

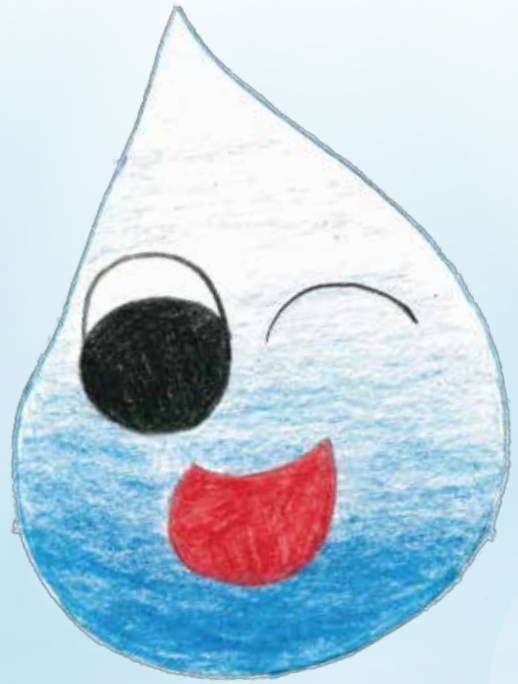
# Lily

and the  
Seven Drops

Authored by  
**Jasmine McGary** and **Michelle Sivitos**

Illustrated by  
**Minji Hong**

*Produced by*  
Eastern Municipal Water District  
and Rancho California Water District



*I would like to dedicate  
this book to my family,  
friends, and Vista  
Verde Middle School.  
–Michelle Sivitos*

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Lily and her friends, who everyone called the seven drops. They lived happily in their village, playing day after day and finding ways to preserve and conserve water.

*This book is dedicated to my  
family, 2015 8th grade Jr. Scholars  
class, friends, and especially my  
niece Zion who loves to read.  
–Jasmine McGary*



**Ha!  
Found  
you!**





*"I know, and I shall always be."*

*"Cloud cloud in the sky, who's the biggest water waster, do not lie?"*

*"You, Evil Queen Ivana."*

The little village was not entirely at peace. Evil Queen Ivana was always in her tower plotting ways to waste water.

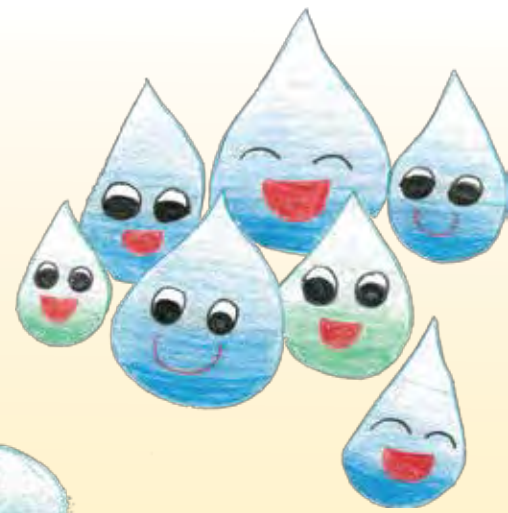


*Yawn!*

*What a beautiful morning. I can't wait to go and save more water today!*

Every the morning, Lily and her friends would meet in the woods to play and think of ways to save water.

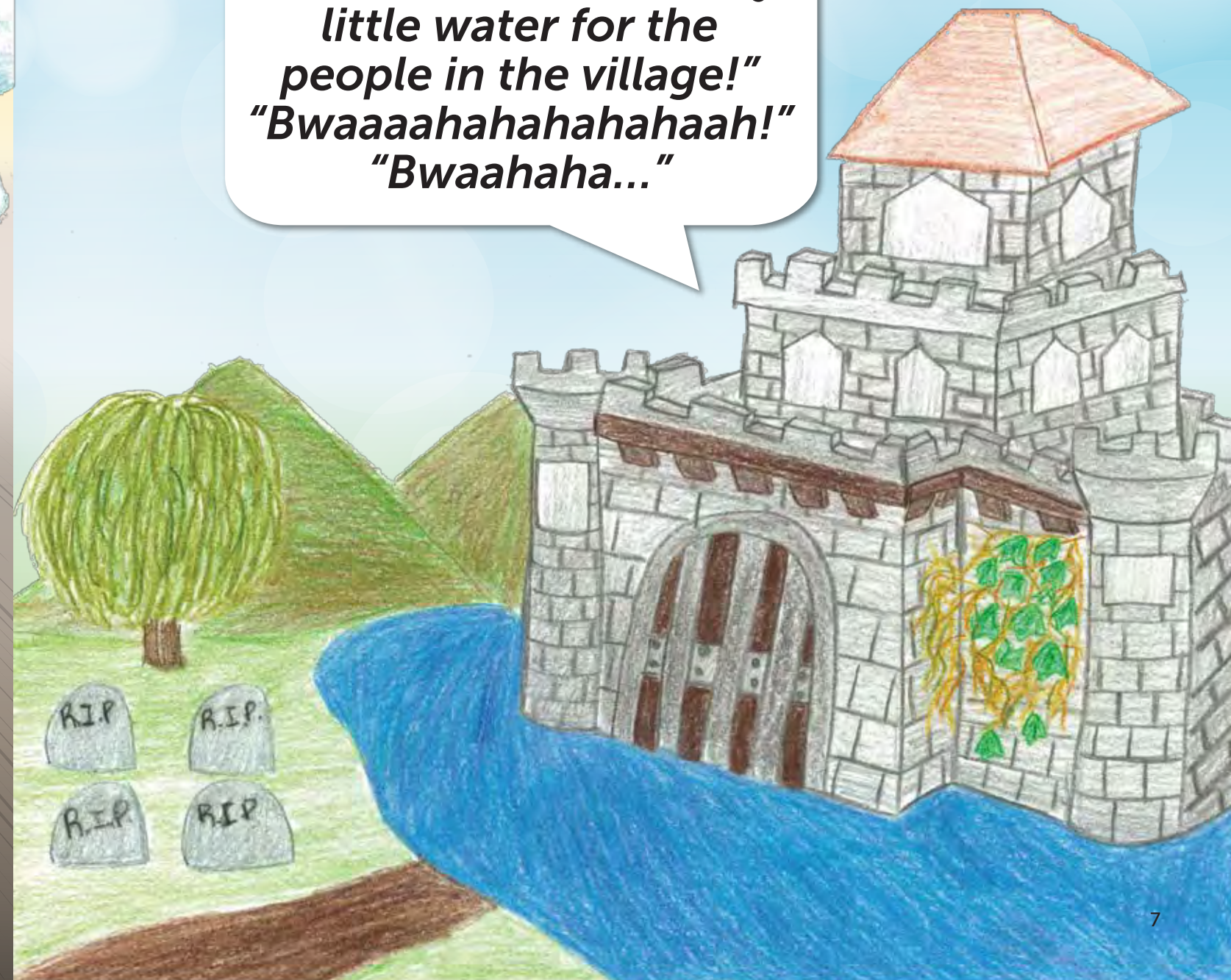
***"Evil Queen Ivana,  
I have terrible news!  
A young girl named Lily  
has seven water  
friends!"***



***"What? Oh my!  
We need to get rid  
of them, and fast!"***

Back at Evil Queen Ivana's castle, her voice could be heard through the windows as she plotted an evil plan. A drought will come to the area and there will be very little water!

***"Now, there will be very  
little water for the  
people in the village!"  
"Bwaaaahahahahahaah!"  
"Bwaahaha..."***



*" My loyal henchman, go find Lily's seven drops and take them away. Make sure she can never find them!"*



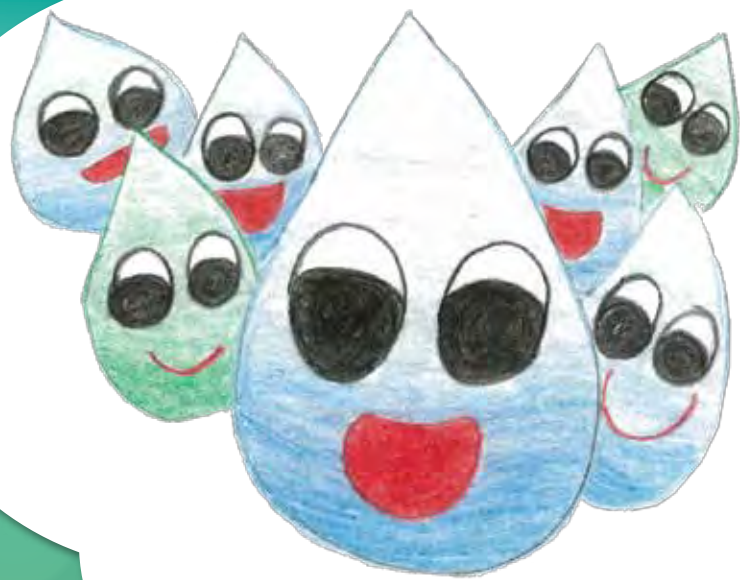
*"Yes, Queen, right away!"*



*"Hey guys, where are you? Guys? Hello!?"*



The next day Lily could not find her little friends anywhere.



"Guys...?"

Lily searched all day, but could not find her friends.

Lily could not find her water friends because the queen's henchman had taken them. He trapped them in a large container that could only be unlocked one way.

*"That should do it! Lily will never find them here!"*





While walking back home Lily overheard someone talking, so she crept closer to the sound.

"Oh no..."

She got close enough to see the seven drops in a cage with Evil Queen Ivana's henchman standing guard. When Lily saw her poor friends trapped and the mean old henchman guarding the cage, she knew what she had to do.

In order to get her friends back, Lily had to save water.



Lily always makes sure she turns the water off while she is brushing her teeth.

Lily takes short showers and fills the tub only half-full when she takes a bath.

*"I never fill the tub to the top! I just fill it half-way!"*



Lily believes everyone should use California Friendly plants, which use more than 50 percent less water than turf-grass.



Lily never waters her plants or turns on the sprinklers when it is raining outdoors.

*"It's raining, it's pouring. Your sprinklers should be snoring!"*



Lily and her family take their car to a car wash that uses recirculated water.



Lily shared what she was doing with her friends and neighbors, and they all began to save water. The news spread quickly that water was being saved.

*"There is a slight problem Evil Queen Ivana..."*



Lily never uses a hose to clean her driveway or sidewalk, she uses a broom instead!

Lily also likes to remind everyone to quickly fix their leaky pipes.



*"WHAT?"*

Once Lily discovered seven ways to save water, Evil Queen Ivana's curse was removed and the seven drops were set free.

*"Noooo! My evil plan is ruined!"*

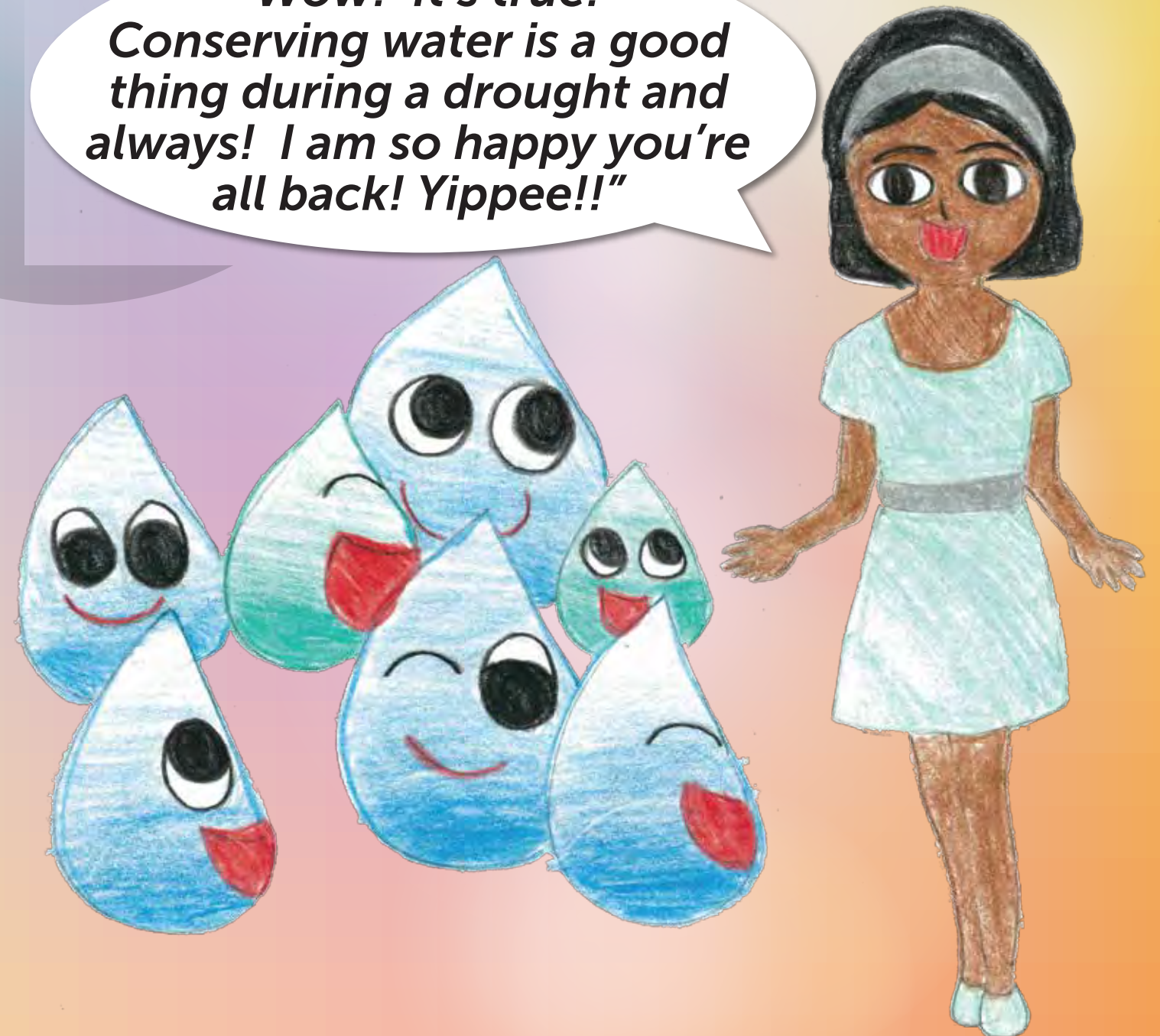


**FREEDOM!!**

After all of Lily's hard work to preserve and conserve water, the evil Queen's water wasting plan was ruined. The seven drops and the village were saved.

Lily encouraged others to practice water conservation so there would be plenty of water on hand in the event of a drought. Lily became a hero because of her good deeds.

*"Wow! It's true! Conserving water is a good thing during a drought and always! I am so happy you're all back! Yippee!!"*



And they all lived... Happily ever after!



My name is **Jasmine Nicole McGary**, I am an eighth grade Jr. Scholar at Vista Verde Middle School. I have three sisters, a niece, and parents who all play major roles in my life. When I get older, I would like to work somewhere in the medical field, so I can assist those in need. I love spending time with my friends and sisters who are supportive in everything I do. I also enjoy doing after school activities. I would like to thank EMWD and especially Mrs. Ortloff for letting me have this incredible opportunity.

My name is **Michelle Paola Sivitos** and I am thirteen years old. I have two older sisters and I am the youngest of my family. I love cats and have one named Mr. Pancho. I always put family and school first because I feel they are more important than anything. My hobbies are playing video games and reading. I love video games so much I want to be a video game designer when I grow-up.



My name is **Rosa Ornelas** and I graduated from UCLA in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Literature and a minor in Chicano Studies. I studied abroad in 2005 and went to Stratford-Upon-Avon (Shakespeare's home town) and London to study Shakespeare. I have taught 8th grade for four years at Vista Verde Middle School and am the 8th grade Language Arts Junior Scholars teacher. I am the facilitator of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and in 2013-14 I was the GATE facilitator. I am married and have two wonderful girls (three years and a one week old).



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



Hi, my name is **Minji Hong**, and I am a seventh grader at Calvary Murrieta Christian School. This is almost my fifth year in America, also my second year at Calvary. I have always enjoyed reading, and it is a thrill to illustrate a book! I would like to thank my family and friends for always loving me and dealing with me, no matter what. I also thank God for everything he has done in my life!



## Vocabulary Words:

**California Friendly Plant:** A strong and hearty plant that does well in California's climate and needs little water.

**Climate:** The normal weather conditions for a particular area.

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

**Deeds:** An act or an action.

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

**Evil:** Something that is bad.

**Freedom:** The power to do what you want to do: the ability to move or act freely.

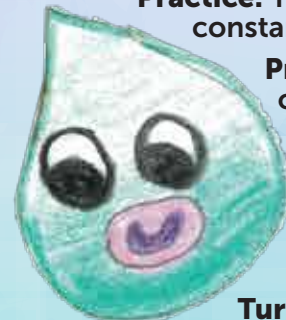
**Henchman:** A trusted follower or supporter who performs unpleasant or bad tasks for a powerful person.

**Hero:** A person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities.

**Plenty:** The state of having enough of something that makes life good and easy.

**Plot:** To plan secretly to do something that is usually harmful.

**Practice:** To do something regularly or constantly as an ordinary part of life.



**Preserve:** To keep something in its original state or in good condition.

**Recirculated:** To move or pass through a system and back to starting point.

**Ruin:** To damage something so badly that it is no longer useful.

**Turf-grass:** The upper layer of ground that is made up of grass and plant roots.

**Village:** A small town in the country.

**Waste:** an action or use that results in the unnecessary loss of something valuable.



## 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.

In 2015, more than 300 students participated in the writing contest and two winning entries were selected. *Lily And The Seven Drops* is fact-based fiction narrative about water conservation and drought. The story encourages readers to understand the meaning of drought and the importance of water conservation during a drought, and always. The story will be developed into a flannel board presentation and presented, distributed and available to students within the Eastern Municipal and Rancho California Water District service areas.

Check out the Eastern Municipal Water District website ([www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)) to read the other winning story: *California Drought: Learning What It's All About*.

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

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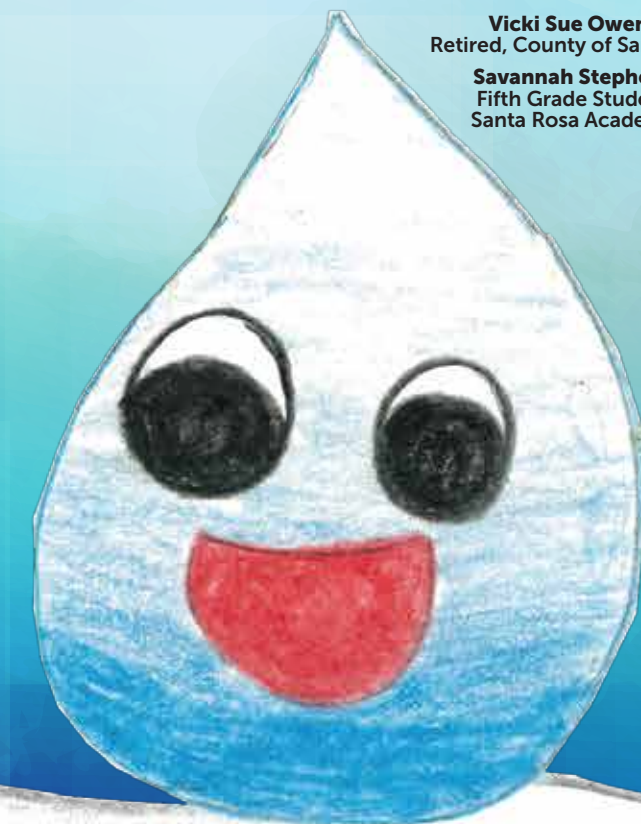
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The background of the entire page is a light blue gradient. Scattered throughout are several hand-drawn water drop faces. Some are white with black eyes and red smiles, while others are light blue or green with black eyes and red smiles. Two larger, more detailed faces are positioned in the middle-left and middle-right areas. These faces have brown skin, black hair, and red lips, and they have their eyes closed in a peaceful expression.

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