



Bartholomew Investigates  
how to  
Use Water Wisely

written and illustrated by:  
Monah Mendez



**In this book Bartholomew the Bird will be sharing with you a very important learning experience about the many ways to use water wisely.**

I would like to dedicate this story to all of my first grade readers. I hope you guys enjoy the story and learn a valuable lesson from Bartholomew. I also want to tell you to never give up because you never know what can happen. Maybe one day you guys will be writing a story yourselves.

**Monah Mendez**



**There is a bird by the name of Bartholomew.**

He is now in the first grade, just as you are. Bartholomew is an only child and lives in a nest with his mother and his father. One day while Bartholomew was at school his teacher, Mrs. Hatfrie, explained to her students that using water wisely helps the environment, and that she wanted them to do a project on how they should use water wisely.



Guess what I learned today?

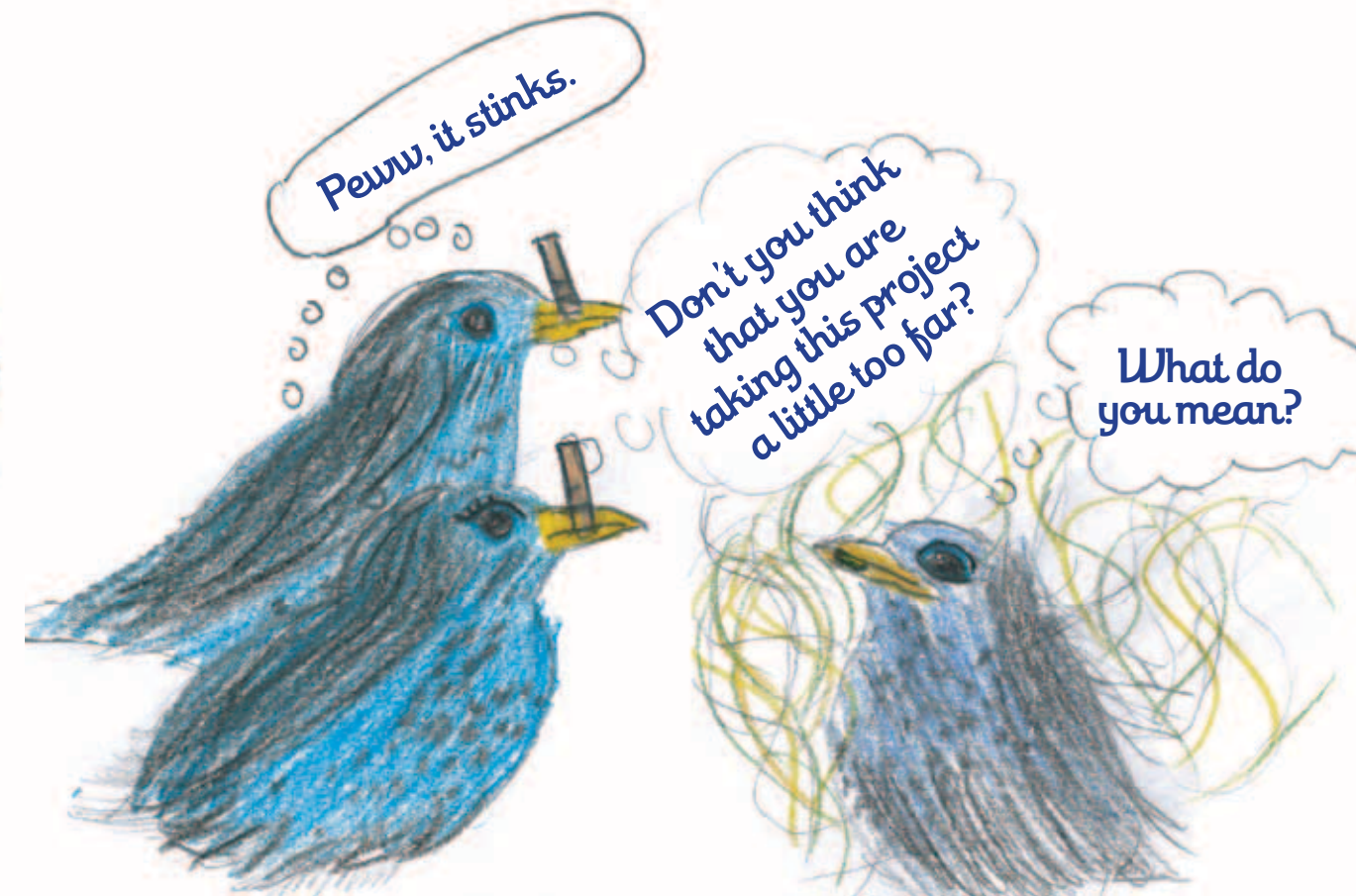
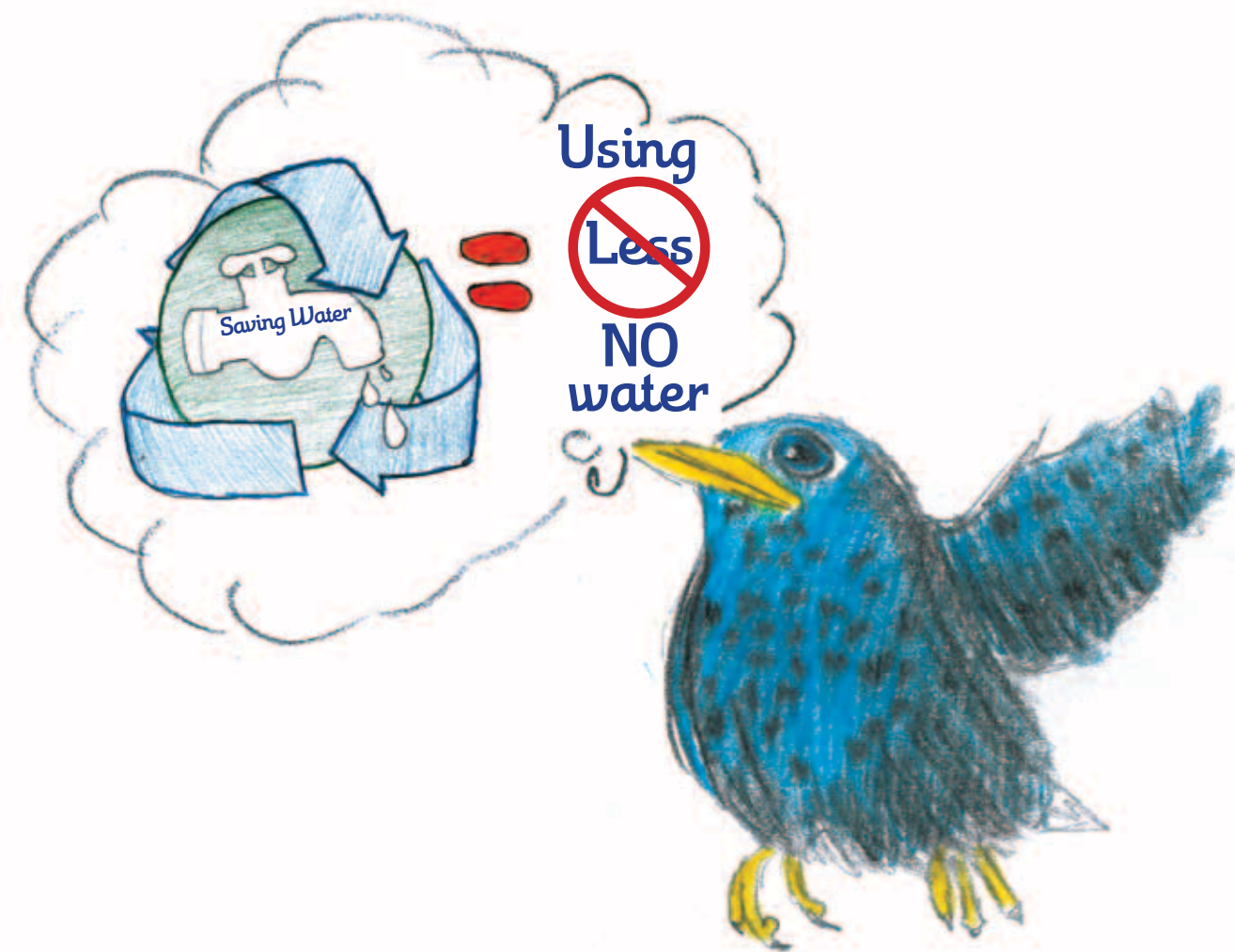


Bartholomew was confused at what Mrs. Hatfrie was asking of the students, so he raised his wing to ask a question and waited until his teacher called on him. When she did, Bartholomew asked, **“What does ‘Water, Use it Wisely’ mean?”**

Mrs. Hatfrie answered, **“Using water wisely means to use less water, which is how we conserve, or save water.”**

**“Oh, I get it! I understand now,”** said Bartholomew.

Once school was dismissed for the day, it was time for Bartholomew to fly to his nest. When he got home, he shared with his parents what he learned in school about using water wisely. He also told them how Mrs. Hatfrie wanted every student in the class to try to use less water.



From what Bartholomew understood, using water wisely meant he should use less water, which would save water. He thought about it and decided if using less water would save water, he was certain it was true that if he were to stop using water all together, it would mean he would save twice as much. So Bartholomew stopped showering, brushing his teeth, washing his hands, flushing the toilet, and watering the grass. Bartholomew was very happy because he knew he was really using water wisely and also saving a lot of water.

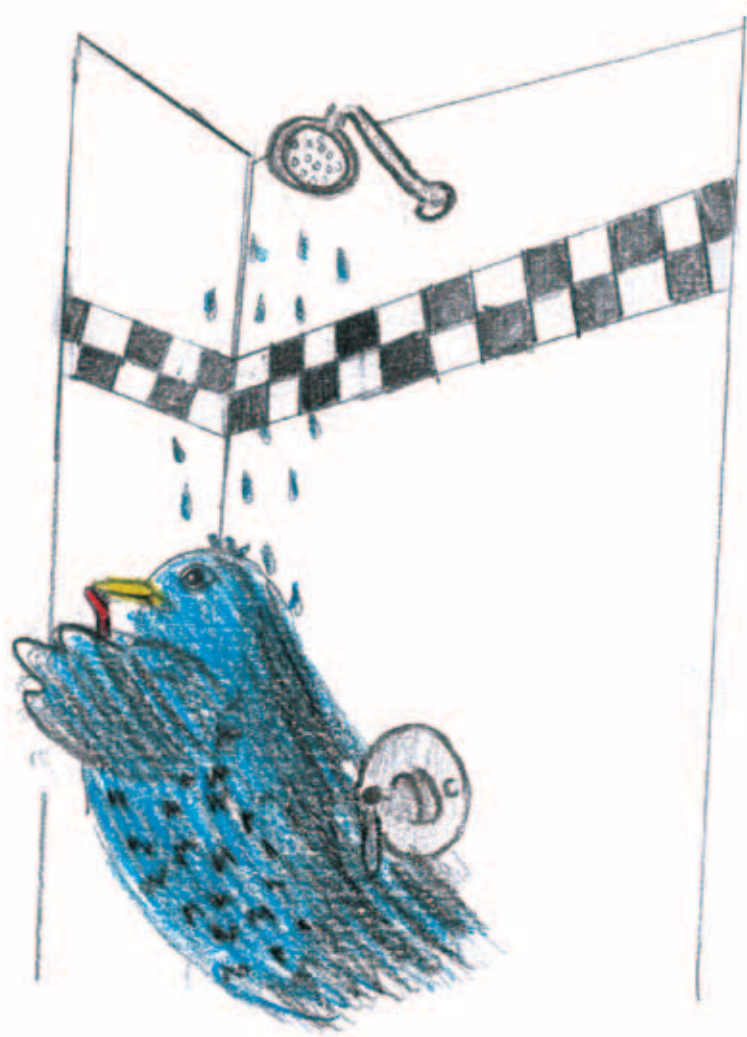
After a few days of Bartholomew saving water in his special way, his parents and Mrs. Hatfrie began to realize that maybe Bartholomew was taking his “**Water Use it Wisely**” project a little too far. He started to look and smell very bad. His parents decided that they needed to sit him down and go over the importance of using water wisely and how water can be saved without giving it up completely. Bartholomew’s parents told him that they could all save water by limiting their water use, while staying clean and healthy and protecting the environment.



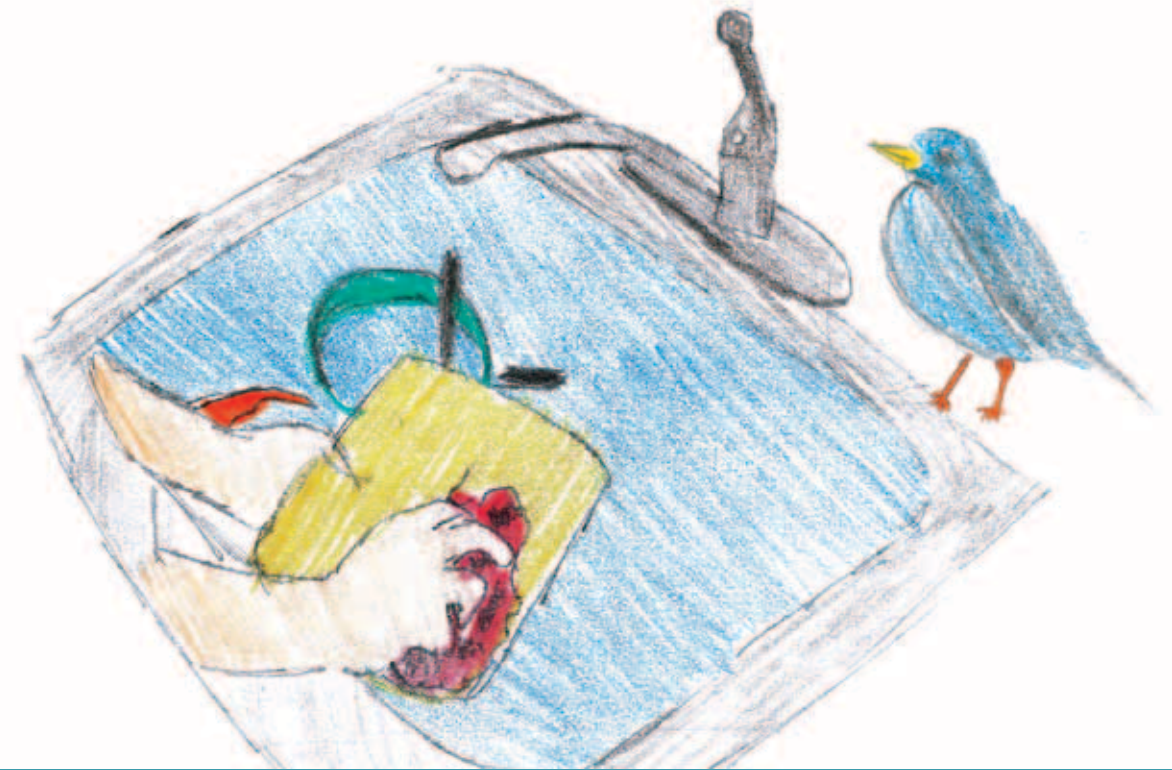
The next day after school, Bartholomew went to Mrs. Hatfrie and asked if she would tell him a couple of ways to use water wisely, without giving it up completely.

Mrs. Hatfrie told Bartholomew several ways to use water wisely. He said thank you and went home to again discuss the ideas with his parents.

Bartholomew told his parents that they could save water by replacing their grass with California Friendly plants, which use **50% less water, than grass**. He also told them they should turn the sprinklers off when it rains. He even suggested that they put buckets out to catch the rain water and then use it to water their plants.



Bartholomew then told his parents he would do his part to use water wisely by brushing his teeth while taking a shower.



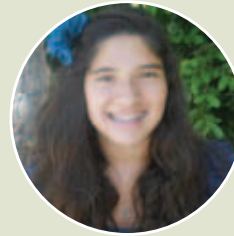
Bartholomew learned that there are many ways to use water wisely without giving it up completely. For example, when washing the dishes by hand, he doesn't let the water run. Instead, he fills up the sink and then turns the water off. He also reminded his parents to check their pipes for leaks. He told all of his friends and neighbors that if they have grass, they should water in the evening, when it is cooler, to minimize evaporation.



Even if you do not think you can make a big difference because of your age, do not be discouraged and do not give up.

**There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you!**

**Well, you and Bartholomew!**



## **Bartholomew the Bird** Author and Illustrator **Monah Mendez**

Hello, my name is Monah Raeanne Mendez. I am an eighth grader who lives in California. I love spending time with my friends and family, who are very supportive in everything that I do. I've gone to a private school for nine years of my life or should I say my whole life! The reason I wrote about Bartholomew the Bird is because I wanted to try to teach the little ones how important water conservation is, but in an interesting and creative way. I thought why not make it about an animal with a catchy name and so Bartholomew was the name that I chose. Finally, I would like to thank my mom, dad, grandma, and brothers for being so supportive of me through this whole process. I would also like to thank my aunt, uncle and little cousin for inspiring me and giving me motivation when I needed it. Of course I would like to thank my friends: Jami, Paige, Riley, Christina, and Haven, I love you guys!! Most of all I would like to thank my English teacher Mrs. Sissung because without her this whole story would have never been made.



## Author/Illustrator's teacher **Cathy Sissung**

I have been a teacher at Calvary Murrieta Christian School for over fifteen years, and have taught middle school English for 10 years. I enjoy looking for opportunities for my students to enter writing contests. In the past, I had a student whose essay won 1st place in the state of California for her drug essay. She was awarded \$500. This year I had three students win the district contest for the Elks Club essay contest, and Monah Mendez won the Eastern Municipal Water District/Rancho California Water District (EMWD/RCWD) "Write Off" contest with her story and illustrations. I am very proud of my students. This year, I am also teaching Associated Student Body, English as a Second Language, and a math class. In the past, I have taught grades 3 – 8, and coached Cross Country. I have also hosted a running club at our school to keep the students in top physical shape. I earned my Master's degree in education from Azusa Pacific University, and I continue to take courses and seminars so that I can stay current with the education system and best benefit my students. I am fortunate to have a job where I can benefit others and make a difference in our community now and in the future.



## Acknowledgements

Eastern Municipal Water District Education Specialist Malea Ortloff developed the award winning **Write Off** program in an effort to foster water use efficiency in both middle and elementary school students. She uses a cross-age approach, which allows older students to write stories geared toward younger (elementary) students about the importance of water in our lives. Once the winning story is selected and published, Malea designs curriculum that is grade-level appropriate and also keeps the water use efficiency message in the classroom for a longer period of time. This year more than 350 entries were received, making it a difficult choice to select a winner. The winning story is entertaining, engaging, and informative.

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There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you!



RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT

