



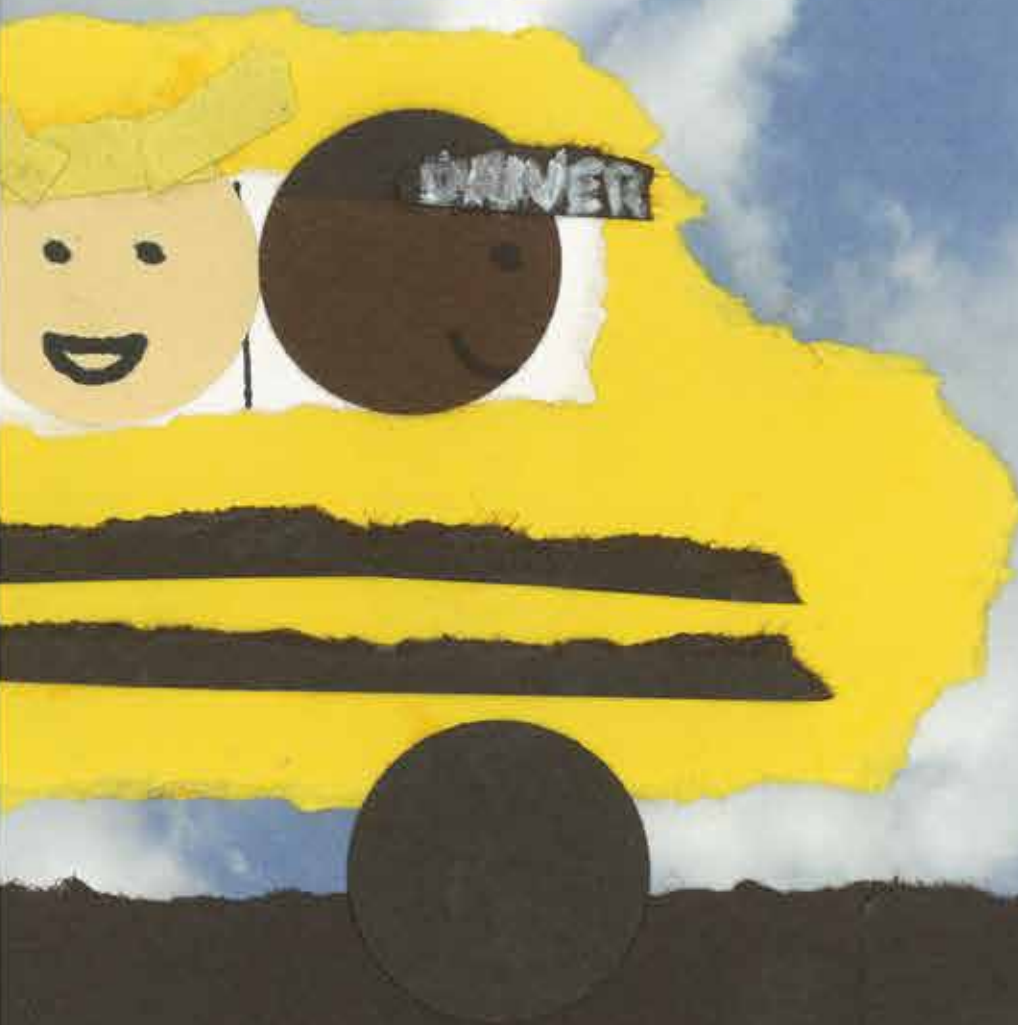
The California Drought:
Learning What
It's All About



Produced by
Eastern Municipal Water District
and Rancho California Water District

Authored and Illustrated by
Abby Roth

*This book is dedicated
to all of the children
I have enjoyed working
with over the years.
—Abby Roth*



“Children, tomorrow is a special day, because a field trip is scheduled next session.

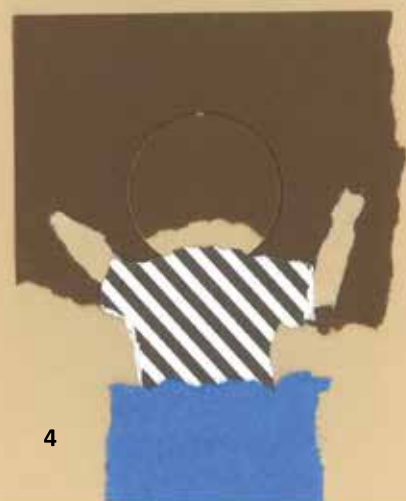
We will extend our studies out of the classroom, to learn more about the water recession.

Remember all we learned about the drought and how it impacts our lives?

We will visit a museum and learn facts on why we need water to survive.”

Field Trip

Tomorrow



I ran home with a thrill of excitement thinking what a drought really meant.

I knew it was from the lack of water in California, but unclear the damage and extent.

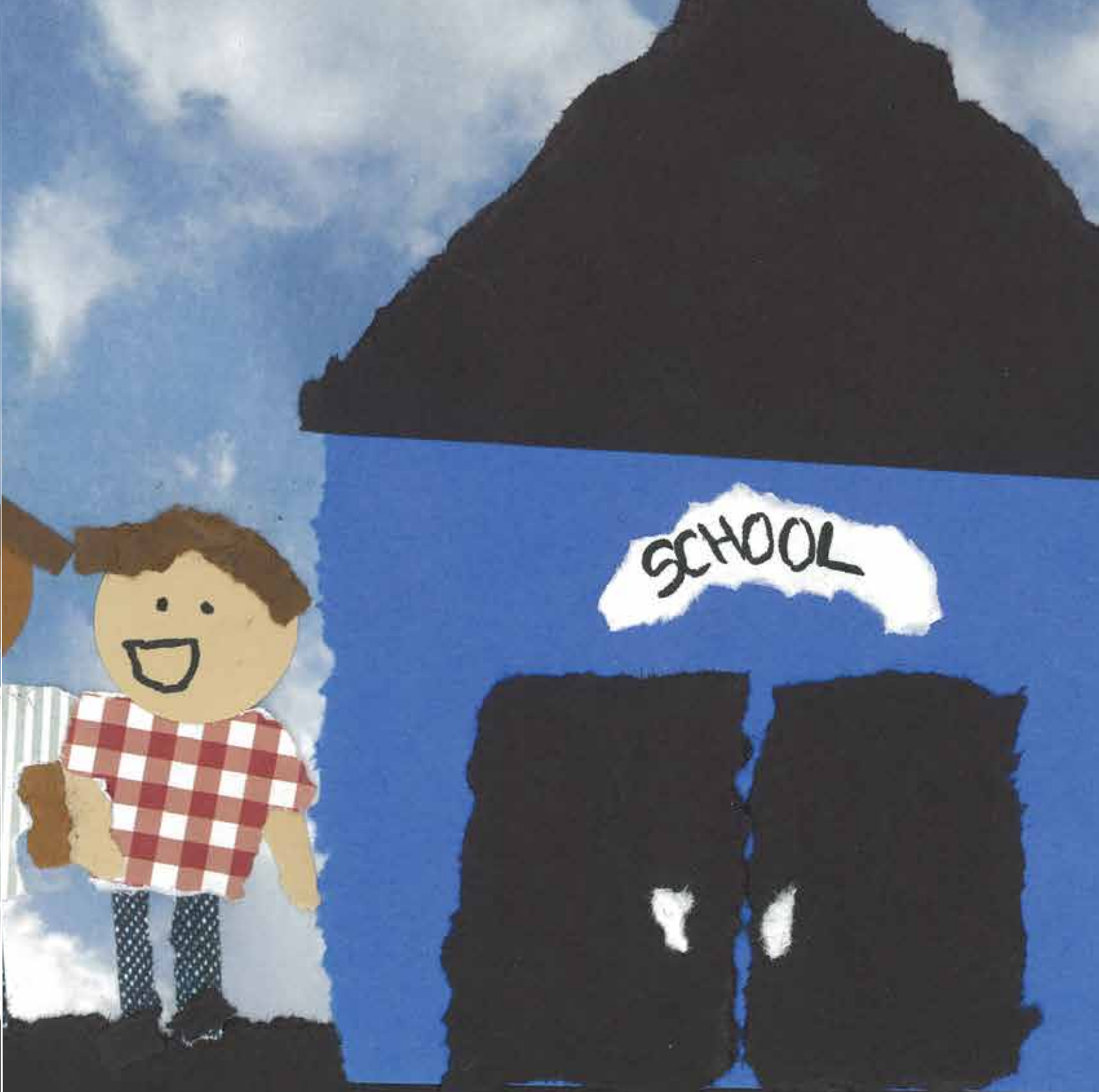
I told my mom about my day, and she could see my eagerness for the trip.

She was thrilled with my knowledge on this subject and knew I would soon be equipped.



As I arrived at school, ready for the day,
I was greeted by a bright yellow bus.

I could see my classmates were anxious as well,
there was definitely no fuss.



We loaded the bus with careful instruction from
our teacher who led the way.

She explained our priorities, the general schedule,
and details to follow that day.

“The museum has a few rules we must note before entering,”
said our teacher.

“Make sure you are focused and pay close
attention to each educational feature.

There will be four main exhibits we will focus
on to help understand the drought.

We will learn about the history, impact, saving water,
and educating others without a doubt!”

MUSEUM

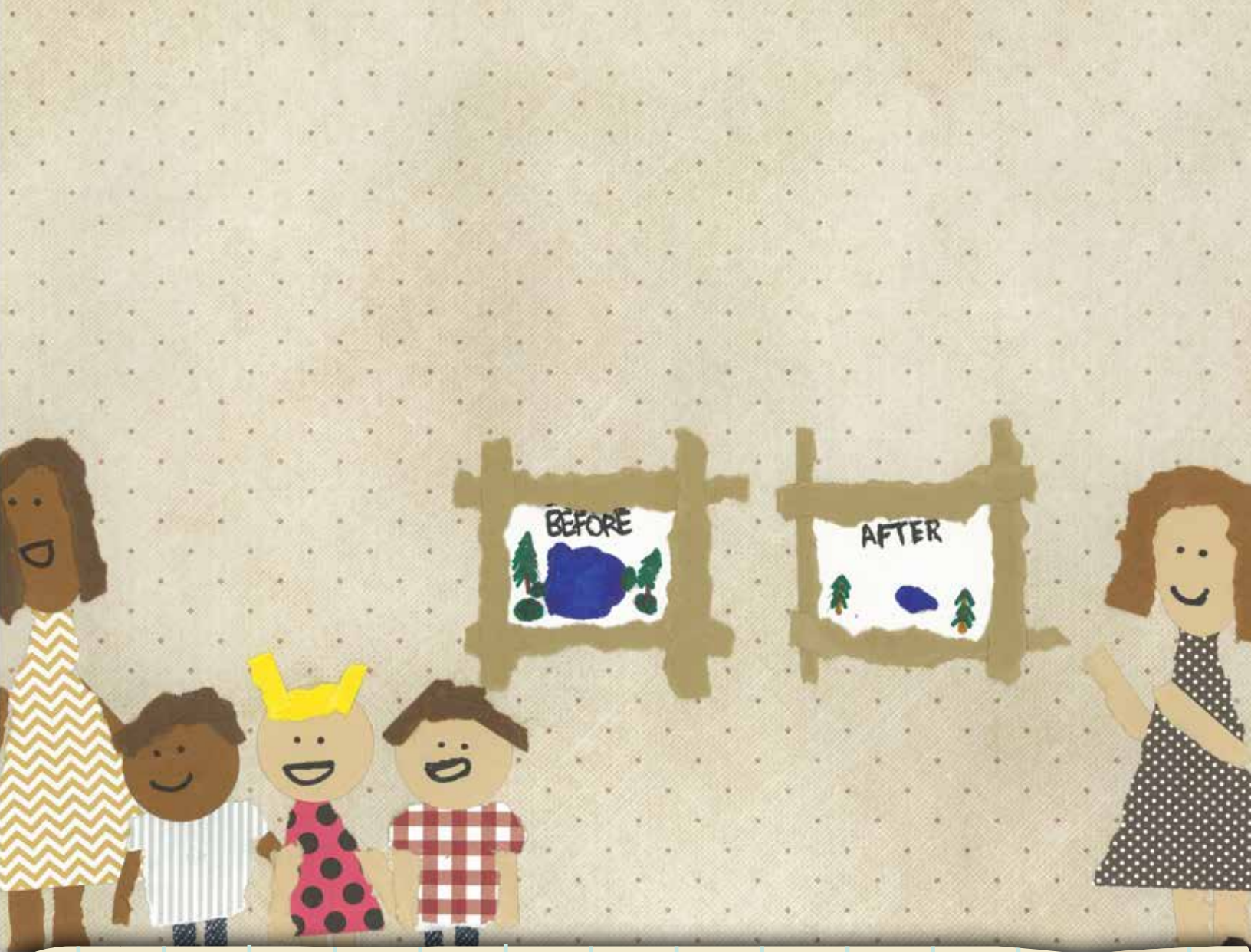


“I am thrilled you are ready to learn about the drought,”
shared our guide.

“I am always eager to offer my knowledge to
those who will share it with pride.

Drought is below normal amounts of rain,
when water supplies are limited, too.

It has happened in California history and
affects our whole state through.”



We entered the next room where our guide shared on the impact of the drought.

“When a drought takes place, plants lack water, and therefore do not sprout.

There is no snowpack in the Sierra, which is important for our water supply.

Without water, it affects our economy, because the land becomes increasingly dry.”

We followed her into a room filled with pictures of familiar state lands.

She commented on the changes we saw with before and after pictures at hand.

“We are in our third year of drought, the worst water situation in history.”

I saw dried-up rivers and lakes and, I knew the need for water was no mystery.



As we entered another room, she began explaining ways to save water.

“We cannot throw out these precious drops since the weather is getting hotter.

It is hard not to fear the effects of the drought because they are already here.

EMWD’s efficiency requirements are set to save water, it is very clear.”

E M W D

- Do quick leak repairs
- Don't overwater your plants
- Turn off the sprinklers when it rains
- Use a broom instead of a hose when cleaning your driveway.

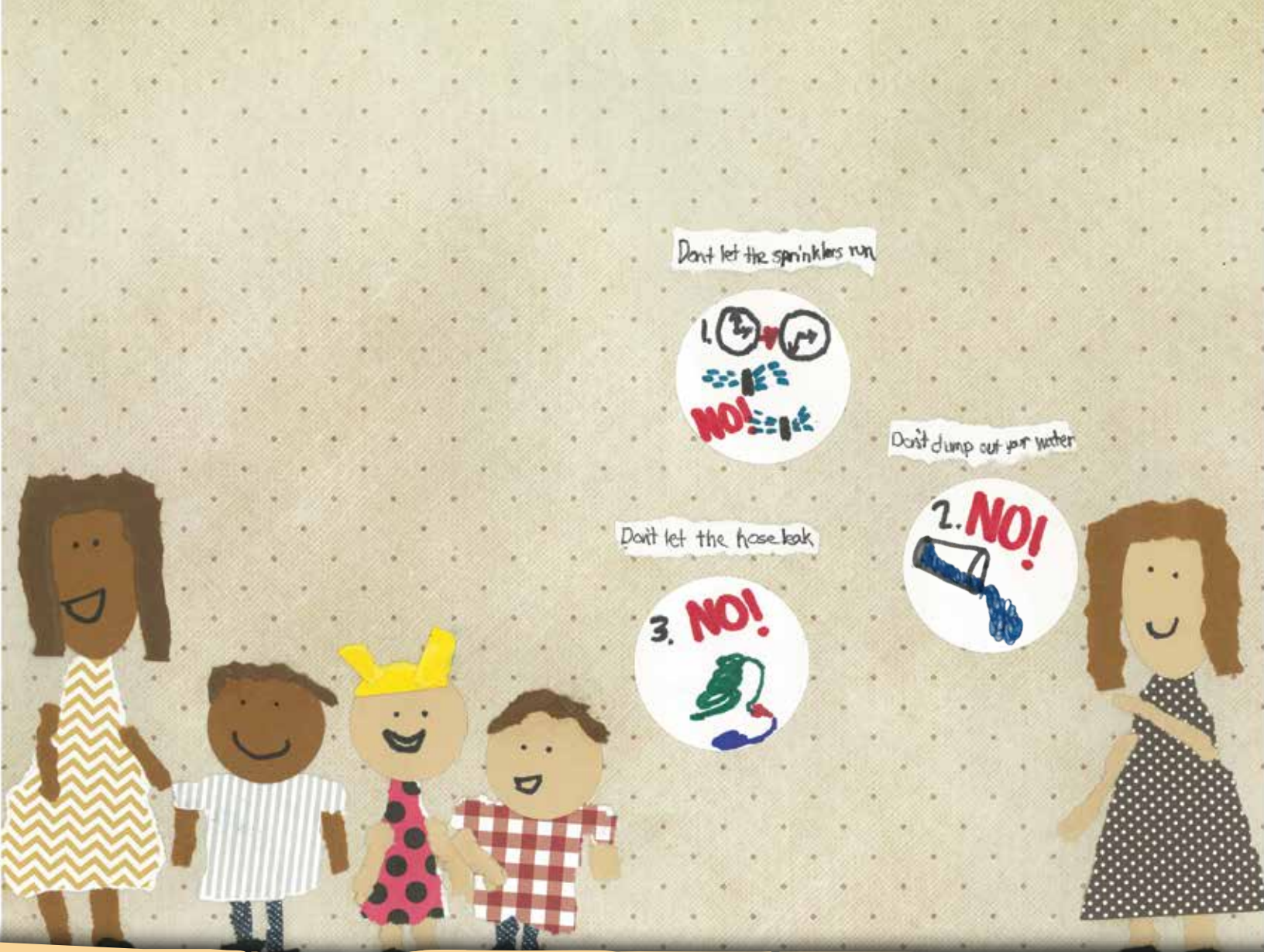


As the day came to a close, we had one more exhibit to attend.

This one was about educating others; what a perfect way to end.

“Please realize the drought has many causes, and some you can control.

Use water efficiently, work-together, and we can reach our common goal.”



Our day of learning was over; time to get on the bus and hit the road.

We shared the information with the driver; we were all in teaching mode.

We reminded him to conserve water; we told him it is a must.

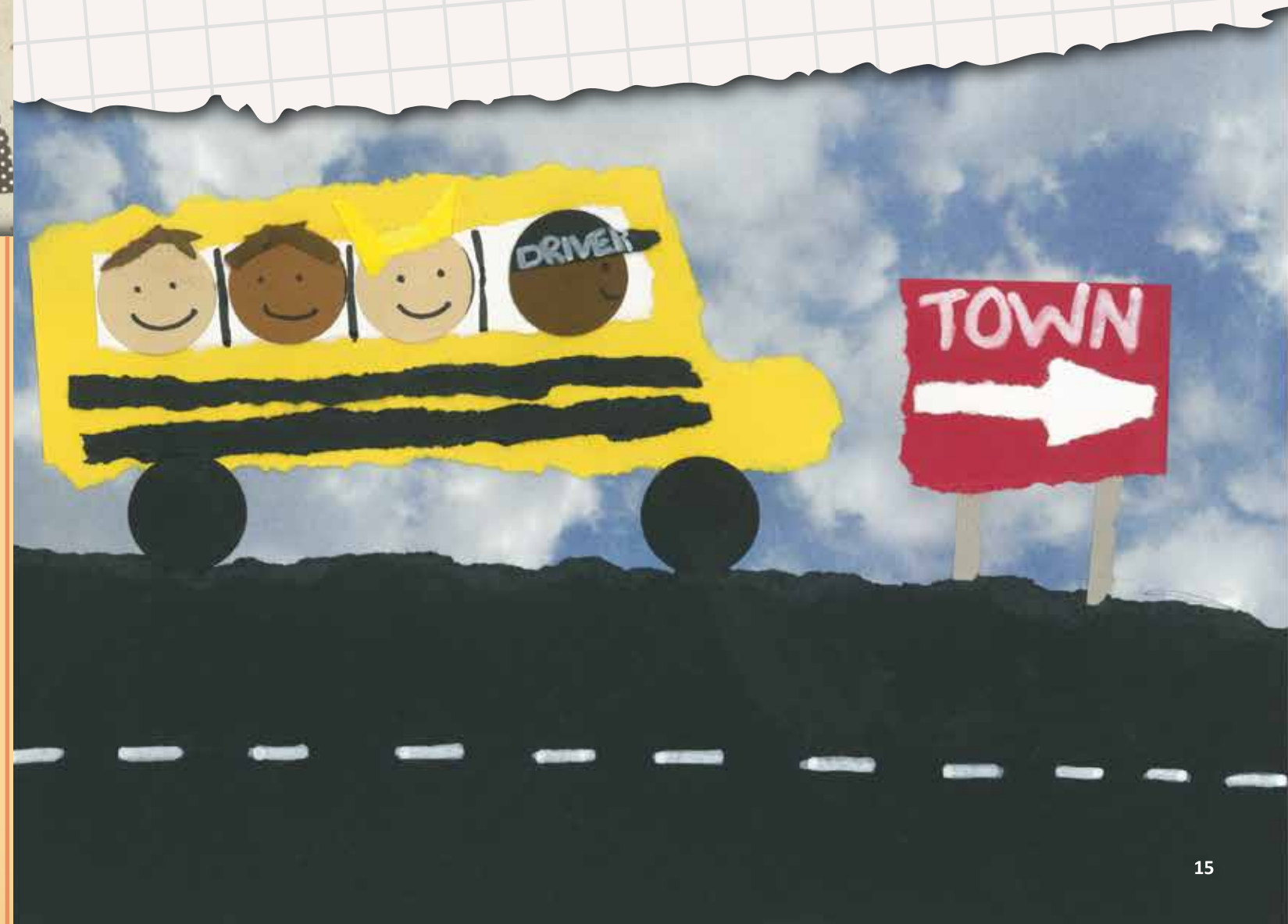
And to fix broken sprinklers, and timers he should adjust.

She gave us information we locked tight in our brains.

“Do not use sprinklers too long, and turn them off when it rains.”

We can also talk to our families about the changes they can make.

Saving water is quite simple, it's really a piece of cake!



We arrived at school and went to our class to complete our studies.

I now felt like an expert on drought, along with my classroom buddies.

We went over all we learned and came to one conclusion.

Saving water is our goal and our lifelong resolution.

Great job
Today Class

We learned
SO much!
A+



I went home to my mom, and she could see the joy on my face. I told her of my amazing day, and everything that took place. And then I told her I would spread the word, "Do not waste water, because it is rare." She said she was proud of me and that, indeed, this information I needed to share.

Vocabulary Words:

Adjust: To change (something) in a minor way so that it works better.

Common: Occurring or appearing frequently; not rare.

Conclusion: A final decision or judgment; an opinion or decision that is formed after a period of thought or research.

Conserve: To use something (water) carefully in order to prevent loss or waste.

Damage: Bad or harmful effects on a situation.

Doubt: To be uncertain about something; to believe that something may not be true or is unlikely.

Drought: A long period of time during which there is very little or no rain.

Economy: The process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region.

Efficiency: The ability to do something or produce something without wasting materials, time, or energy; the quality or degree of being efficient.

Exhibit: An object or a collection of objects that have been put out in a public space for people to view.

Extent: The degree to which something exists, happens, or is true.

Feature: An interesting or important part of something.

Impact: A powerful or major influence or effect.

Increasingly: The act of becoming larger or of making something larger or greater in size or amount.

Limited: Having a set amount.

Mode: A particular way of doing something.

Priorities: Something that is more important than other things and that should be taken care of first.

Recession: The act of moving or withdrawing gradually.

Requirements: Something that is necessary for something else to happen or be done.

Resolution: The act of finding an answer or solution to something.

Session: A period of time that is used to do a particular activity

Sierra (Sierra Nevada Range): A range of mountains that contribute to the water supply in California.

Situation: An important or sudden problem.

Snowpack: A mass of snow on the ground that is compressed and hardened by its own weight.

Sprout: To produce new leaves or buds.

Supplies: The amount of something that is available to be used.

Survive: To remain alive and continue to exist.

Acknowledgements:

In 2008, the award-winning Write Off program was developed by Eastern Municipal Water District Education Specialist Malea Ortloff, in an effort to encourage a greater understanding, in both elementary and middle school students, of our most precious resource—water. Malea uses a cross-age approach, which allows older students to write stories focusing on water-related issues geared toward younger (elementary) students. Malea designs curriculum, around many of the winning stories, 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 ongoing California drought and students were tasked with conveying a message about the impact it has on our lives. More than 300 students participated in the writing contest and two winning entries were selected. *The California Drought: Learning What It's All About* is fact-based fiction written as a rhyming narrative. The story encourages readers to understand the meaning of a drought and the consequences of not conserving water. The story will be distributed and available to students within the Eastern Municipal and Rancho California Water District service areas.

Check out the EMWD website (www.emwd.org) to read the other winning story: *Lily and the Seven Drops*.

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

Author/Illustrator

Abby Roth

Calvary Murrieta Christian School, Private School

Mentor Advisor

Cathy Sissung

English Teacher

Calvary Murrieta Christian School, Private School

Advisory Committee

Malea Ortloff

Education Specialist

Eastern Municipal Water District

Teresa Barnett

First/Second Grade Combo Teacher

Megan Cope Elementary School

San Jacinto Unified School District

Vicki Sue Owens

Retired, County of San Diego

Meggan Valencia

Public Information Officer

Rancho California Water District

Savannah Stephens

Fifth Grade Student

Santa Rosa Academy

Ailene Earl

Education Assistant

Eastern Municipal Water District

April Coady

Cindy Larmay

Joyce Messin

Editing

Jennifer Drexler

JD Design, Book Design

My name is **Abby Roth** and I attend Calvary Chapel Murrieta. I am thirteen years old and I am in eighth grade. I enjoy writing, playing volleyball, a good book, being outdoors with my friends, baking and crafts. I love working with children and assisting in classrooms and babysitting. I am honored and thrilled to be published again through the Eastern Municipal Water District/Rancho California Water District Write Off program. I hope others enjoy this book as much as I do.



I have been a teacher at Calvary Murrieta Christian School for approximately 19 years and teaching middle school English for around 15 years. The staff and students at Calvary are wonderful! I graduated from Azusa Pacific with a master's degree in education and continue to take classes so that I can stay current with the education system and benefit my students. I have been married over 40 years to a wonderful man, have 3 grown children, and 9 exceptional grandchildren. I am very proud

of my students and all the hard work they do.

—Cathy Sissung





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Finally Rain!

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