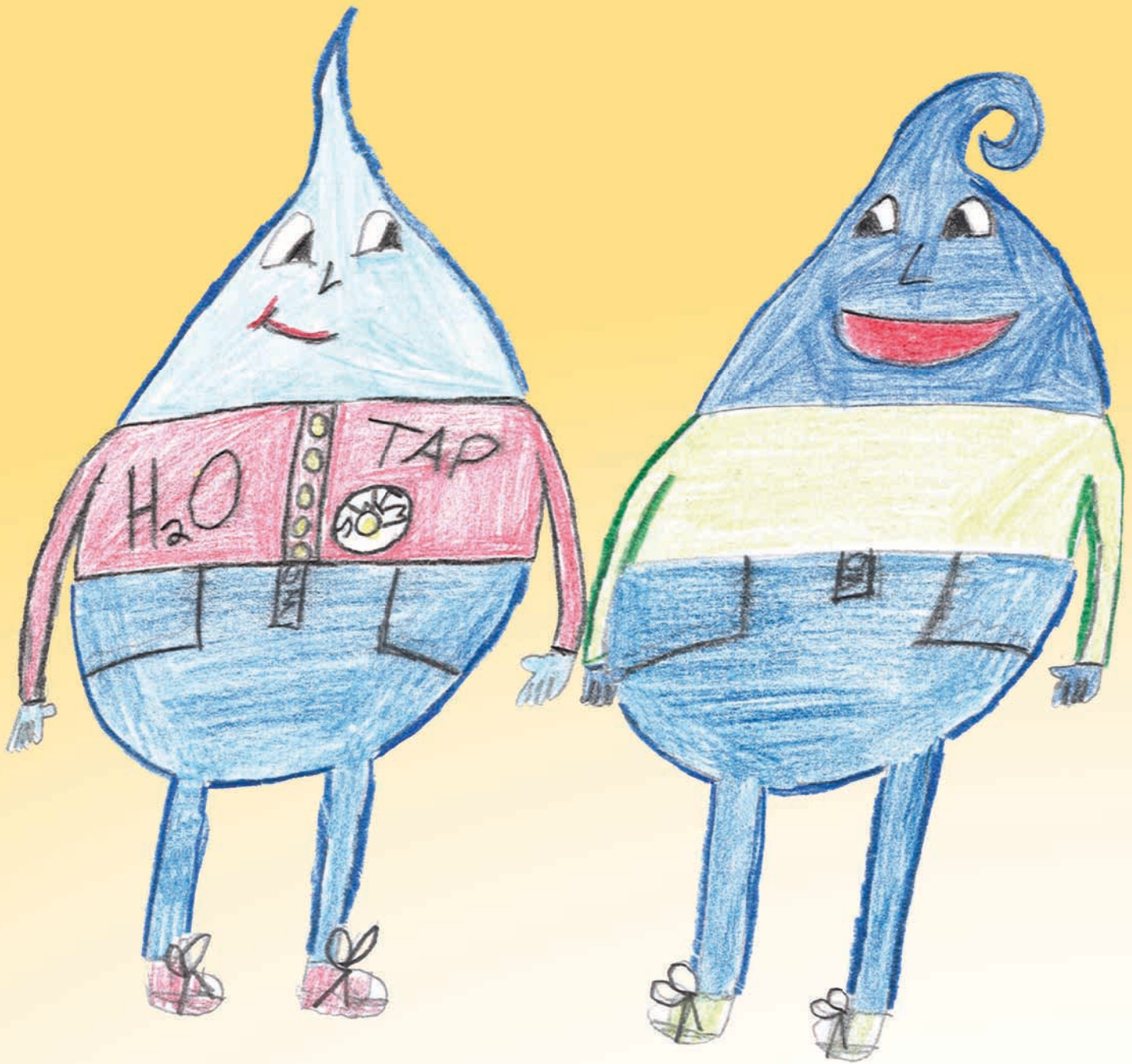
Gobi and Aguat zoomed away together, up a mountain road. Soon they were so high that they were surrounded by snow.



Once they were at the highest point, the air felt refrigerated. Gobi and Aguat sledded. They felt cool and awesome. Gobi showed Aguat that when chilled, tap water can taste, feel, and smell as good as bottled waters on their best days. Gobi and Aguat passed the chill test.

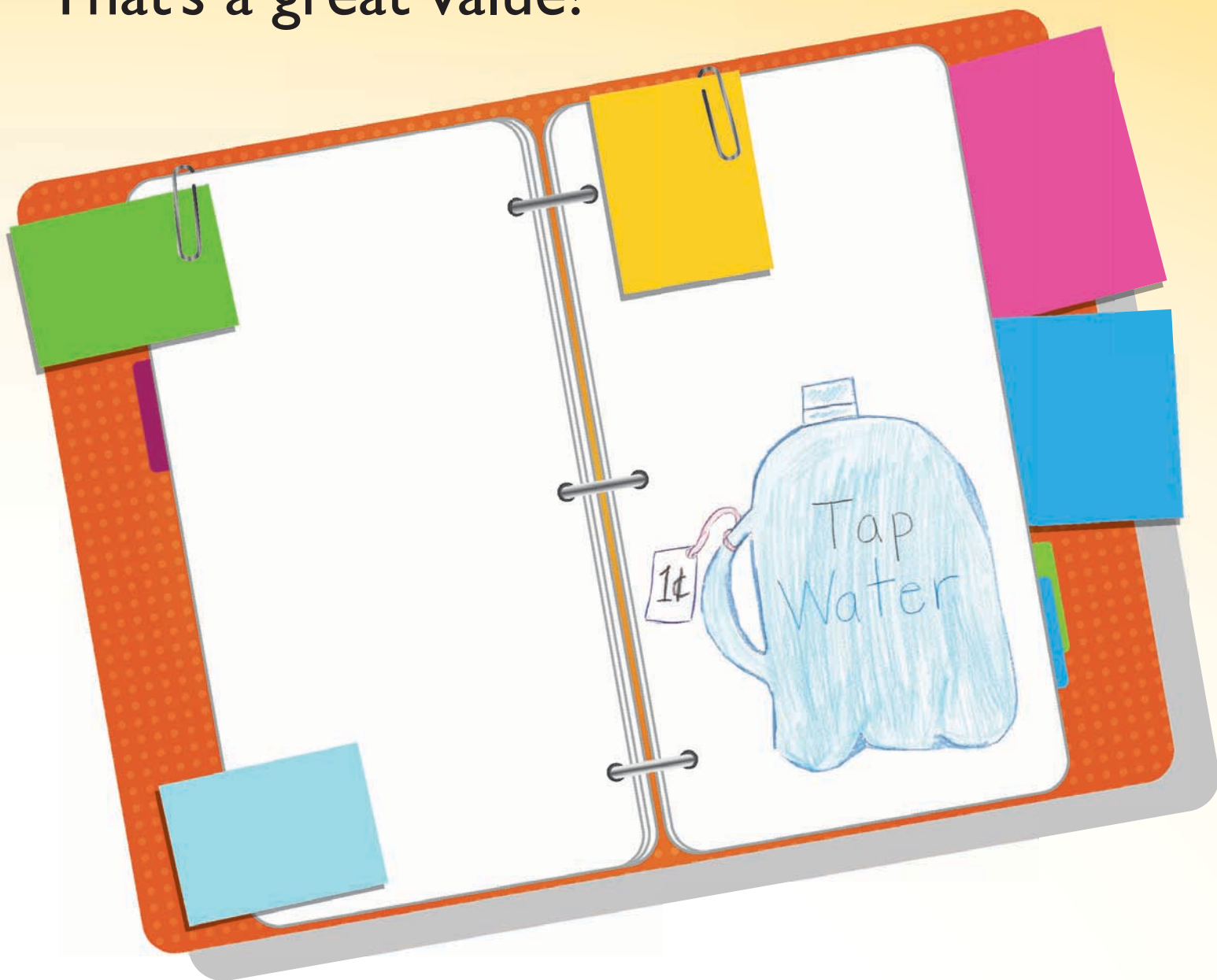






On Monday, Gobi and Aguat were still as refreshing as ever. The bottled waters looked tired, but they were still stuck-up and expensive. Aguat asked Gobi, “Don’t you ever get tired of the way the bottled waters act at school?”

Gobi answered, “No, I don’t because you and I are H<sub>2</sub>O just like them. In some ways I think we’re even better. We are reliable, clean, healthy, available when we’re needed, and very inexpensive. We’re a penny a gallon to be exact. We’re up to 1000 times less in cost than them. That’s not bad. That’s a great value!”





“You’re clearly right,” said Aguat. “I don’t care how they are because we are special the way we are. I am proud of who I am.”



# Vocabulary Words

**California Department of Public Health:** The state department responsible for public health in California.

**Faucet:** A regulator for controlling the flow of a liquid from a reservoir.

**H<sub>2</sub>O:** Water.

**Quality:** A degree or grade of excellence or worth.

**Reliability:** Worthy of trust.

**Tap Water:** Water that flows through pipes from a public water system.

**United States Environmental Protection Agency:** An agency of the federal government which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.

**United States Food and Drug Administration:** The federal agency responsible for the enforcement of federal regulations on the manufacture and distribution of food, drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics.

**Value:** The importance, worth, or usefulness of something.

## Tap Into These Facts:

Tap Water. You turn on the faucet, it's always there. The availability of clean, safe, healthy drinking water is something most of us take for granted. The water that flows from your tap is more than just a convenience; it contributes to the quality of life that we all enjoy. A well maintained water system is critical to public health, fire protection, and comes at a value that can't be beat when compared to bottled water. So . . .

### Tap into...Quality

Up to 100 tests a day are performed on the drinking water you receive at your business or home. These tests are repeated day after day to ensure that your water meets or exceeds every health and safety standard set by state and federal regulations.

### Tap into...Reliability

In a world where more than 3.4 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease, our safe and reliable water systems assure we can drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety and reliability.

Reliability also relates to accessible fire flow. One of the primary purposes of water systems is the suppression of fire. Before water systems were constructed, catastrophic fires were a constant threat in our cities. To protect against fire, water systems must be maintained with vigilance to assure necessary pressure and availability.

### Tap into...Value

Water that comes to the region often comes from far off places, like Northern California or the Colorado River, and due to rising water treatment costs; aging water infrastructure; increasing energy costs; and the cost of developing new supplies, the cost of tap water has increased over the past few years, yet still remains a remarkable value.

In terms of value, you can fill more than five one-gallon jugs with water from your tap for less than a penny. There's nothing easier than turning on your tap and getting a supply of refreshing water to quench your thirst. So tap into your tap water today...and remember to always use it wisely!

## Acknowledgements:

Eastern Municipal Water District Education Specialist Malea Ortloff developed the award-winning Write Off program, now in its sixth year, in an effort to encourage a greater understanding of our most precious resource, water, in both elementary and middle school students. Malea uses a cross-age approach, which allows older students to write stories focusing on water-related issues geared toward younger (elementary) students. Once the winning story is selected and published, Malea designs curriculum that is grade-level appropriate and also keeps the water message in the classroom for a longer period of time. This year the topic focused on the quality, reliability, and value of tap water. The entries were outstanding and the committee selected three winners. *Aguat's Adventure: A Tale of Two Waters* is an engaging, informative, and thought-provoking narrative about the reasons tap water is an informed and preferred choice over bottled water. This story is certain to be a winner with elementary school students. Check out the EMWD website ([www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)) to read the other two winning stories: *Dr. Tappentu Teaches Timmy to Tap Into Tap H<sub>2</sub>O* and *A Lesson From School: Tap Water is Cool*.

Eastern Municipal Water District wishes to thank the following student, teacher, graphic designer, and advisory committee members for their collaboration and contributions in the development of this book.

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**Haven Vinyard** is an eighth grade student who attends Community Christian School. She will be entering high school in the fall. She has lived in Hemet all of her life with her sisters, mom, dad, grandma, dogs, and a cat. Haven loves to listen to music, swim competitively, surf, target-shoot, use her cross-bow, go to church, dirt-bike, spend time with family/friends, read, sing, dance, sign, play board-games, play team sports, play water sports, go boating, go off-roading, draw, shop, take photographs, do charity work, and more. Haven thanks the LORD Jesus for this wonderful opportunity.



**“Coach” Craig Clark** has been teaching Language Arts full time at Community Christian School for two years. He graduated from Sonora High School in La Habra California and attended San Jose State University on a basketball scholarship. He has been married to his wife Trinity since 1999 and they are blessed to have an eleven year old daughter, Victoria, who attends Community Christian School. Coach Clark counts it a privilege to watch as his students succeed in the many, many things that they are involved in, both at school and apart from school.



High School



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