

Gobi, Aguat, and Savvy Get **SQUEAKY CLEAN AGAIN**

A Story About Purified Water Replenishment

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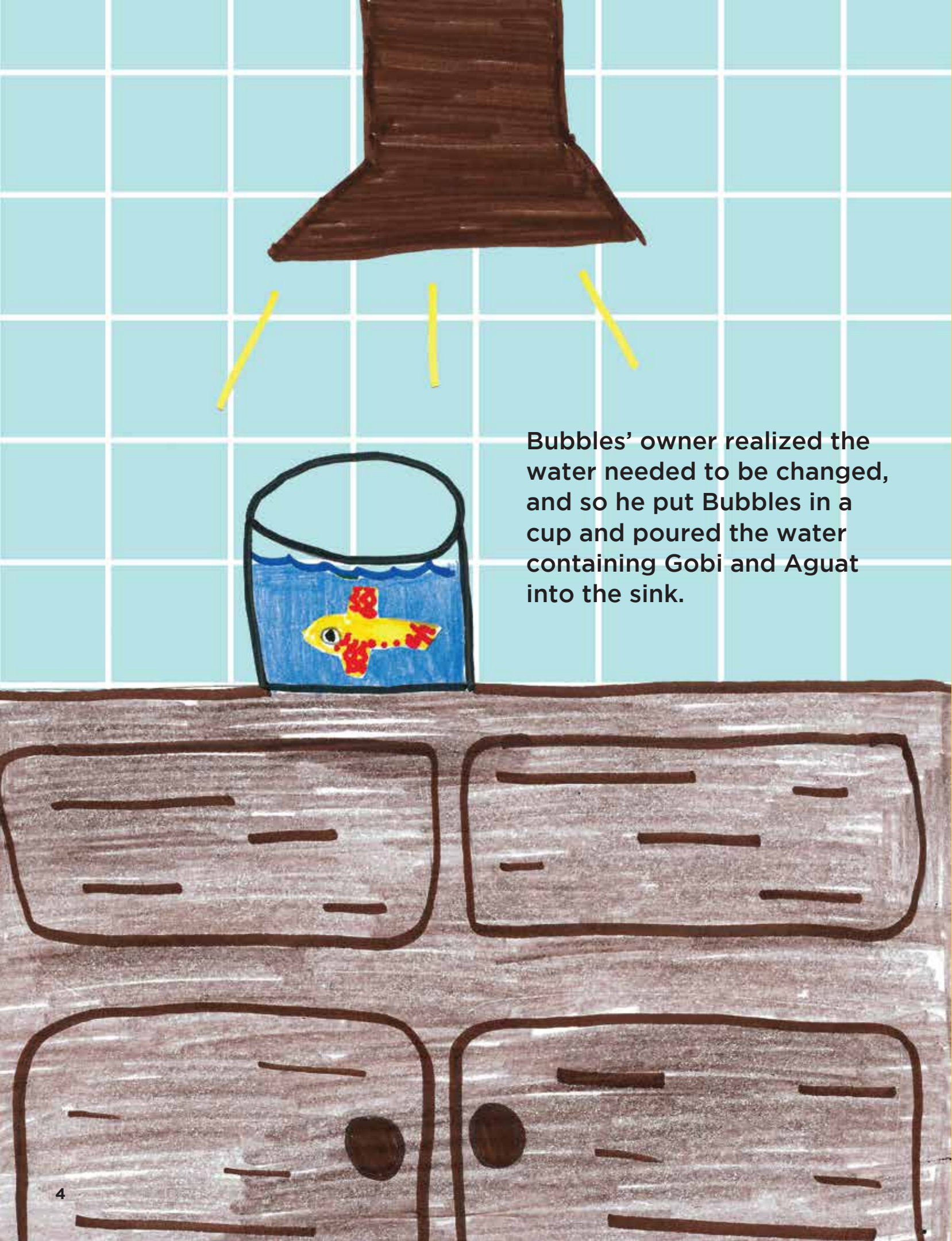


Once upon a time, there were two water drops named Gobi and Aguat. They lived in a grand fishbowl with their friend Bubbles.

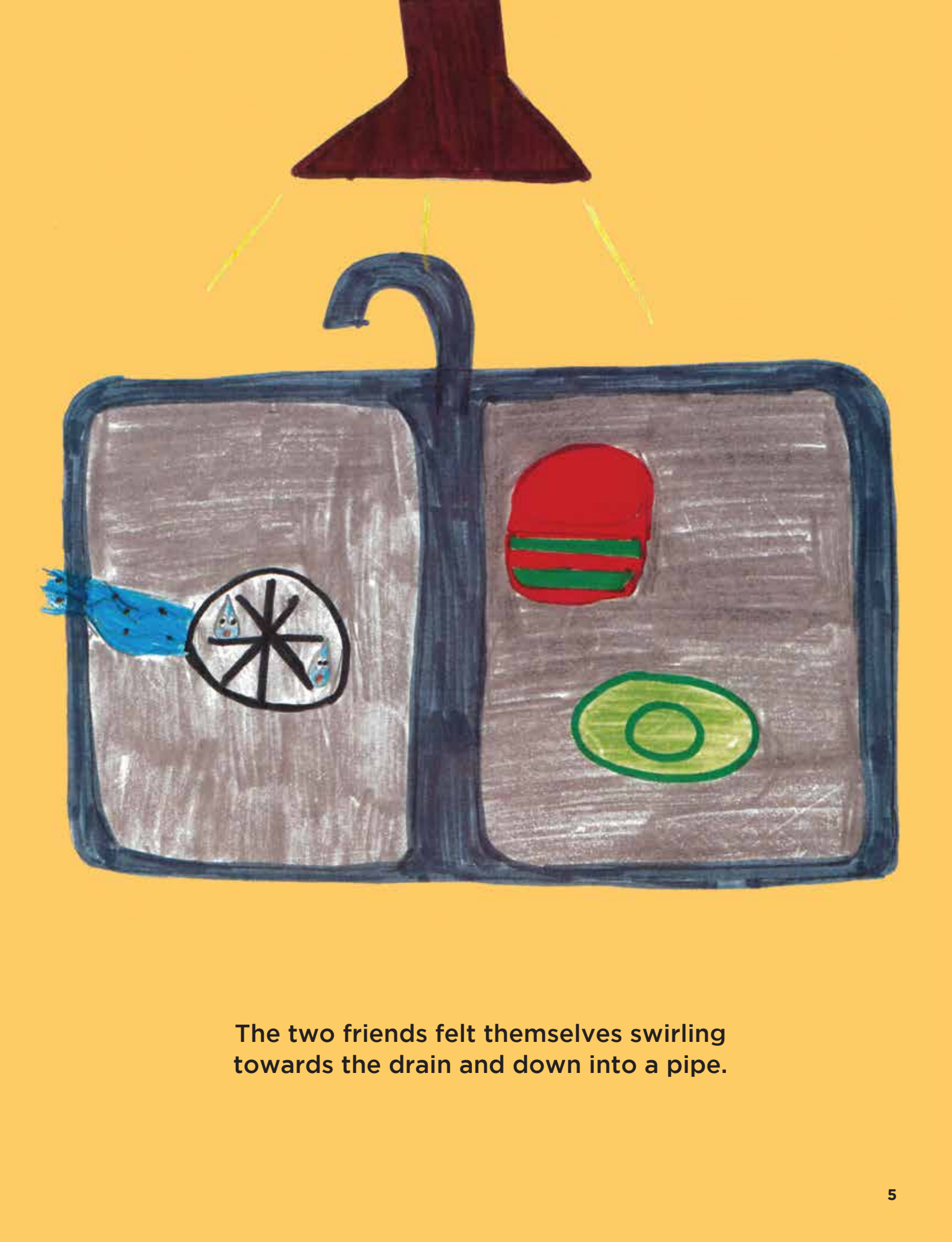
One day, Bubbles began to complain about how cloudy it was in the fishbowl. Gobi, Aguat, and their families realized they had all become quite dirty. This was the first time things weren't so great for all of them, and they realized that the water in the fishbowl needed to be changed. Bubbles swam quickly around the fishbowl until he got his owner's attention.

This book is dedicated to all of the wonderful people reading our story. This is for you.

-Arthur, Mariana, and Allanah



Bubbles' owner realized the water needed to be changed, and so he put Bubbles in a cup and poured the water containing Gobi and Aguat into the sink.



The two friends felt themselves swirling towards the drain and down into a pipe.



“Where are we going?” cried Aguat, “Why are we in a pipe?”

“I do not know. Maybe we’re going someplace nice,” said Gobi as he comforted his friend.

The two friends flowed through a network of pipes, and soon it became very dark.

“WHOA,” Aguat called to Gobi, “it really stinks!”

“Oops, that’s my bad,” Gobi responded. “It only happens when I get scared!”

“Dude,” shouted Aguat, “that’s gross!”

The two drops laughed and then looked around and called out, “Hello! Where are we? Is anyone here?”

“Who said that?” They heard a tiny voice calling to them.

Gobi responded, “It’s us, Aguat and Gobi! Who are you?”

“I am Antonio,” responded the voice.

Gobi looked around and saw a little spider.

“Hello,” Antonio said to the two drops. “Will you please stop making all that ruckus? This is my home, you know.”

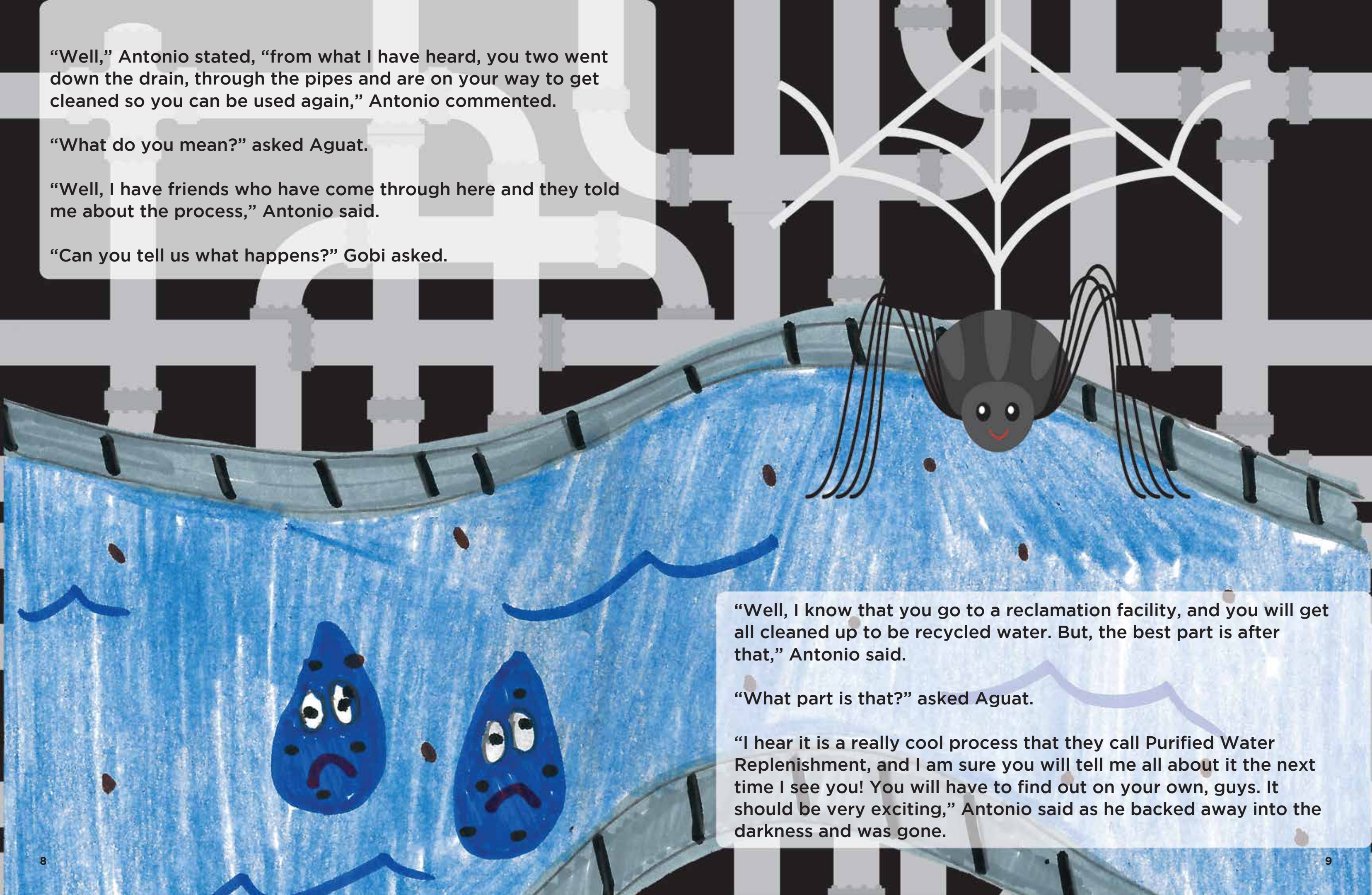
“I’m sorry,” Gobi responded. “We were just scared and do not know where we are.”

“Well,” Antonio stated, “from what I have heard, you two went down the drain, through the pipes and are on your way to get cleaned so you can be used again,” Antonio commented.

“What do you mean?” asked Aguat.

“Well, I have friends who have come through here and they told me about the process,” Antonio said.

“Can you tell us what happens?” Gobi asked.



“Well, I know that you go to a reclamation facility, and you will get all cleaned up to be recycled water. But, the best part is after that,” Antonio said.

“What part is that?” asked Aguat.

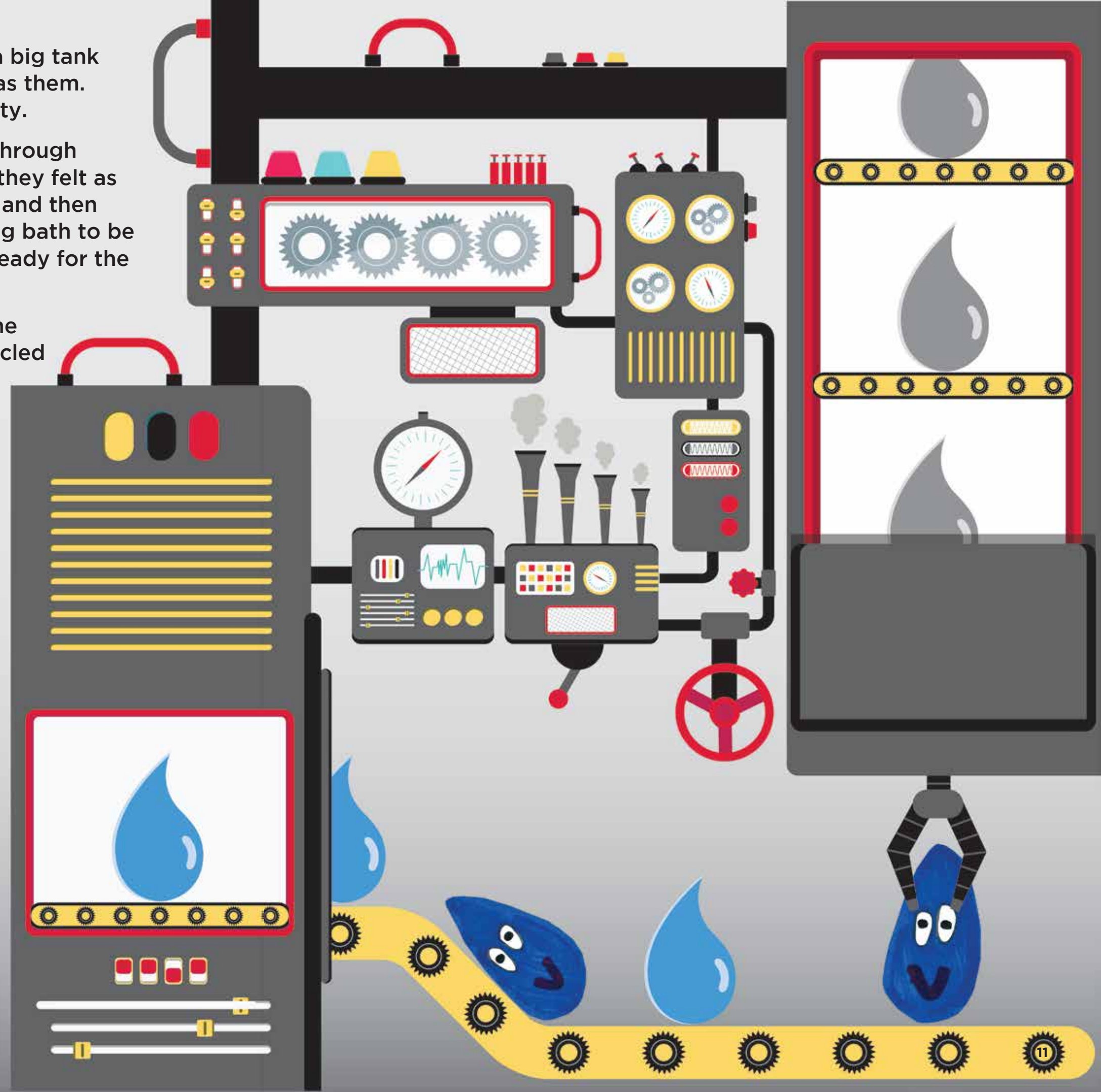
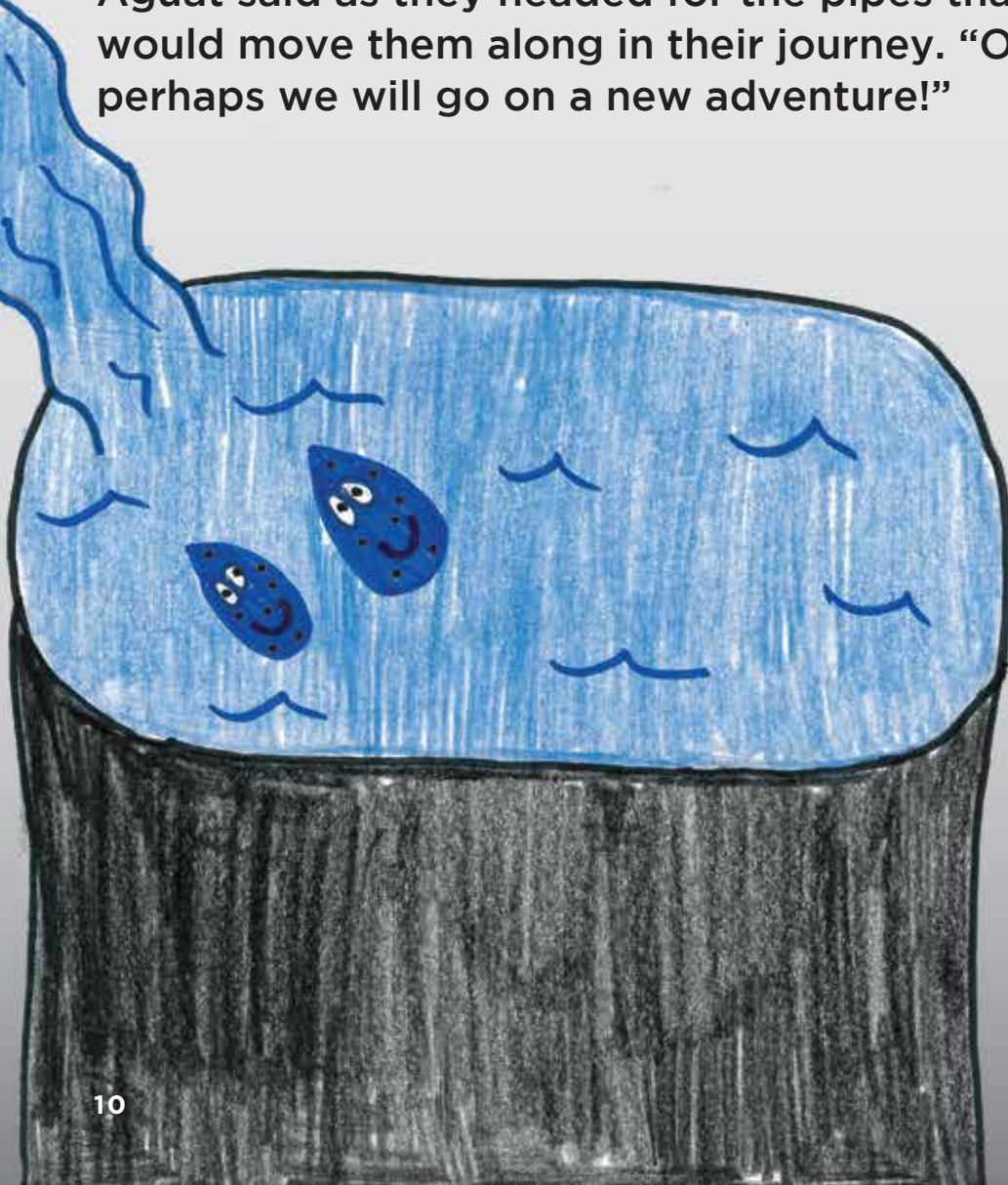
“I hear it is a really cool process that they call Purified Water Replenishment, and I am sure you will tell me all about it the next time I see you! You will have to find out on your own, guys. It should be very exciting,” Antonio said as he backed away into the darkness and was gone.

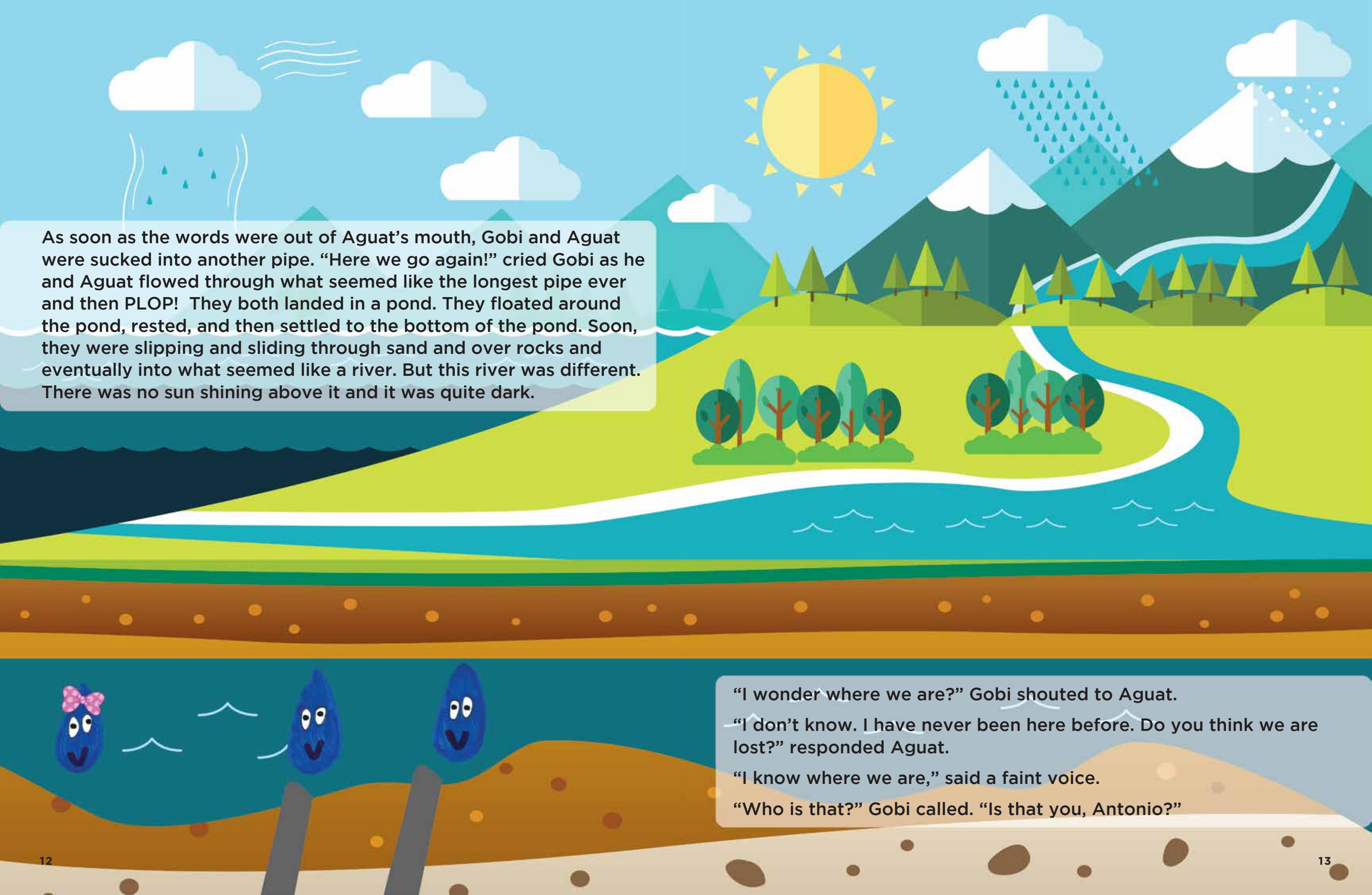
The two drops found themselves traveling into a big tank with other drops who looked to be just as dirty as them. They realized they were at the reclamation facility.

Gobi and Aguat were tossed about and flowed through screens and more pipes. After quite some time, they felt as though they were scrubbed from top to bottom and then flowed into the final cleansing area for a soothing bath to be disinfected. They both felt quite refreshed and ready for the next part of their adventure.

“Well,” said Gobi, “I think we are done here at the reclamation facility and ready to be used as recycled water. I wonder what will happen next.”

“Maybe we will end up watering the landscape at a school, golf course or local business,” Aguat said as they headed for the pipes that would move them along in their journey. “Or perhaps we will go on a new adventure!”





As soon as the words were out of Aguat's mouth, Gobi and Aguat were sucked into another pipe. "Here we go again!" cried Gobi as he and Aguat flowed through what seemed like the longest pipe ever and then PLOP! They both landed in a pond. They floated around the pond, rested, and then settled to the bottom of the pond. Soon, they were slipping and sliding through sand and over rocks and eventually into what seemed like a river. But this river was different. There was no sun shining above it and it was quite dark.

"I wonder where we are?" Gobi shouted to Aguat.

"I don't know. I have never been here before. Do you think we are lost?" responded Aguat.

"I know where we are," said a faint voice.

"Who is that?" Gobi called. "Is that you, Antonio?"

The little voice seemed to be closer and replied, “No, I am not Antonio. It’s me, Savvy!”

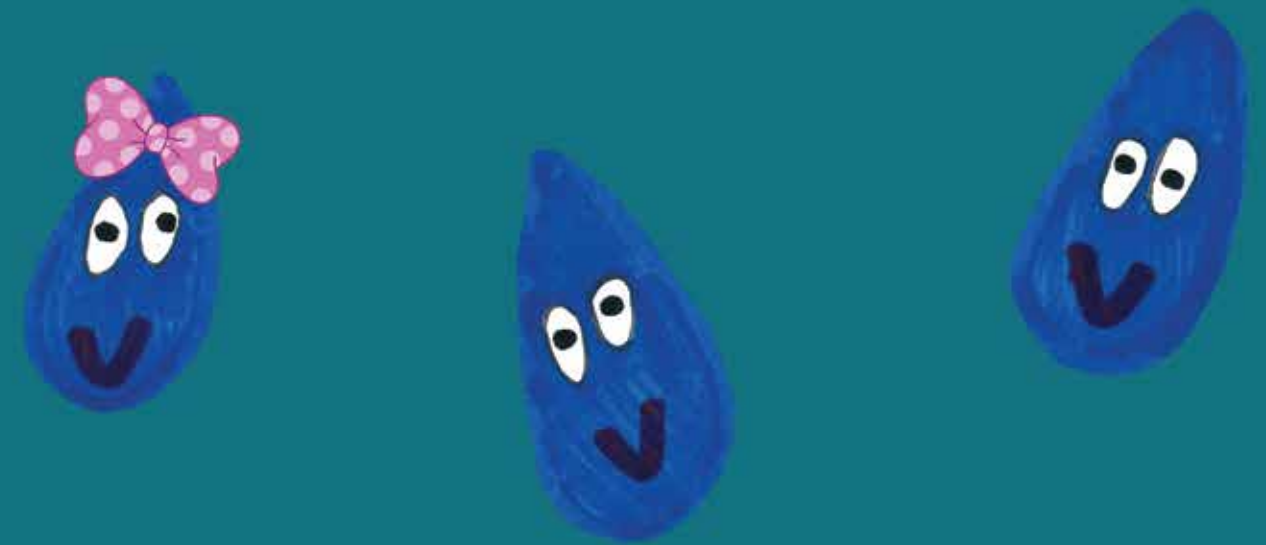
Gobi and Aguat smiled. They remembered meeting Savvy in the adventure of *Gobi and Aguat Get Savvy About Water Quality*. They had become good friends and shared many great times together.

“Savvy,” Gobi cried! “Boy is it nice to hear your voice! Where are we, and what’s going on?”

“Well, Gobi, we are underground right now, seeping down through the rocks and sand into the groundwater,” Savvy said. “The rocks and sand act as natural filters and, while we become groundwater, we get to meet and hang out with lots of new friends as we get even cleaner.”

“I don’t think I have ever been groundwater before,” Aguat said.

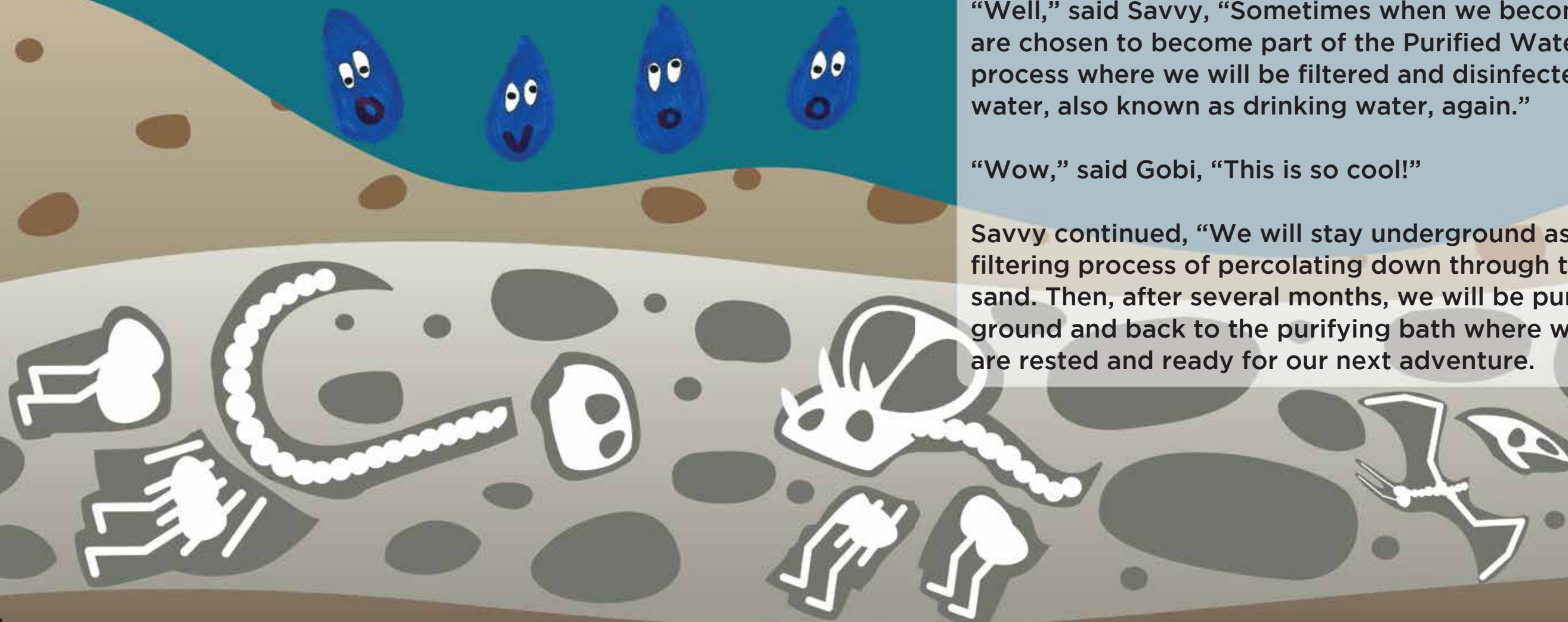
“Me either,” said Gobi.

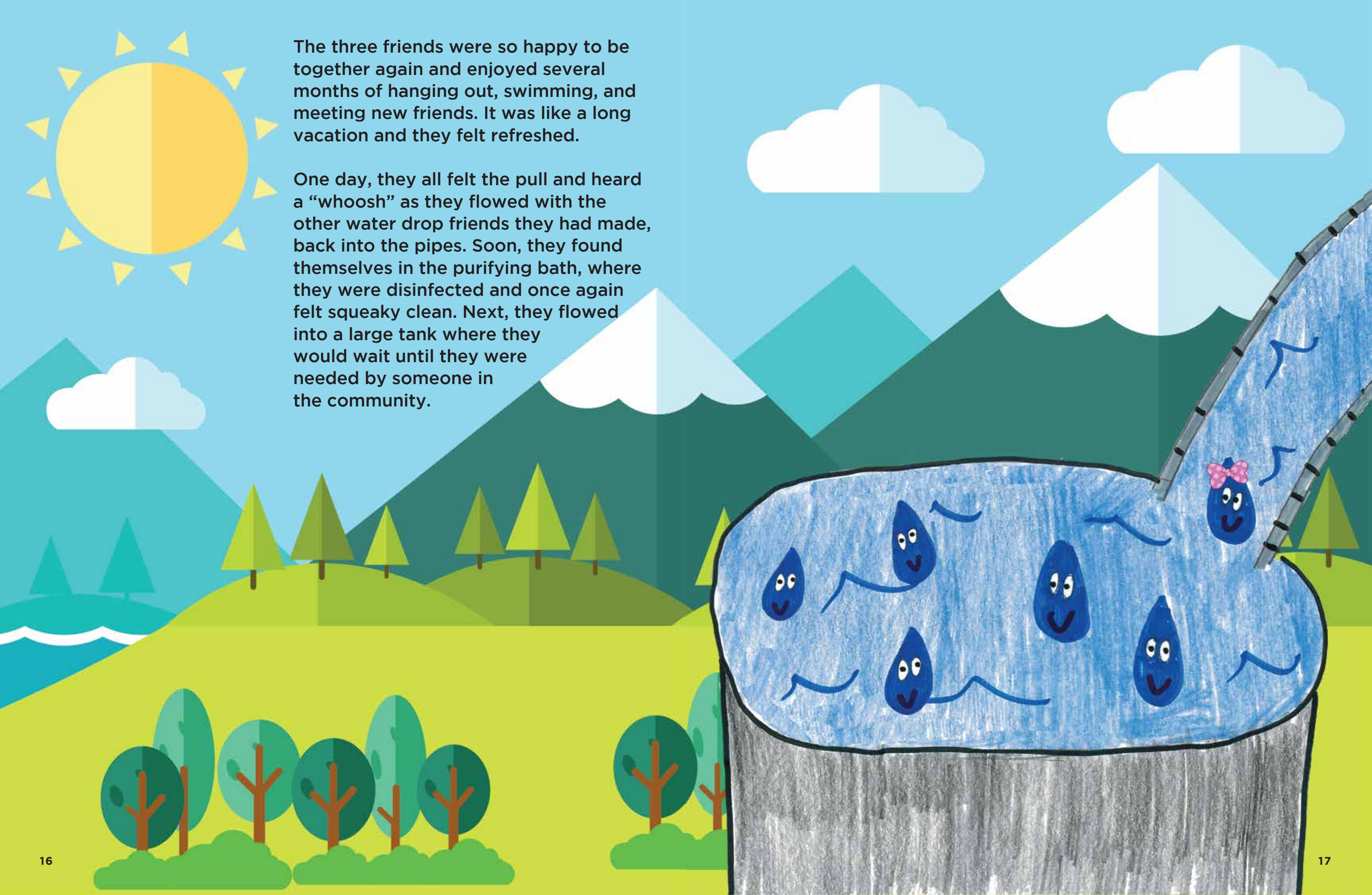


“Well,” said Savvy, “Sometimes when we become recycled water, we are chosen to become part of the Purified Water Replenishment process where we will be filtered and disinfected to become potable water, also known as drinking water, again.”

“Wow,” said Gobi, “This is so cool!”

Savvy continued, “We will stay underground as we continue the filtering process of percolating down through the rocks and the sand. Then, after several months, we will be pumped out of the ground and back to the purifying bath where we will stay until we are rested and ready for our next adventure.”





The three friends were so happy to be together again and enjoyed several months of hanging out, swimming, and meeting new friends. It was like a long vacation and they felt refreshed.

One day, they all felt the pull and heard a “whoosh” as they flowed with the other water drop friends they had made, back into the pipes. Soon, they found themselves in the purifying bath, where they were disinfected and once again felt squeaky clean. Next, they flowed into a large tank where they would wait until they were needed by someone in the community.

The next morning, the three drops were pulled into a potable water pipeline, and they sped toward the city to provide fresh water to a nearby home. "I wonder where we are headed for our next adventure," Aguat thought aloud.





They soon learned as they flowed out of the faucet and into a fishbowl. Could it be? Well, yes. Yes, it could! They found themselves back in the fishbowl with Bubbles. Except this time their friend Savvy was with them. Bubbles shrieked with joy when he saw them.

The friends were reunited, squeaky clean, and ready to be used again.

And they all lived, happily ever after – over, and over, and over again!

Bios



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Arthur is a seventh grade student at Lakeside Middle School in Perris, California. He is an active member of the running club and part of the Scholars class. He enjoys sports and fishing.

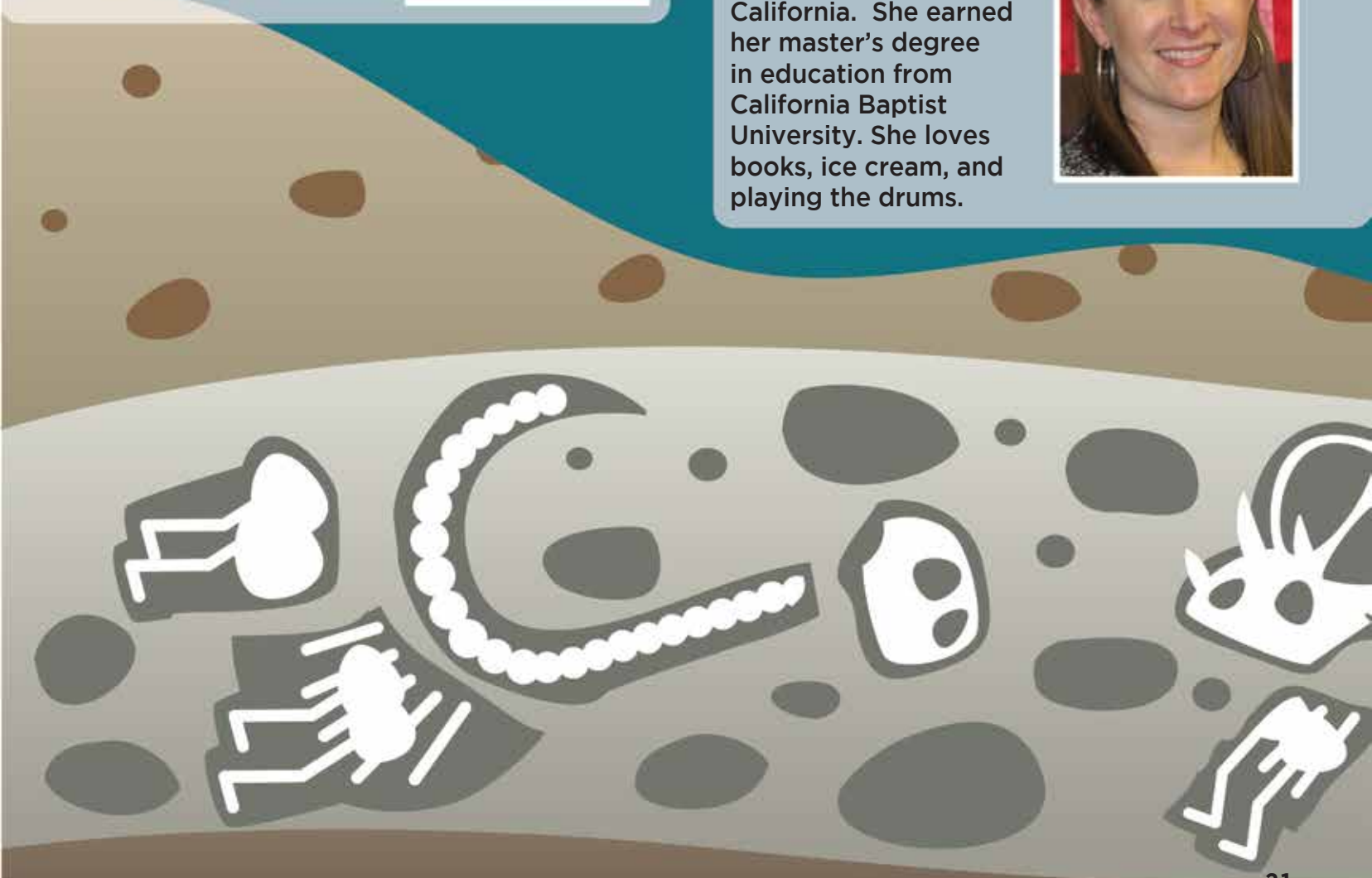


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Vocabulary Words

Chlorine: A chemical used to disinfect water.

Disinfect: To cleanse so as to destroy or prevent growth of disease-carrying germs.

Filter: Something porous that removes impurities or solid particles from a liquid or gas that passes through it.

Groundwater: Water held underground in the soil or in the pores and crevices in rock.

Landscape: The enhancement of the appearance of land, especially around buildings, by altering its contours and planting trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Percolate: Filter gradually through a porous surface.

Porous: Having tiny spaces or holes through which liquid or gas may pass.

Potable: Safe to drink.

Purified Water Replenishment: The blending of advanced treated, recycled, or reclaimed water into a natural water source (groundwater basin or reservoir) that may be used for drinking (potable) water after further treatment.

Reclamation: The recovery of useful substances from waste products.

Recycled Water: The use of treated and processed wastewater for useful purposes like agricultural and landscape irrigation, industrial processes, and groundwater replenishment, which is also called groundwater recharge.

Acknowledgements

Eastern Municipal Water District Public Affairs Officer Malea Ortloff developed the award-winning Write-Off program in 2008, 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. 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. Funding for the Write-Off contest is sponsored in part by Rancho California Water District (RCWD). To date 19 books, written and/or illustrated by middle school students, have been published.

This year the theme focused on an innovative topic: Purified Water Replenishment. Students were tasked with conveying a message about the process of recycled water being used to recharge groundwater and ultimately becoming drinking water. The story, *Gobi, Aguat, and Savvy Get Squeaky Clean Again*, highlights this method of water filtration and demonstrates how the process extends our limited drinking water supplies. The story provides an engaging learning opportunity for people of all ages. All of the winning Write-Off stories are available to schools and libraries within the EMWD/RCWD service areas and are also available as eBooks on the EMWD/RCWD websites.

Check out the EMWD website (www.emwd.org) to read all of the stories.

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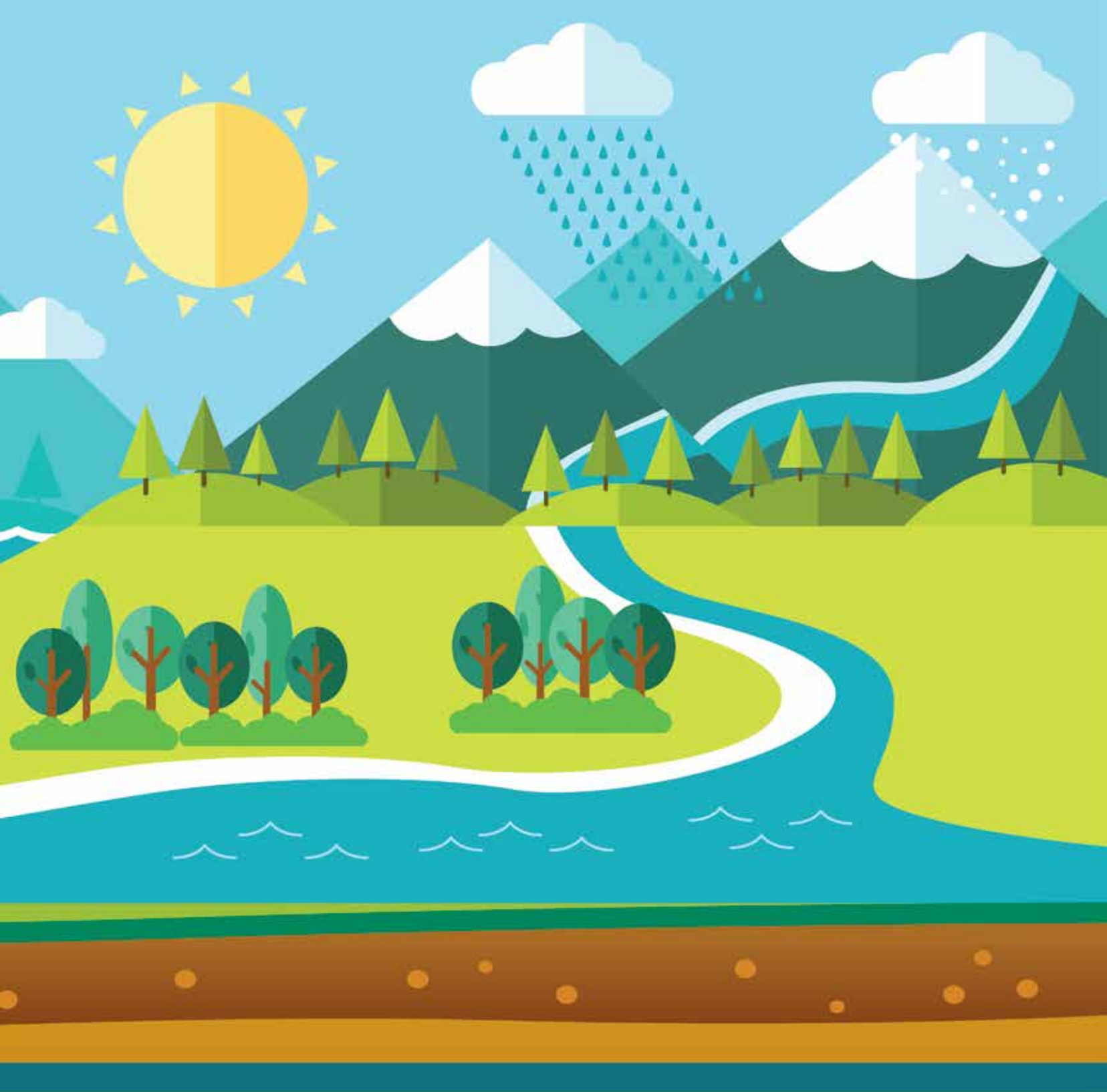
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REPLENISHMENT
Groundwater Reliability Plus



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