

The illustration features a water spirit with a human-like head and a long, flowing, blue body that resembles water. The spirit is positioned at the bottom left, looking towards the right. Above the spirit is a large, white, stylized cloud with intricate scrollwork. To the right of the cloud, several vertical lines represent rain falling. The background is a textured, watercolor-style wash of light blue and green. The title 'The Legend of the Water Dance' is written in a red, cursive font, centered in the middle of the image.

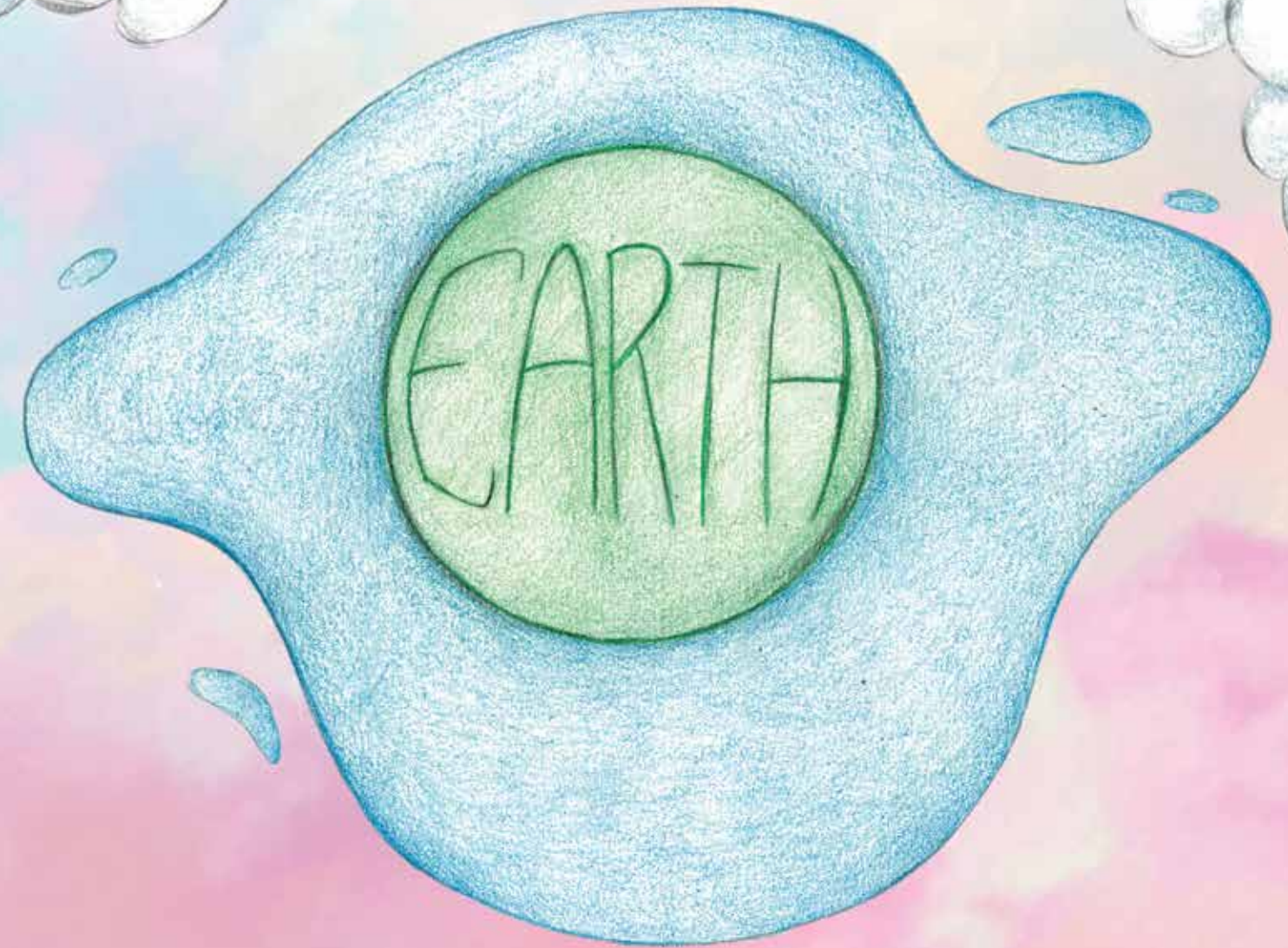
*The Legend of the
Water
Dance*

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR: ISABEL ANDERS

PRODUCED BY: EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AND RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT

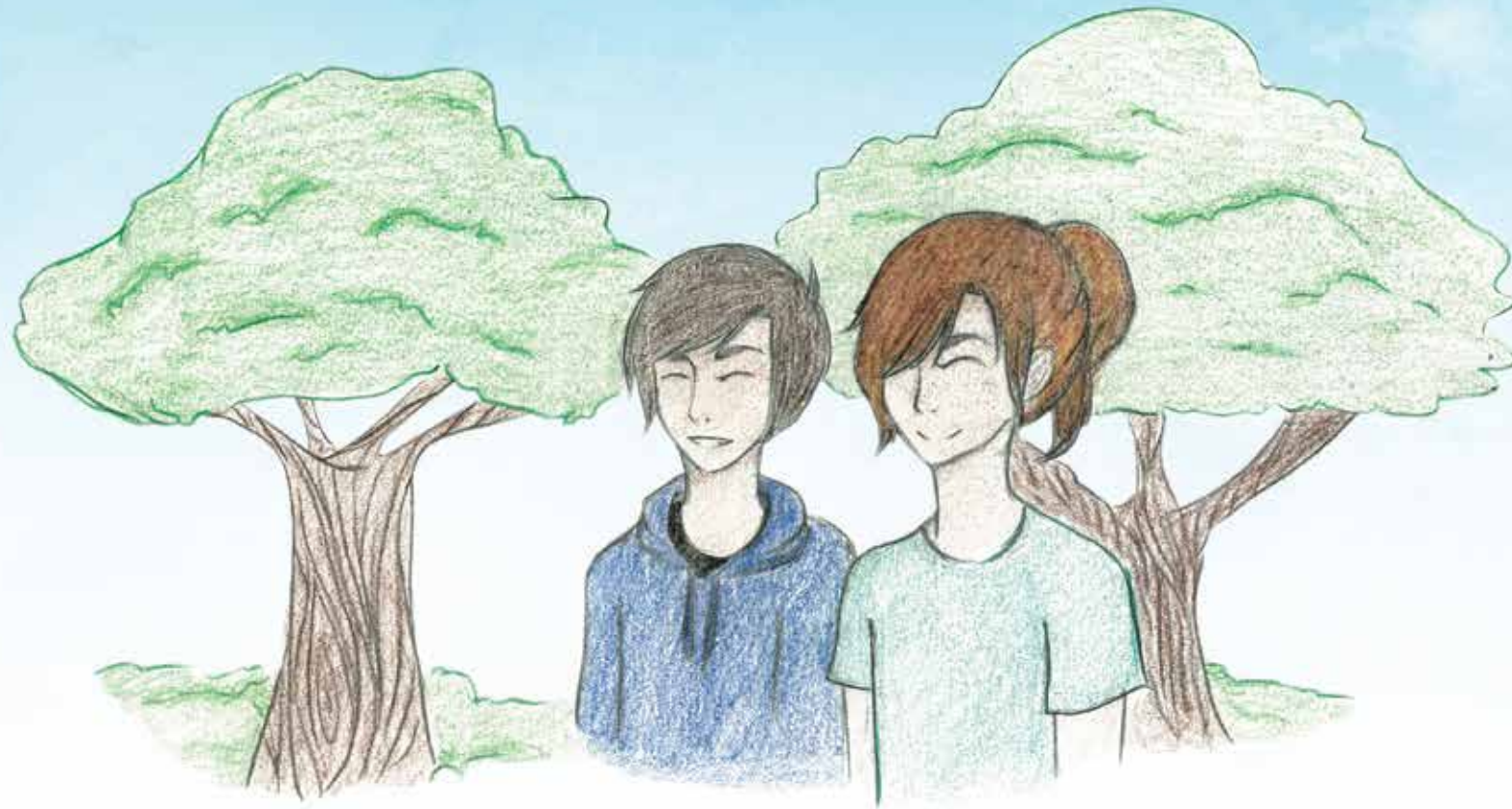


THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO MY MOM,
WHOSE LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR EVERYTHING
I DO HELPS BRING OUT THE BEST IN ME.
ISABEL ANDERS



EARTH WAS CREATED ABOUT
4.6 BILLION YEARS AGO.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT,
HUMANS HAVE ONLY BEEN
AROUND FOR A SMALL
AMOUNT OF THAT TIME.



IT MAKES YOU WONDER,
“WHAT WAS THE FIRST
THING ON EARTH?”

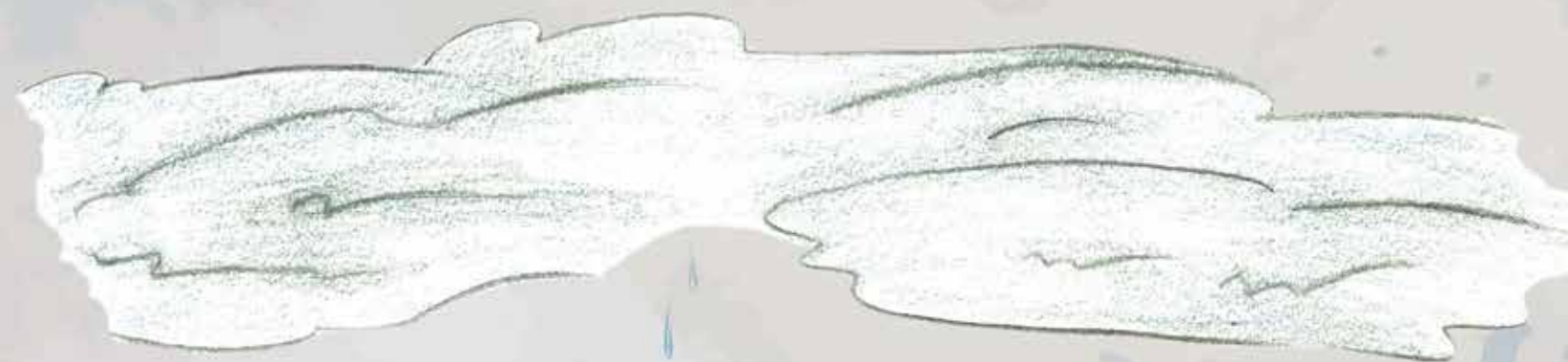


AT FIRST, IT WAS JUST
A BIG HUNK OF ROCK.

THEN ONE DAY...

IT RAINED.
IT RAINED,
AND RAINED,
AND RAINED.

EVENTUALLY, WATER COVERED
THE WHOLE WORLD.



THE WATER COULD BE IN ANY
SHAPE IT WANTED. SO IT TOOK
THE FORM OF A WOMAN.

SHE WAS ALL ALONE IN THE
WORLD WITH NOTHING TO DO,
SO SHE DANCED.



ONE DAY, WHILE SHE
WAS DANCING, THE SUN CAME
OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME.



SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE SUN WAS,
BUT WHEN IT CAME OUT...
SHE SAW THAT HER HAND WAS GONE.



BECAUSE SHE WAS WATER,
SHE COULD FORM ANOTHER HAND.

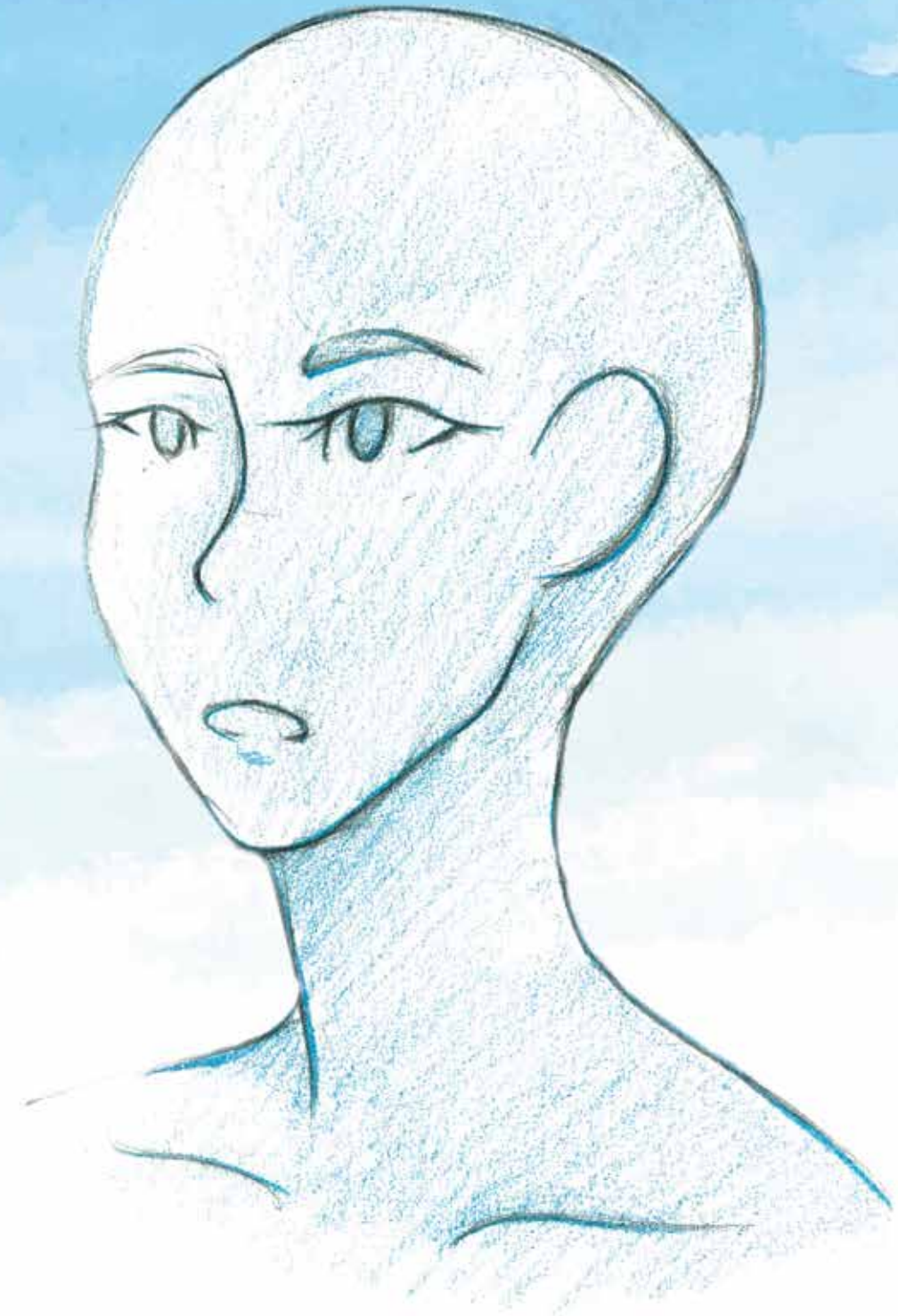
BUT SHE WANTED TO KNOW
WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



SOON AFTER, THE SAME THING
HAPPENED TO HER AGAIN!



SHE WAS SURPRISED – NOT BY THE ACTION,
BUT BY HOW NATURAL IT FELT.





UP AND UP SHE WENT!
SHE HADN'T
REALLY DISAPPEARED...
SHE WAS STILL WATER,
BUT AS A GAS.
SHE WAS STEAM.
IN THIS NEW FORM,
SHE FLOATED HIGH
INTO THE SKY.



NOW SHE WAS A CLOUD. SHE WAS
LIGHT AND FREE. MORE AND MORE
WATER FOLLOWED THIS JOURNEY, AND THE
SKY WAS SOON FILLED WITH CLOUDS.

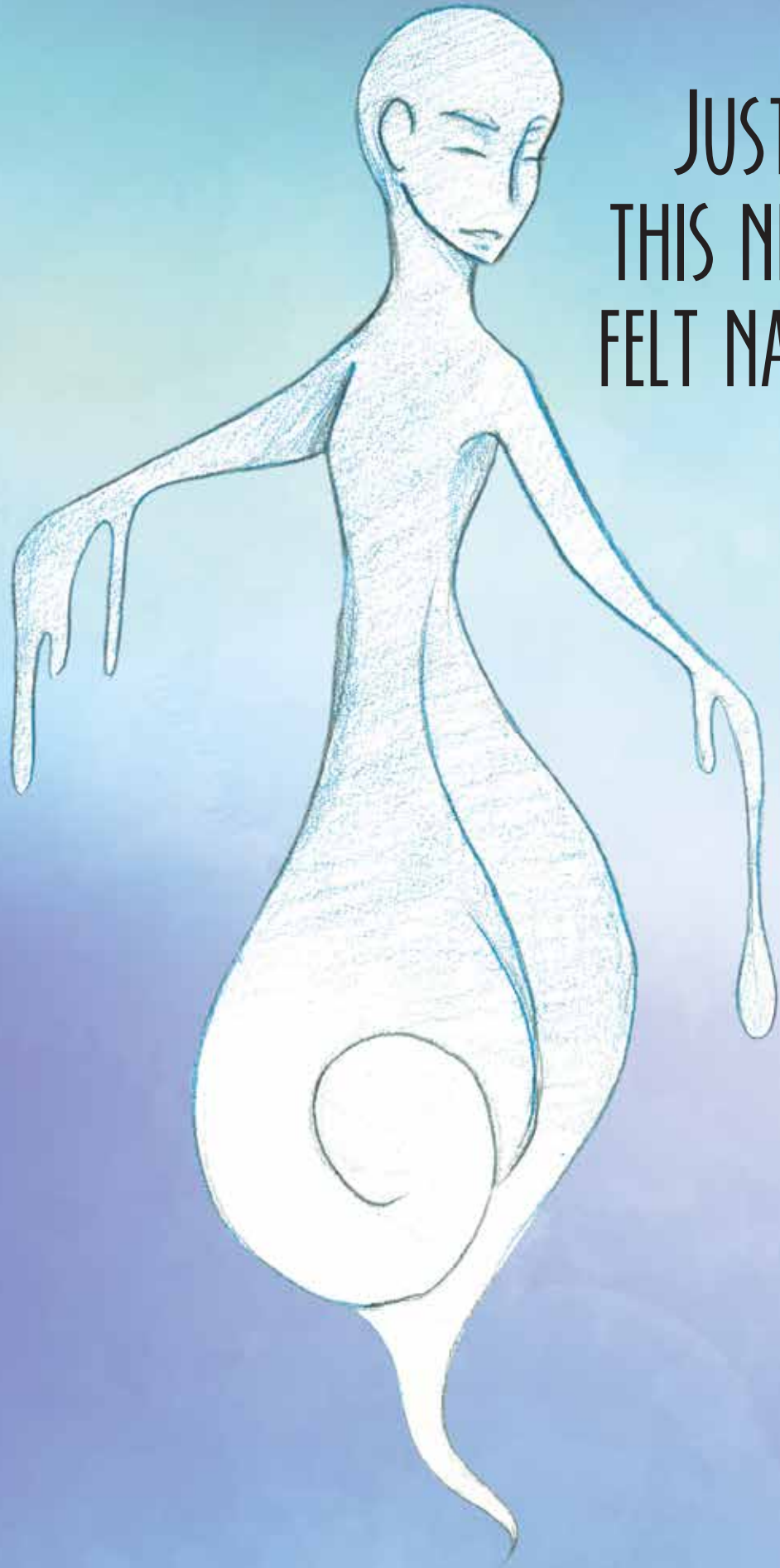


THE MORE CLOUDS THAT FORMED,
THE HEAVIER THEY GOT. THEY BECAME DARK
— DARK WITH THE SPLASHES OF
COLOR FROM ALL THE WATER.

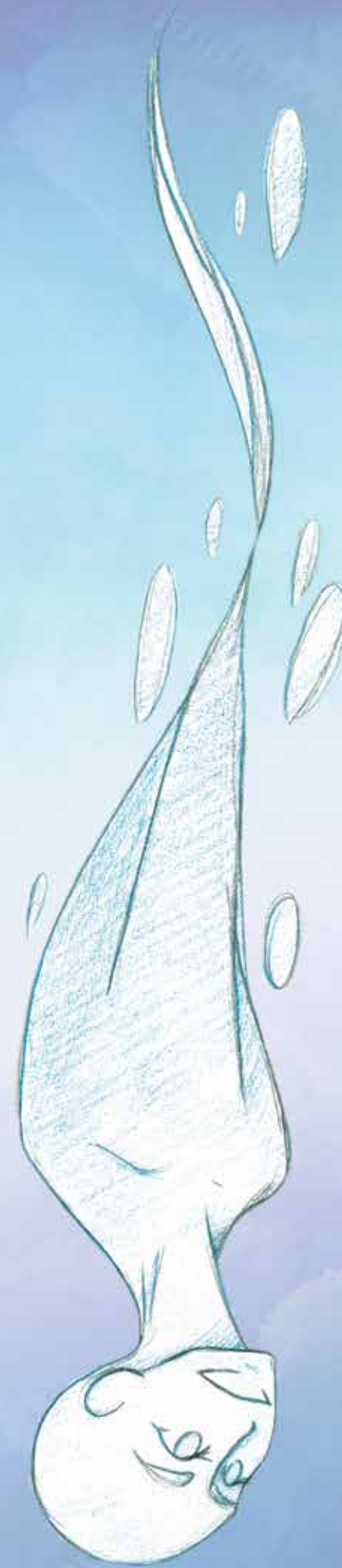


IN FACT, ALL THAT WATER WAS TOO HEAVY!
IT FELL FROM THE SKY AS RAIN.

JUST AS BEFORE,
THIS NEW EXPERIENCE
FELT NATURAL TO HER.



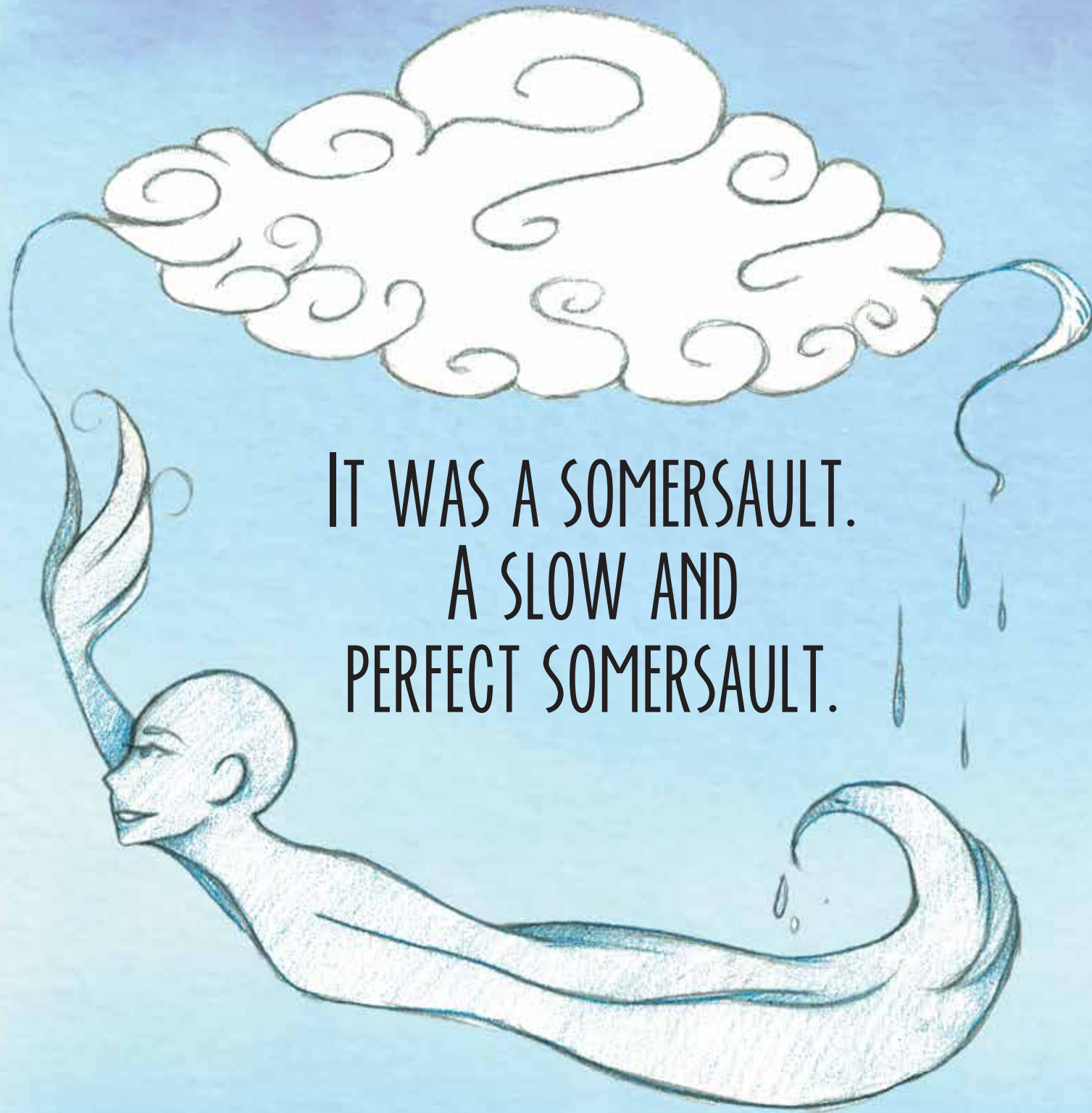
DOWN, DOWN SHE WENT,
EXCITED TO SEE WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN ONCE
SHE WAS BACK ON EARTH.



SHE SPLASHED INTO HER OCEAN
FULL OF ENERGY. SHE HAD AN IDEA.

JUST AS SHE
ALWAYS DANCED
YEARS BEFORE, SHE
WOULD DANCE AGAIN.
ONLY NOW SHE HAD
A NEW ONE.





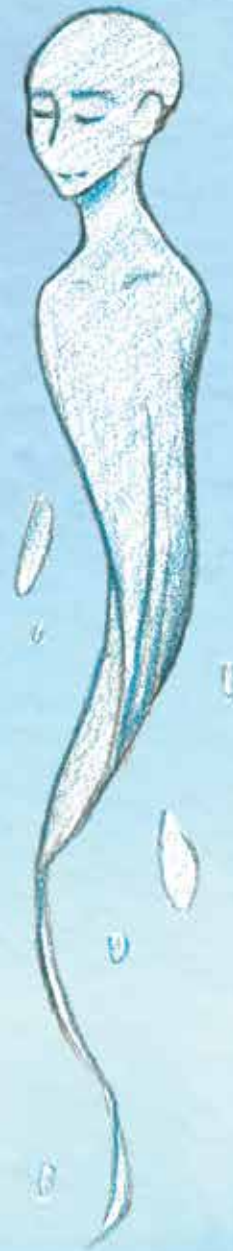
IT WAS A SOMERSAULT.
A SLOW AND
PERFECT SOMERSAULT.

SHE CALLED THIS THE WATER CYCLE.

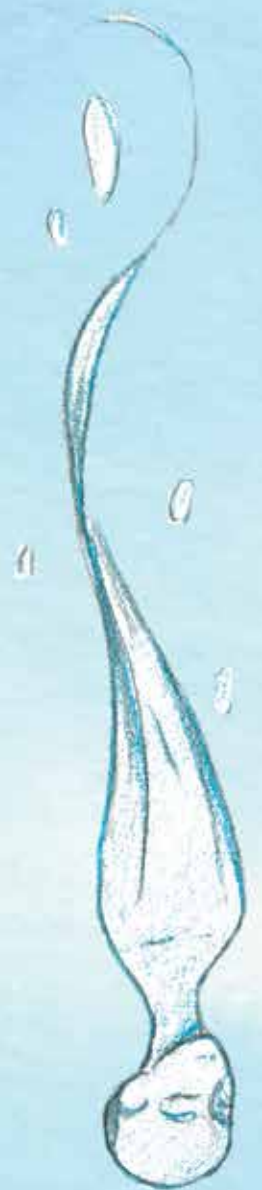
FIRST: EVAPORATION! THE SUN
ALLOWED HER TO BECOME
WATER VAPOR AND RISE.



SECOND: CONDENSATION!
SHE BECAME A CLOUD
HIGH IN THE SKY.



THIRD: PRECIPITATION!
SHE FELL BACK TO THE EARTH
AS RAIN, SNOW OR HAIL.



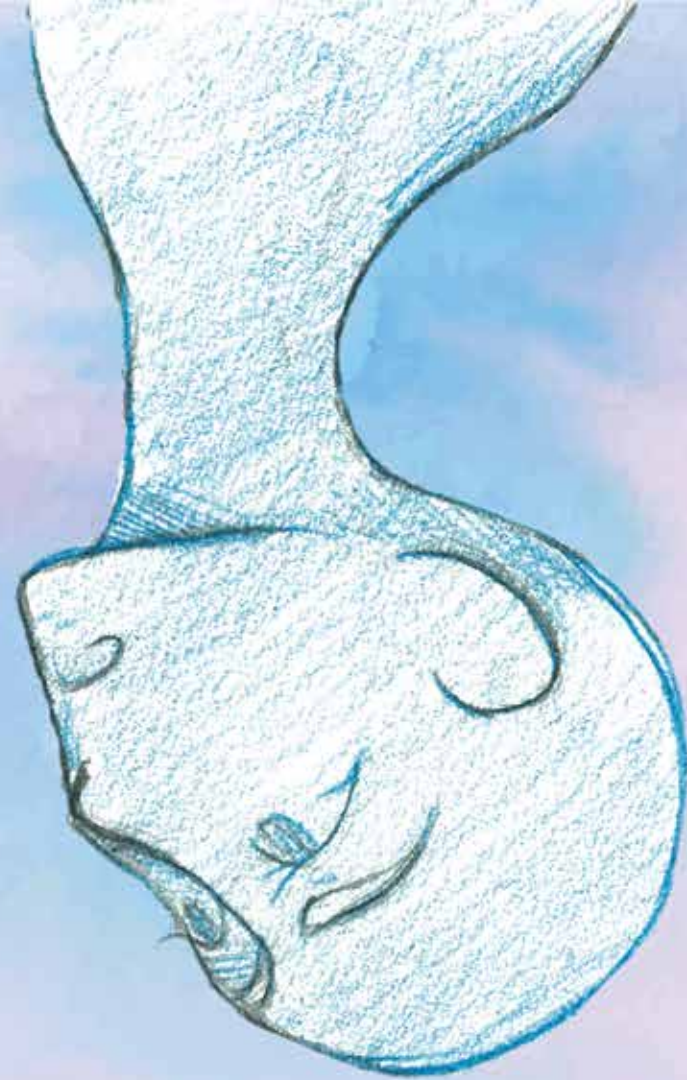


THEN THE CYCLE STARTED
ALL OVER AGAIN. ONE DAY
SHE DANCED AND WAS
FINISHING HER LAST STAGE.

SHE WAS EVER SO GRACEFULLY
MOVING TO PRECIPITATION.



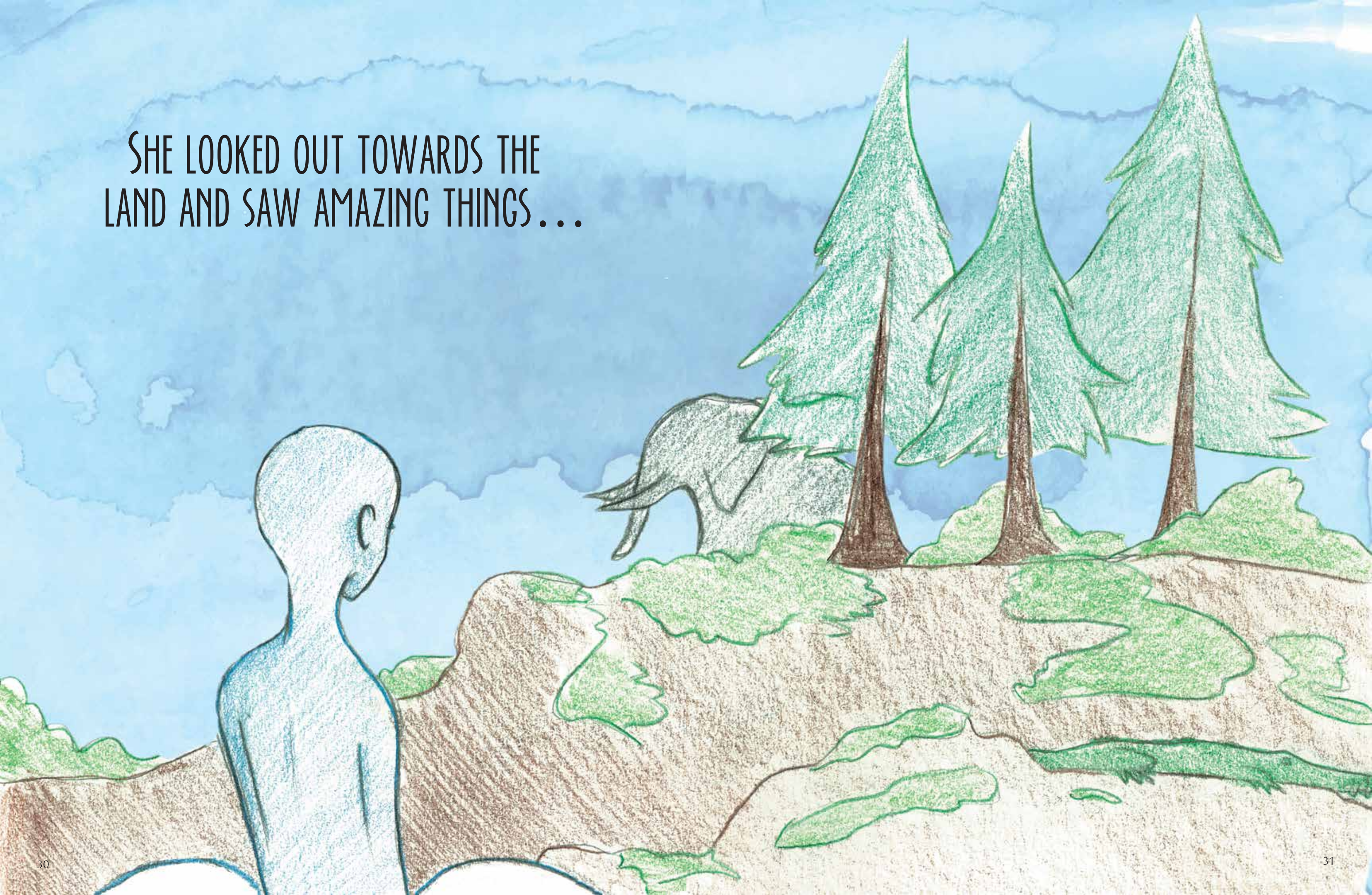
THE EARTH WAS NO LONGER JUST WATER.
YOU SEE, SOME TIME HAD PASSED WHILE SHE
WAS A CLOUD. IN THAT TIME, LAND APPEARED.

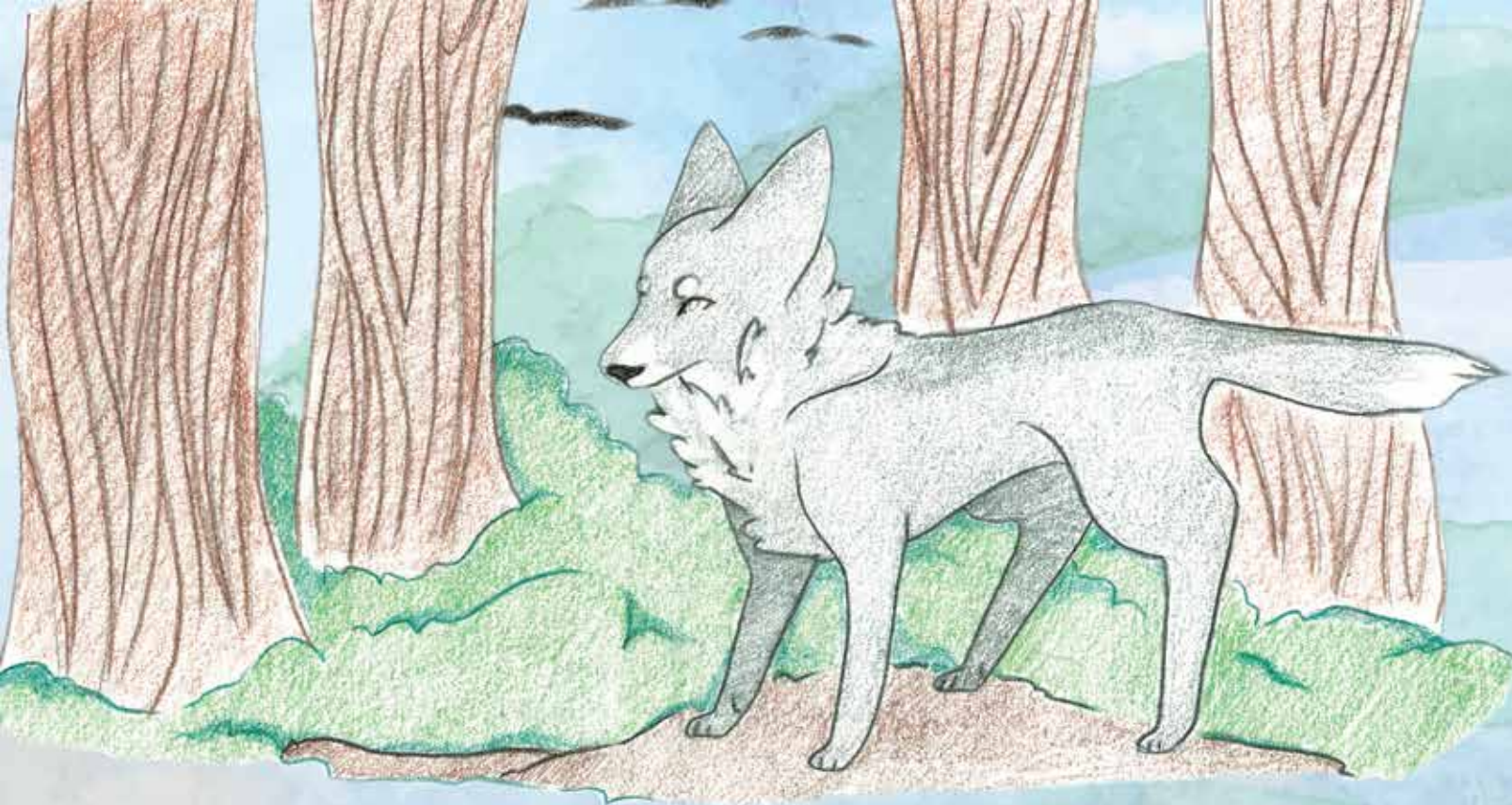


BUT AS SHE GREW NEARER TO
THE EARTH SHE BECAME CONFUSED.
SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT.

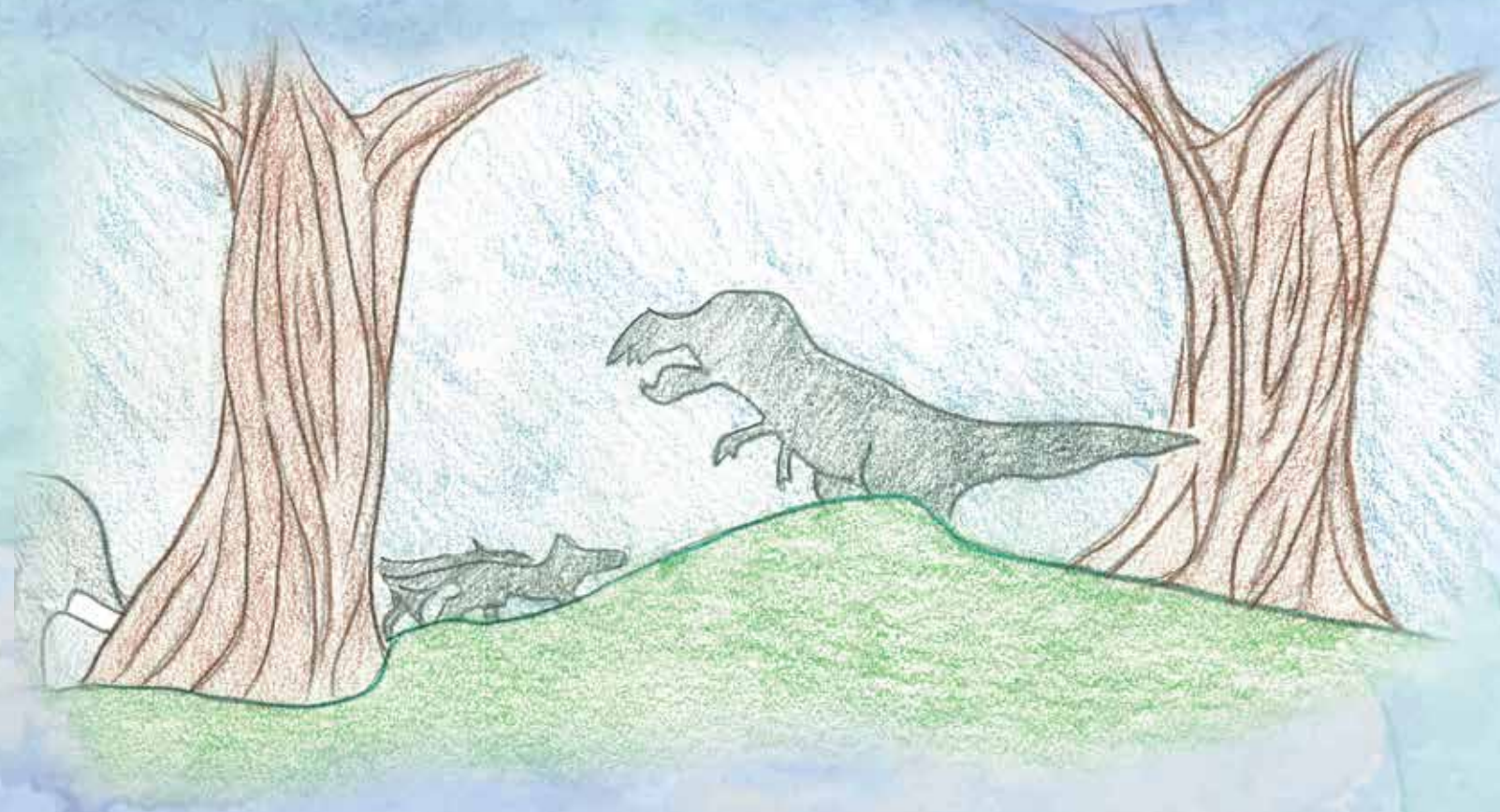


SHE LOOKED OUT TOWARDS THE
LAND AND SAW AMAZING THINGS...

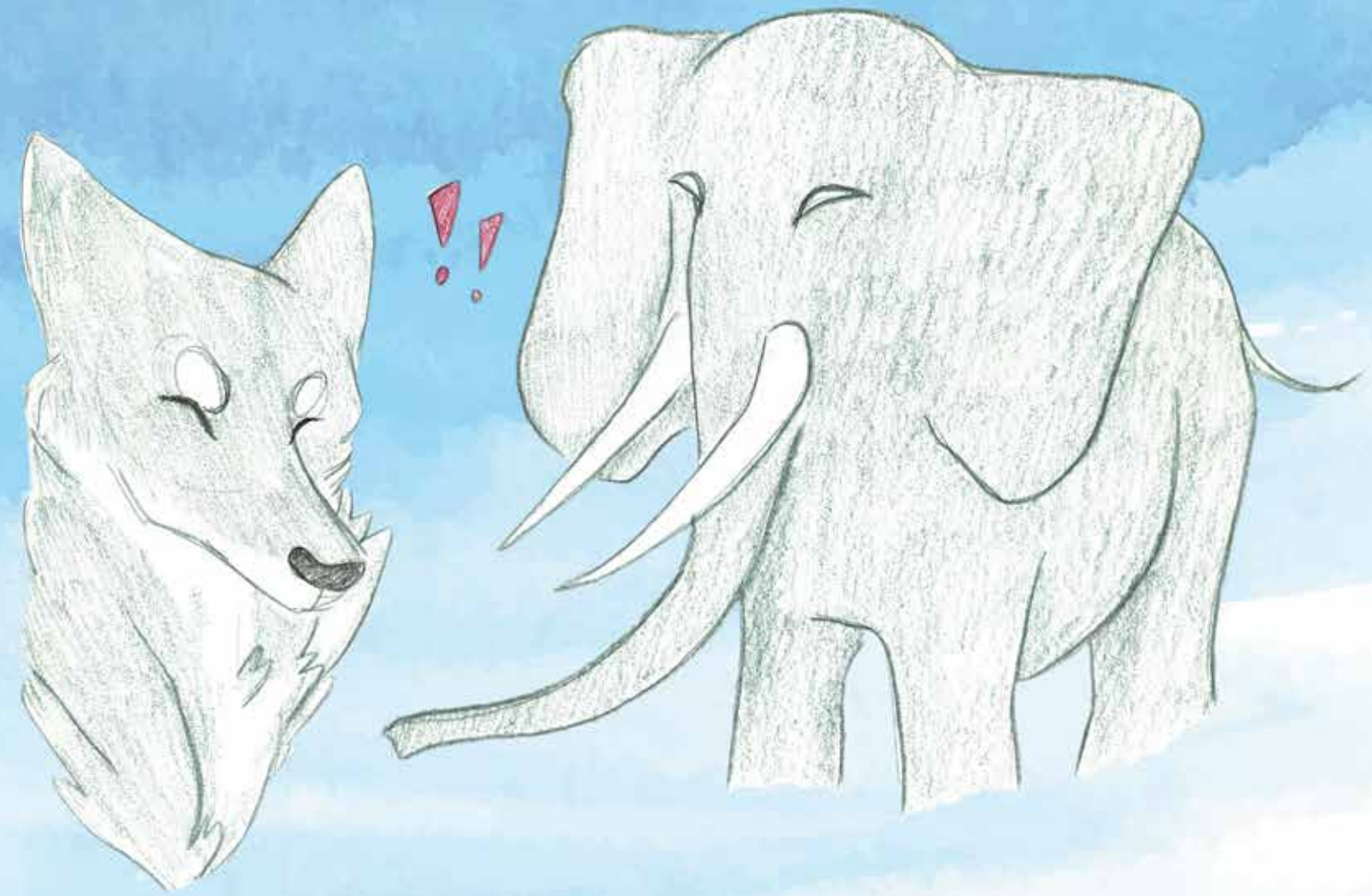
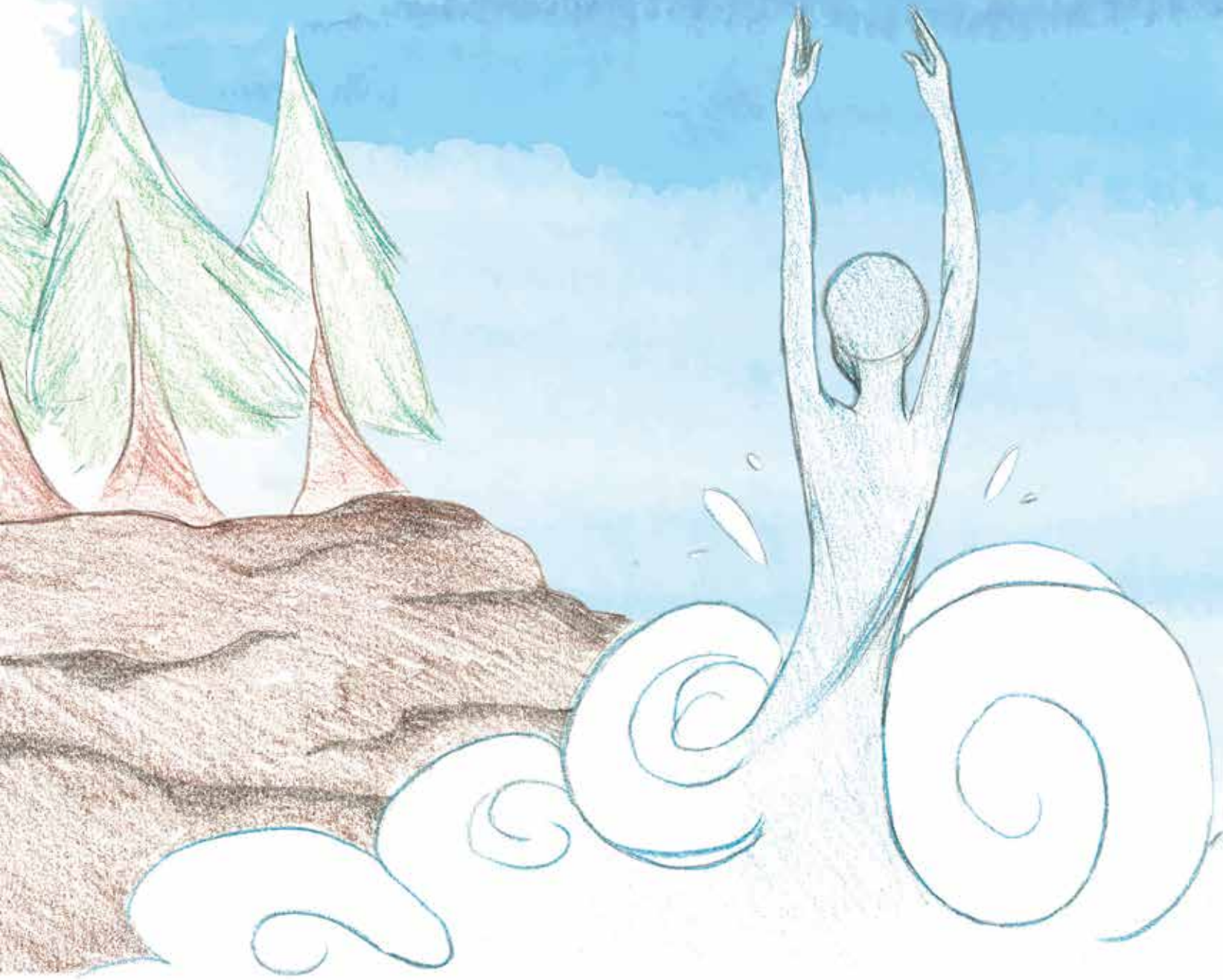




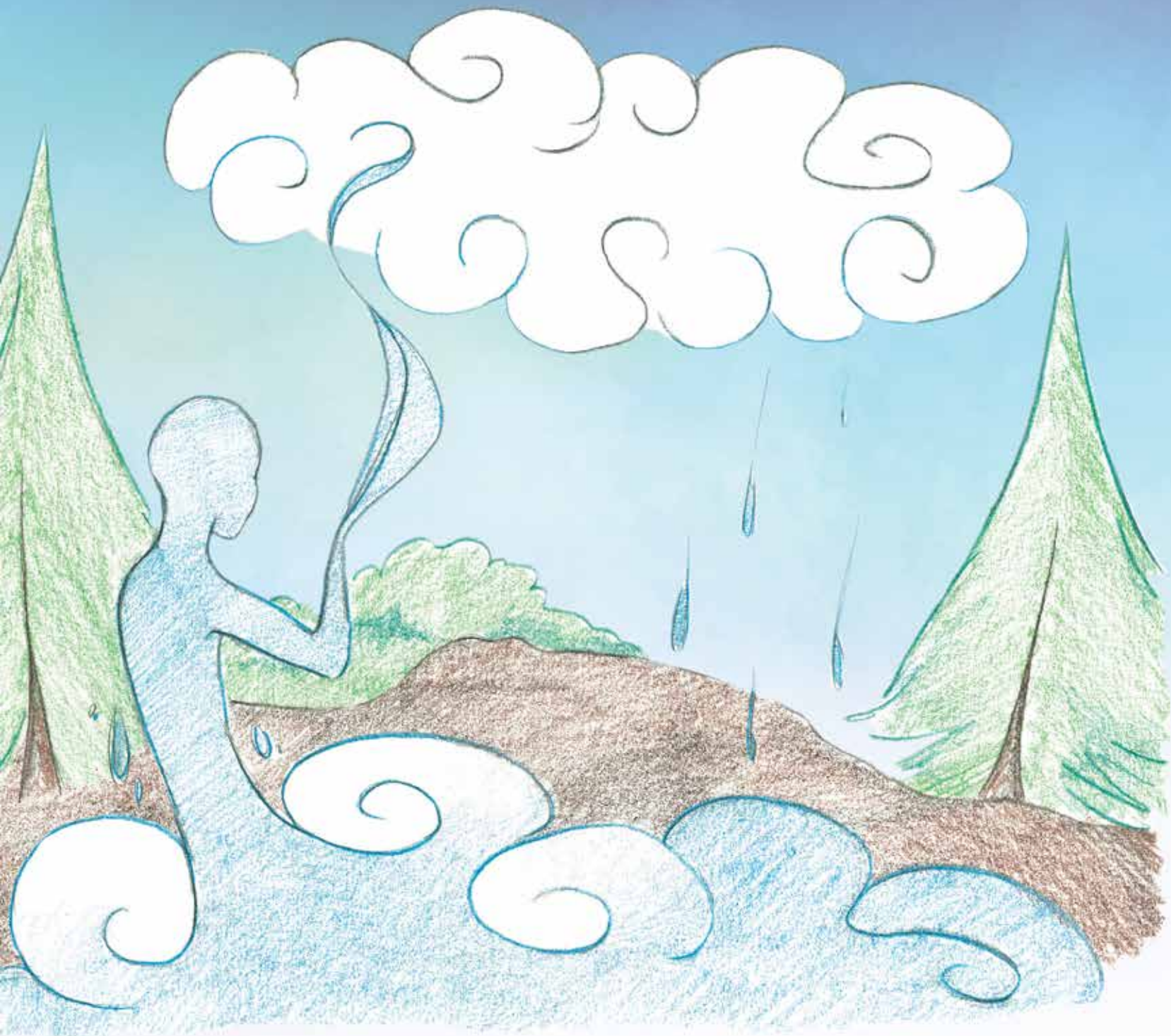
PLANTS AND ANIMALS
OF EVERY KIND.
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL.



SHE RACED TOWARDS THE SURFACE
TO DRAW THE CREATURES' ATTENTION.



AT THE SURFACE, SHE DANCED. SHE DANCED
AND CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF MANY.



SHE SHOWED THEM THE WATER CYCLE.

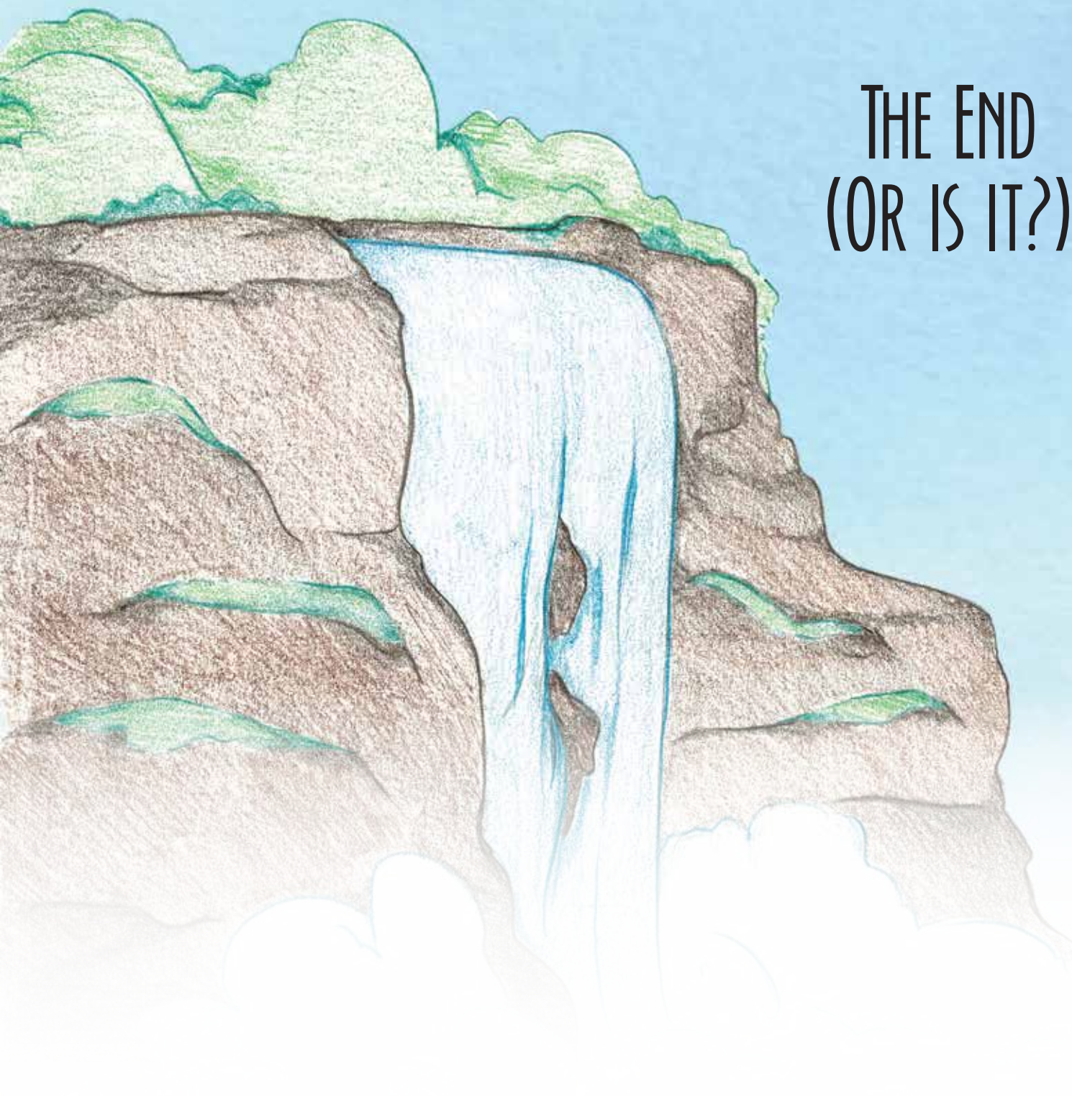
THE CREATURES ALL
LOVED HER AND HER DANCE.



EVERYONE WAS BUSTLING
WITH HAPPINESS. THEY HAVE LIVED
IN HARMONY SINCE.

SHE STILL DANCES TODAY, BUT SHE IS RARELY SEEN. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT HER WATER IS IMPORTANT TO US AND SHOULD BE RESPECTED.

THE END
(OR IS IT?)



I'M ISABEL ANDERS AND I'M CURRENTLY AN 8TH GRADER AT VISTA VERDE MIDDLE SCHOOL. I HAVE AN OLDER



SISTER, WHO I THINK OF AS MY BEST FRIEND. SHE AND I BOTH LOVE ART, ANIMALS, AND FOOD.



MY NAME IS MRS. ORNELAS. I HAVE TWO WONDERFUL PRINCESSES AND A SUPPORTING HUSBAND THAT FILL UP THE SPACE IN MY HEART. EACH DAY THEY TEACH ME MORE ABOUT LOVE, PATIENCE AND LIFE.

MY SUCCESS AS A WOMAN, MOTHER AND TEACHER IS DUE TO THEM AND THE SUPPORT THAT THEY PROVIDE. THE JOURNEY OF TEACHING IS NOT EASY, EACH YEAR I HAVE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF MEETING NEW KIDS, LEARNING DIFFERENT TEACHING STRATEGIES AND ADAPTING TO NEW WAYS OF TEACHING; BUT EACH YEAR THIS JOURNEY IS WELL WORTH ITS TIME.

**WATER
CYCLE
EVENTS**

- EVAPORATION**—THE TRANSFORMATION OF A LIQUID STATE TO A GASEOUS STATE BY AN INCREASE IN TEMPERATURE OR PRESSURE.
- CONDENSATION**—THE TRANSFORMATION OF A VAPOR OR GAS TO A LIQUID WHEN THE AIR IS VERY COLD.
- PRECIPITATION**—RAIN, SNOW, SLEET, OR HAIL THAT FALLS TO THE GROUND.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IN 2008, THE AWARD-WINNING WRITE-OFF PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED BY EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (EMWD) EDUCATION SPECIALIST MALEA ORTLOFF, 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).

THIS YEAR THE TOPIC FOCUSED ON THE WATER CYCLE AND STUDENTS WERE TASKED WITH CONVEYING A MESSAGE ABOUT HOW THE HISTORY OF THE WATER CYCLE IMPACTS OUR DAILY LIVES. MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED STUDENTS PARTICIPATED AND FOUR WINNING ENTRIES WERE SELECTED. THESE STORIES OFFER A GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. THE STORY BOOKS 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](http://www.emwd.org)) TO READ ALL OF THE STORIES.

EMWD WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNER, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR COLLABORATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS BOOK.

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