

The water story

The water story is a descriptive listening activity designed to explore how water makes us feel and build appreciation and value for water in our lives.

Read the story and ask students to consider how descriptive language is used in this story. What thoughts, emotions or feelings arise from the story? Did the storyteller involve your senses? What does the storyteller want you to feel? What words are used to create images in your mind?

Close your eyes, listen, and imagine...

It's hot and the midday sun beats down on your head. You're walking down a street with lots of houses. You're feeling hotter and hotter. Your skin feels sticky and clammy, and your cheeks burn red.

Sweat rolls down your forehead, into your eyes and beads on your upper lip, tasting salty like the ocean.

Shimmering hot air rises from the footpath, and you struggle to pick your feet up, one after another, you drag yourself through the thick oven hot air.

As you slowly pass house after house, you notice the brown and crunchy grass looks tired, exhausted and thirsty — just like you. It's so hot and dry. (Sigh)

You wish for a big gulp of cool refreshing water. It hasn't rained in such a long time. Can you even remember what rain feels like?

As you turn the corner, giant Lilly Pilly trees loom over you, and their lush green leaves offer cool shade from the sun's harsh rays. Stepping under the trees, you hear and see a small creek, trickling and spilling over smooth rocks. You can feel the cool air coming off the water and it looks so inviting.

You feel the temperature change and instant relief. It's amazing. Your body begins to cool, the air feels lighter, and best of all, you start to feel better.

Beside the little stream are tables, chairs and benches, where people often stop to sit and chat to escape the summer's heat.

You sit down, lean back, and close your eyes and hear the water: splish, trickle, splosh. You hear little birds' tweet as they flit from the bushes to the creek and splash as they land for a quick sip and dip. You hear the cheerful chatter of people.

You relax even more and remind yourself of how our weather changes. We live on the driest continent in the world, sometimes we have enough water, which can make you feel good, and sometimes we don't, which might make you sad.

Think about how important water is for everyone and everything. You thank water for being a friend to the trees, birds, people, and you, and for helping to make this place so special, cool, and green.