

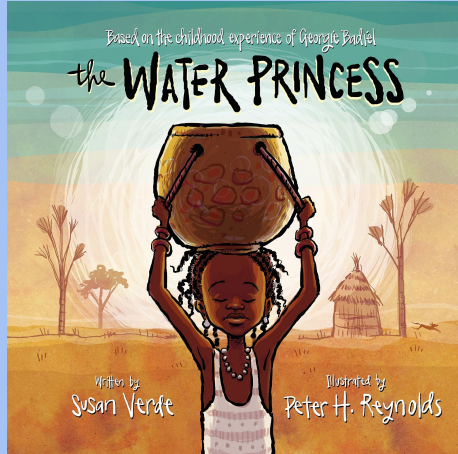


A Paired Text Teacher's Guide To Teach Water Conservation For Third Grade

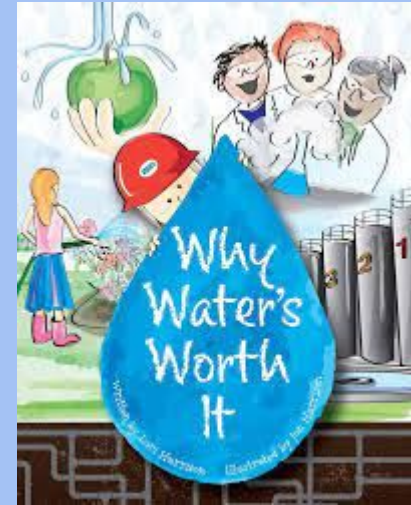
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LIBS 642 Children's Literature Across The Curriculum, PK-8



Verde, Susan. (2016). *The water princess*. Illus. by Peter Reynolds. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 40p.



Lori & Jon Harrison. (2019). *Why water's worth it*. Illus. By the author. Water Environmental Federation. 42 p.

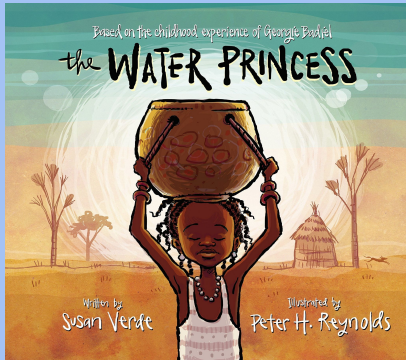
Pre-reading warm-up activity to hook students

Show the short video [Water Conservation](#) from Sesame Street showing a boy brushing his teeth and a fish losing the water he's using while brushing. Have a class discussion with students where they share other ways they use water around the home. Have them think about ways to use less water in those activities and create a class anchor chart.



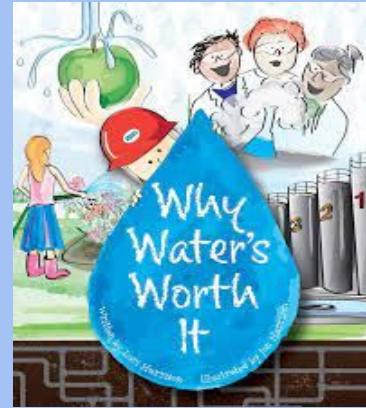
Bulletin Board Idea for student work or to create interest in books

- Have blank water drops for students to fill out ways to save water at home or at school. Display the water droplets coming from a faucet with the heading “WATER: Save Every Drop”
- Display the covers of the books on a board with the question “What do these books have in common?” and have markers for students to list their thoughts on the board.
- Have pictures of water conservation books on a bulletin board that are available for check out with the heading “Why Is Water Important To You?”



It's a rare picture book that not only educates children about a serious issue, but also shows them how they can make a difference. -[Publisher's Weekly](#)

The Water Princess tells the story of a young African girl who must travel a far distance each day to get clean water for her family's use.



Parents, teachers, and water professionals around the world can use this story to empower the next generation of water protectors. -[Water Environment Federation](#)

Why Water's Worth It tells the reader about the workers and components that help us have clean and safe water and why it's important to conserve water.

Discussion Questions for The Water Princess

1. What does the author mean when the African sky is called Gie Gie's "kingdom"?
2. The author uses a lot of figurative language such as "the wind plays hide and seek". How does this help the reader understand the story?
3. Why do you think the author included several pages about other women joining their journey for water each day?
4. Why do you think Gie Gie and the other women need to travel so far for clean water?
5. What is the one thing Gie Gie can't do/control in her kingdom?
6. Why do you think Gie Gie's mom gave her the last of the day's water?

Discussion Questions for Why Water's Worth It by Lori & Jon Harrison

1. Why do you think the authors used illustrations instead of photographs that are normally used in nonfiction texts?
2. How do illustrations give more detail to support the text to show ways the reader can conserve water?
3. Which of the tips listed at the end of the book do you think you could most easily implement in your family?
4. How do we get fresh water?
5. What are 2 reasons that the author gives that water is important to us?

Comparative Questions

1. How are the colors used in the illustrations different in both books?
2. What is the common theme/main idea of both books?
3. How are the settings in each book different?
4. How are the girls in the books different and alike?
5. Why do you think we meet Gie Gie's family in *The Water Princess* but not the family of the girl in *Why Water's Worth It*?
6. *The Water Princess* is written in first person but *Why Water's Worth It* is not. Which style made you care about the story more?



Standards of Learning and Teaching Ideas



Reading SOL 3.5: The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional text and poetry.

- The student will complete a story map for *The Water Princess* (reading connection) and share with small groups.
- The student will use the *I Am Rain* book and discuss poetry elements with partner to read and then create their own “I Am” poems (reading and writing connection) to display on bulletin board .
- Share their favorite part of *The Water Princess* on a class Flipgrid (reading, oral language and computer connection)
- The students will create a google slide to demonstrate knowledge of the theme of *The Water Princess* (reading and computer connection) and also include ways to save water at home on the slide listed in *Why Water’s Worth It*.

Math SOL 3.7 The student will estimate and measure using U.S. customary and metric units

- The teacher will have balance scales with 40 lbs on one side (weight of water African villagers in *The Water Princess* carry) and have the students balance the scale with classroom items in small groups and then share out with one another. (Math connection).

Reading SOL 3.6: The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts.

- The student will read the *Water Walker* book (see further reading section) and make text to world connections to the Native American unit in Social Studies. (Social Studies connection).

Science SOL 3.1 Models are designed and built

- After reading *Why Water’s Worth It*, the student will have a STEM challenge to create the most effective water filter for the class to test and determine which is best (science and technology connection).



Science SOL 3.9: The student will investigate and understand the water cycle and its relationship to life on Earth.

- After reading *Why Water's Worth It*, the student will create a visual of the water cycle using cotton balls, toothpaste and other art supplies to share in class (Science and art connection)
- The student will read the *Pitter and Patter* book (see further reading) and students will choose to journal about either the water cycle, or water's role in habitats and for humans (reading, writing and science connection).
- After reading *Why Water's Worth It*, the teacher will have two plants and the students will water one and not the other, journaling for two weeks about their observations of the plants (science and writing connections).

Science SOL 3.10: The student will investigate and understand that natural events and human influences can affect the survival of species. Key concepts include the effects of human activity on the quality of air, water and habitat and conservation and resource renewal.

- After reading *Why Water's Worth It* and *The Water Princess* and deciding on the common theme, the student will create a T chart of ways we waste water and ways to conserve water to be displayed outside the classroom (reading and writing connection)
- After discussing the common theme of water conservation in both books, the student will create commercials for saving the Earth's resources by using the green screen and these will be shared on morning announcements during Earth Day week (reading, writing, science, and technology connections). This activity addresses the “key concept” of the standard that states conservation and resources renewal.
- After discussing the common theme of water conservation in both books, the students will keep a water journal of the amount of water they consume in a week. Then they will compare with classmates usage and offer suggestions to one another on how to use less (writing, science and math connections)



Library Ideas:

- After reading *Why Water's Worth It*, the student will use library makerspace materials to create a replica of the water cycle and the librarian will share these on morning announcements
- The students can sort fiction and nonfiction texts that the librarian has selected with water as a main topic-or even in the title.
- The students will use library skills to search for other books based on Native American stories.
- After reading *Why Water's Worth It*, the student will complete research in the library about freshwater wells, household filters and city water sanitation and create a google slide to present to the class

Websites related to the book pairing

- [Project Green Schools](#)-Links, apps, lesson plans and resources to help students and families learn about protecting the Earth.
- [World Water Day](#)-A website dedicated to helping people learn about, share about and participate in a day all about valuing and protecting water.
- [Water Use It Wisely](#)-Website for a water conservation campaign that tells about the importance of conserving water, tips on how to conserve, and resources for kids and teachers to use for their own conservation efforts.
- [Georgie Badiel Foundation](#)- The Water Princess is based on Ms. Badiel's life and this foundation is a charitable organization that helps to bring fresh water and sanitation to Burkina Faso, where the supermodel grew up.
- [Susan Verde's website](#)-This website tells all about the author, her books, her songs and videos, how to schedule a visit with her and more!
- [Ryan's Well Foundation](#)-Part of The Water Princess proceeds benefit this foundation. Schools can also join yearly water challenges via this page.
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#)(EPA)-Information on ground and drinking water, regulations and activities for students and teachers.



Susan Verde is a New York Times Best Selling and award winning author who has written many children's stories. She is a former teacher who now enjoys writing children's books and practicing mindfulness and yoga with children.

[Susan Verde's website](#)

[Interview with Susan Verde](#)

Other books by Susan Verde

Verde, Susan (2021). *I am courage: A book of resilience*. Illus. By Peter Reynolds. Harry N. Abrams. 32 p.

Verde, Susan (2015). *You and me*. Illus. By Peter Reynolds. Harry N. Abrams. 32 p.

Verde, Susan (2021). *The tossy-turny princess and the pesky pea: A fairy tale to help you fall asleep*. Illus. By Jay Fleck. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 32 p.



Lori Harrison has created many public education projects and is an award winning storyteller. Her husband is an art director who teamed up with Lori to create *Why Water's Worth It*.

[Why Water's Worth It Youtube Commercial](#)

Other books by Lori & Jon Harrison

This is the first book by the authors, but they have also written the same book in Spanish and French. The couple do have several public health education projects for the Water Environment Federation they have worked on together including a video for *Why Water's Worth It*.

Further Reading (Books on same grade level)

Robertson, Joanne. (2019). *The water walker*. Illus. By the author. Second Story Press. 40p.

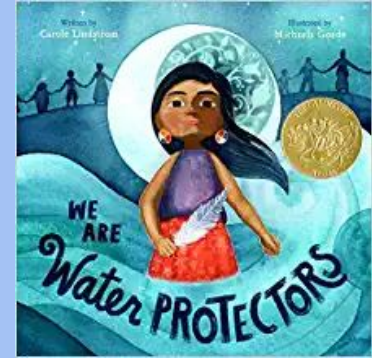
Lindstrom, Carole. (2020). *We are water protectors*. Illus. Bu Michaela Goade. Roaring Brook Press. 40p.

Portis, Antoinette. (2019). *Hey, water!* Illus. By author. Neal Porter Books. 48p.

Paterson, John. (2018). *I am the rain*. Illus. By the author. Dawn Publications. 32 p.

Sullivan, Martha. (2015). *Pitter and patter*. Illus. By Cathy Morrison. Dawn Publications. 32 p.

Paul, Miranda. (2015). *Water is water: A book about the water cycle*. Illus. By Jason Chin. Roaring Brook Press. 40 p.



Other books on the topic (not on grade level-can be used as read alouds or background for teacher)

Apello, Gaia. (2020). *101 Ways to help the planet-A one year challenge: Make one small change a week to help the environment*. L. Dixon. 157 p.

Canavan, Roger. (2014). *You wouldn't want to live without clean water*. Illus. By David Antram. Franklin Watts. 40 p.

Ignatofsky, Rachel. (2018). *The wondrous workings of planet Earth: Understanding our world and its ecosystems*. Ten Speed Press. 128p.

McAneny, Sarah. (2021). *Mina's Rain Dance*. Illus. By Zita Varga. Green Square Products. 34 p.

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Lori & Jon Harrison. [online image] 2021 Retrieved from https://www.amazon.com/Lori-Harrison/e/B07PX42VFG/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_book_2.

McAneny, Sarah. (2021). *Mina's Rain Dance*. Illus. By Zita Varga. Green Square Products. 34 p.

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Publisher's Weekly. (2014, February 13). '*The water princess*' relates childhood of Burkina Faso-Born model Georgie Badiel. *Publisher's Weekly*.

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-book-news/article/61048-the-water-princess-relates-childhood-of-burkina-faso-born-model-georgie-badiel.html>.

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Sullivan, Martha. (2015). *Pitter and patter*. Illus. By Cathy Morrison. Dawn Publications. 32 p.

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Water. (n.d.). Project Green School. Retrieved November 14, 2021 from <https://projectgreenschools.org/water/>.

The Water Princess. [online image] 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.amazon.com/Water-Princess-Susan-Verde/dp/0399172580>.

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- You may be a drop. Your actions create a ripple. (n.d). Water Use It Wisely. Retrieved November 14, 2021 from <https://wateruseitwisely.com/>.