2017 Poster, Poetry and Prose Calendar

Grace Kahler • 5th Grade • Countryside School, Champaign

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

W.A.T.E.R.
What A True Environmental Resource!
How will you conserve and protect it?

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W.A.T.E.R~ What A True Environmental Resource! How Will You Conserve and Protect It?

Every living thing needs water to live. Many babies are born every day. For example, UNICEF estimates that more than 350,000 babies are born daily, worldwide. The earth's water covers about 71% of the earth. 97.5% of that is salt water. That leaves 2.5% of fresh water for seven billion people to use. Since water is necessary to sustain life, we need to make sure we conserve it, use it wisely, and protect it, especially now that we have many new people entering Earth.

Along with new people can come pets. Pets also need water. Whether it is to drink, bathe them, or even for them to be able to breathe. For example, fish need water in order to breathe. But, their tanks need to be cleaned from time to time. Well, instead of simply getting rid of their water, we could empty the water onto grass, bushes, or even plants! This will help us by getting rid of unwanted water, and plants by giving them high nutrient water for them to consume. The same thing applies to dogs and cats. Once their water bowls get dirty, empty the water outside. Bathing them outside is also a great idea!

As they grow older, people will realize how important it is to brush their teeth and to shower. Although doing this can normally take up quite an amount of water, there are some things we can do so we don't use as much water. For instance, we could turn off the water while we wash our hair. If we do this, we could save up to 150 gallons of water a month! it is also better to shower rather than to bathe because a full bath can take up to sixty gallons of water! Better yet, if we keep our showers under five minutes, we can save up to four gallons of water a minute!

It is also very important to conserve water from house appliances, like dishwashers. Instead of washing a group of dishes at a time, it would be more efficient to wash them only when the dishwasher is completely full. That way a majority or all of the dishes would be washed in one time rather than in multiple times. We should also be careful about leaks or else they could waste water without us even noticing. It's not too hard to add five gallons of water just by a drip a second!

Now that we know how to conserve water and use water wisely, we need to know how to protect it. Protecting our environment's water can start with us! We could try doing simple things like picking up trash before it gets to our water. We could also clean up after our pets, so their waste won't contaminate our clean and fresh water. All these actions can help keep our water pure!

Nevertheless, there are many ways to conserve and protect our special water. But we all need to work together to keep our water safe to drink. Simple things like turning off the faucet or picking up after ourselves, could make a colossal change in our environment!

Citlalli Rico • 6th Grade
Maple Elementary, Loves Park

Water Conservation

W-e can save water

A-ll it takes is you

T-ogether we can do this

E-veryone can do it easily

R-unning water while brushing your teeth is wasteful

C-onserving water isn't hard

O-bey the law and don't pollute the water

N-ever liter it saves the river

S-upport water conservation programs

E-arlier we start the faster it will be done

R-ain barrels save money and resources

V-ery short showers do too

A-bout 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted per year

T-oday is the day, we need to start now

I-deally we should already be doing this

O-ceans need to be saved from oil spills

N-obody can do it alone, we have to do this NOW.

Ethan Price • 6th Grade
St. Monica Academy, Chicago

November 2016

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December 2016

January 2017

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18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Julia Jochum •
6th Grade
Holy Cross
Catholic School,
Batavia

H_2O

SAVE IT TO LIVE WITH IT

By: Julia Jochum

One important resource is water - that's true
It produces the ocean and makes the globe blue
It runs through the soil to make our food grow
It forms the clouds-once they are too heavy it makes them blow

Earth has water in the perfect temperature range
Although global warming causes a change
Some farmers could have a terrible year
Because all the water could evaporate and disappear

Some people don't have it and need it they do
They need H_2O just like me and you

Now here we step in and try to conserve
Don't keep on the water and try to reserve
Next come the faucets go fix them real tight
Water plants early-it's only right!

Let's take real short showers
Minimize water usage on flowers
Collect water in a rain barrel
Only when needed, wash your apparel

Let's keep the water super clean
We can lower the runoff to be green

Now let's spread the word and go conserve
This is a small way that we can serve

December 2016

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January 2017

February 2017

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8	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*
15	*16* Martin Luther King Day	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*
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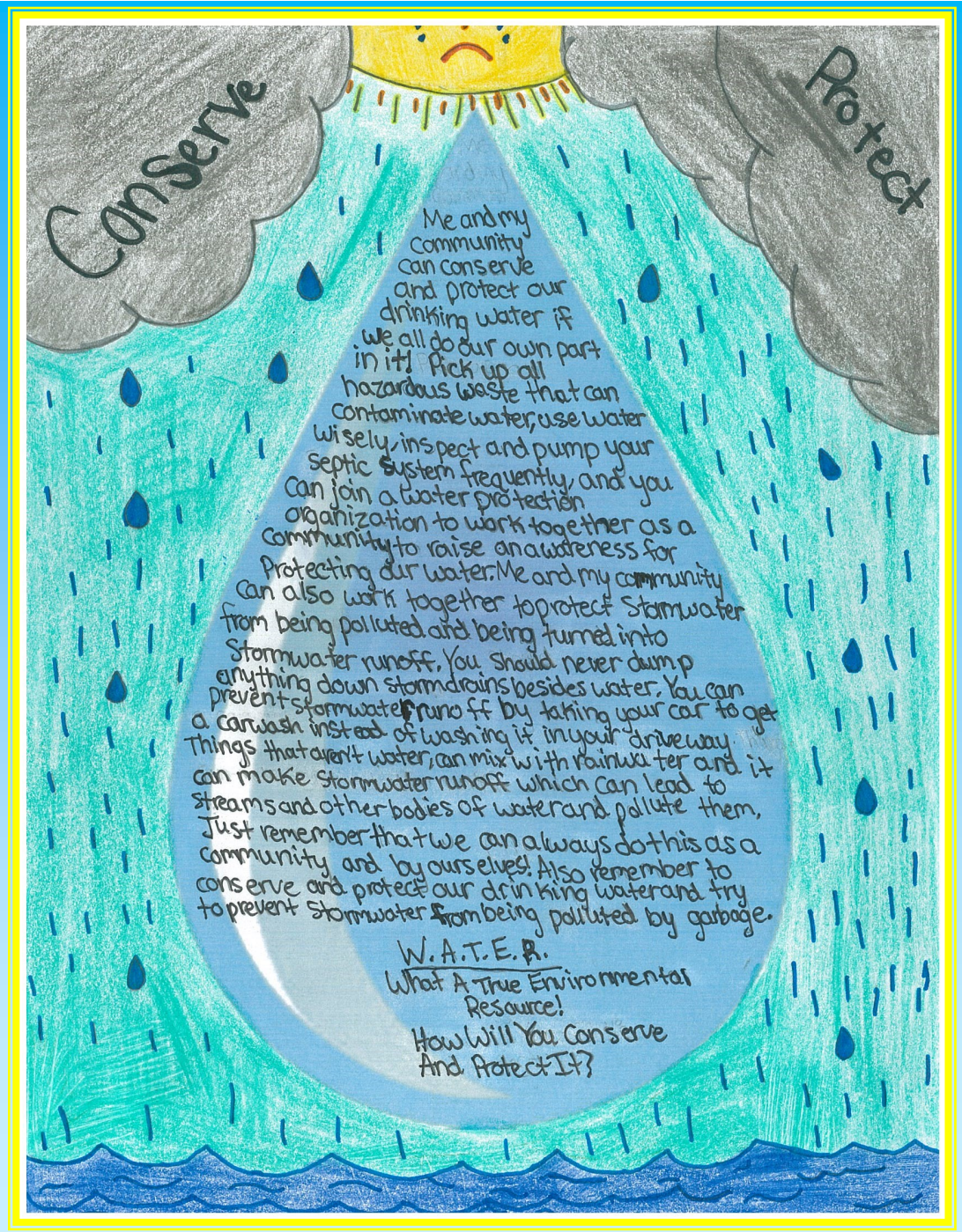

Samantha Speer • 6th Grade
Olson Park School, Machesney Park

January 2017

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February 2017

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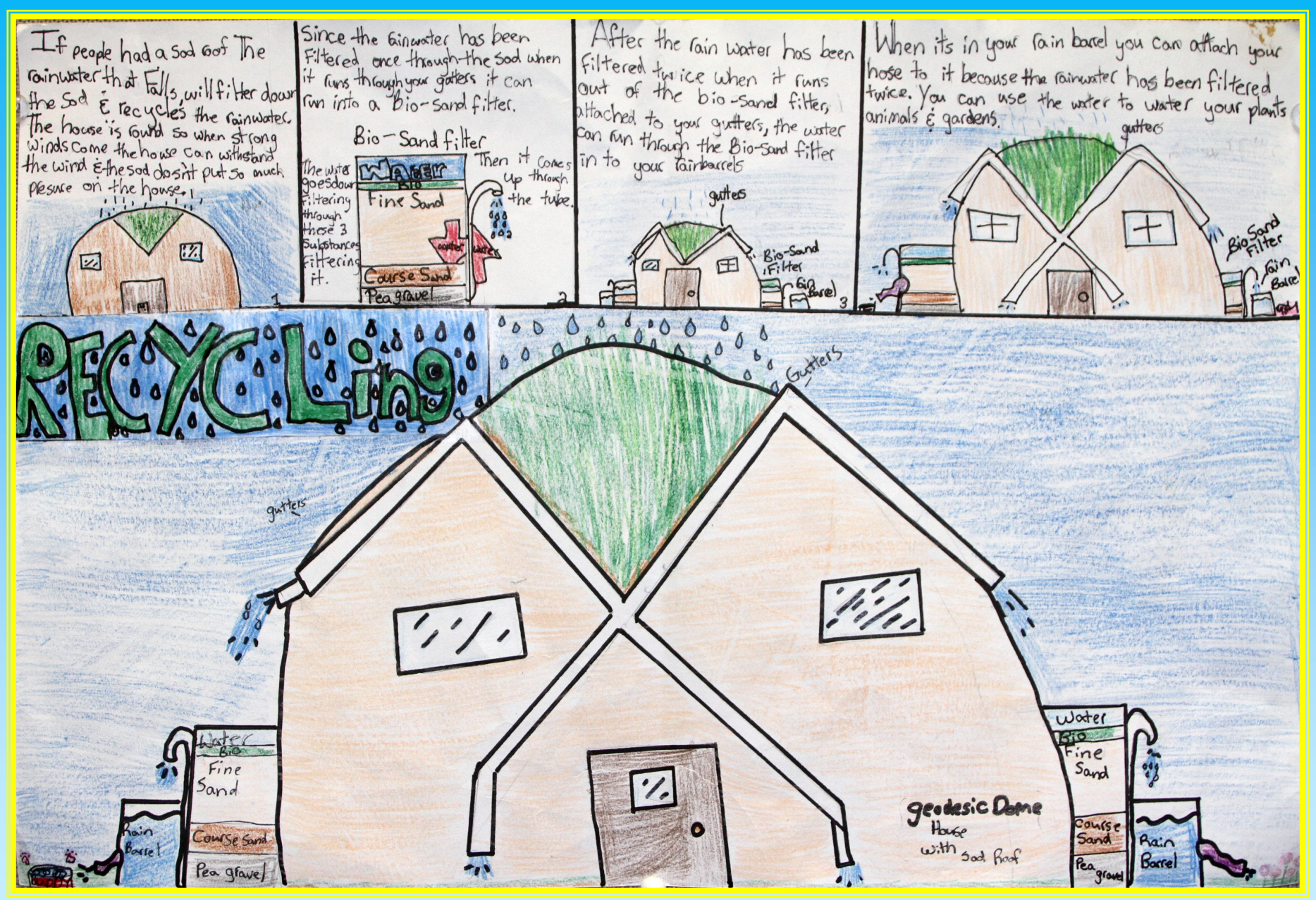

Makenna McBride • 6th Grade
Jefferson Elementary School, Charleston

February 2017

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March 2017

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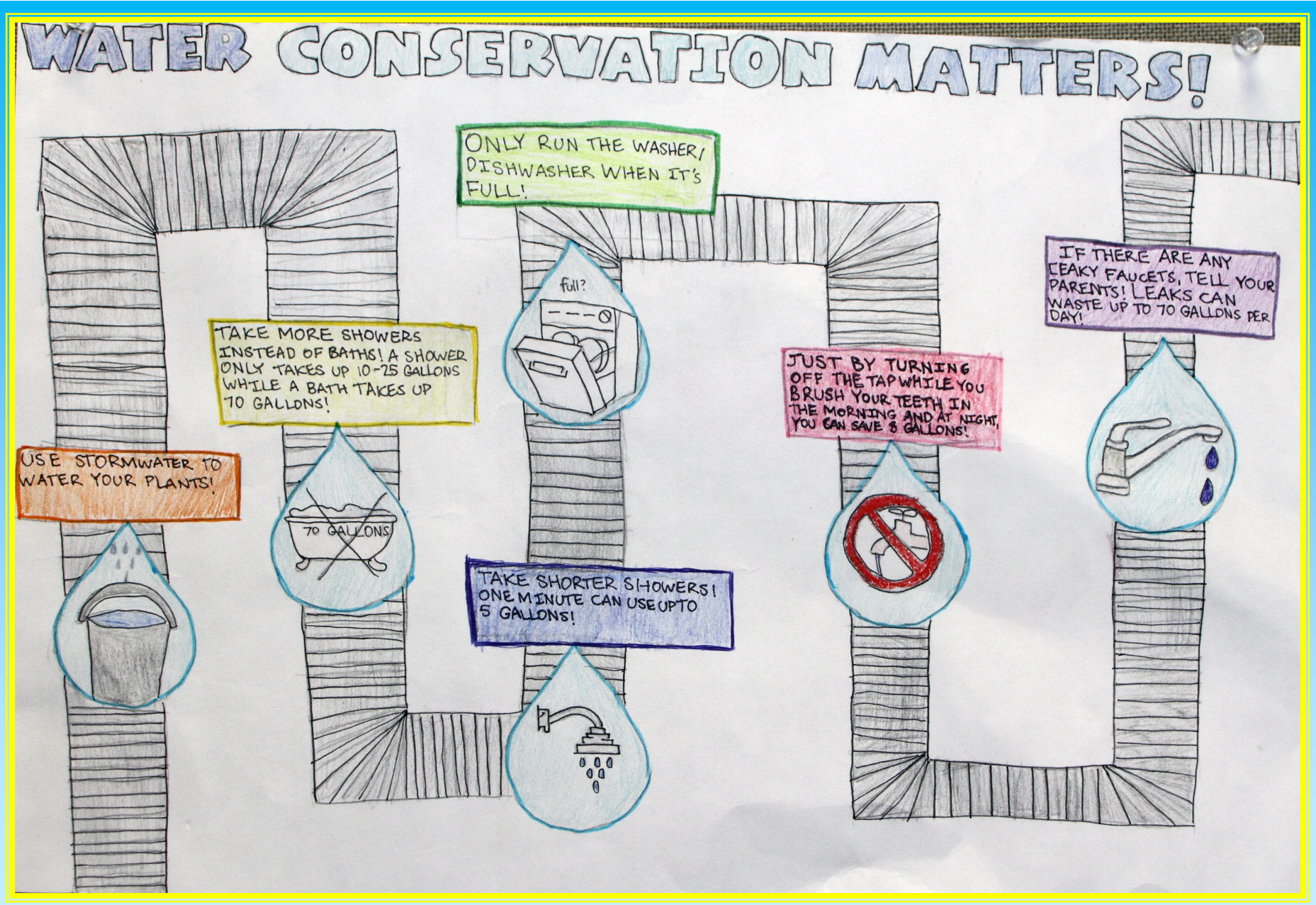

Amina Ahmad • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

March 2017

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April 2017

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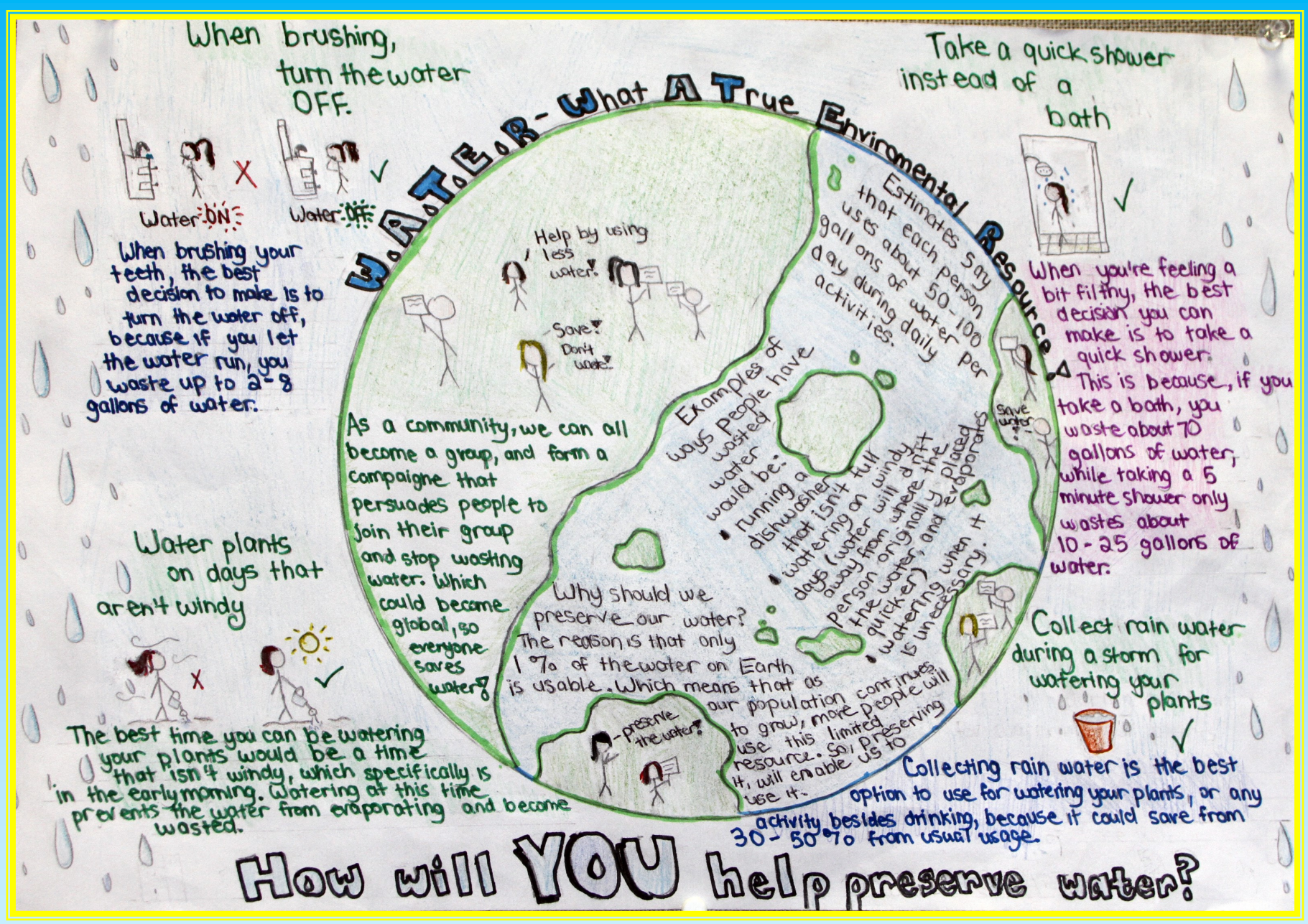

Rhanda Halawah • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

April 2017

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May 2017

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14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

Be Water's Hero!

Save 20 gallons of water a day,
Check faucets for leaks where water goes astray.

Don't throw litter in your water sources,
It might hurt fish and destroy water's surviving courses.

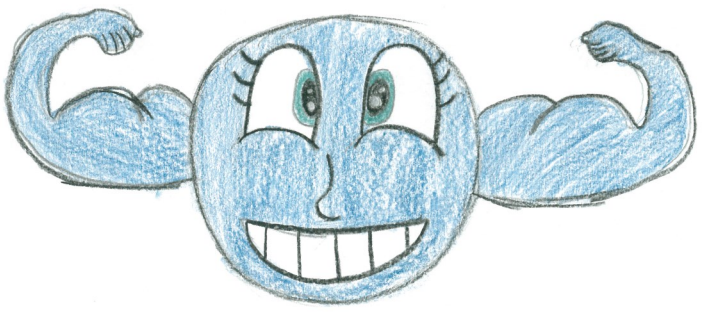
If you drop an ice cube on the floor,
Give it to a plant, who can use it so much more!

Using non-toxic, phosphate free, biodegradable dish detergent,
will make saving water much less urgent!

By doing this, you will conserve,
And you will also be helping to preserve!

So, be water's hero,
And help the future have more than zero!

By: Vasiliki Kanellos



Vasiliki Kanellos •
5th Grade
Hellenic American
Academy, Deerfield

May 2017

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June 2017

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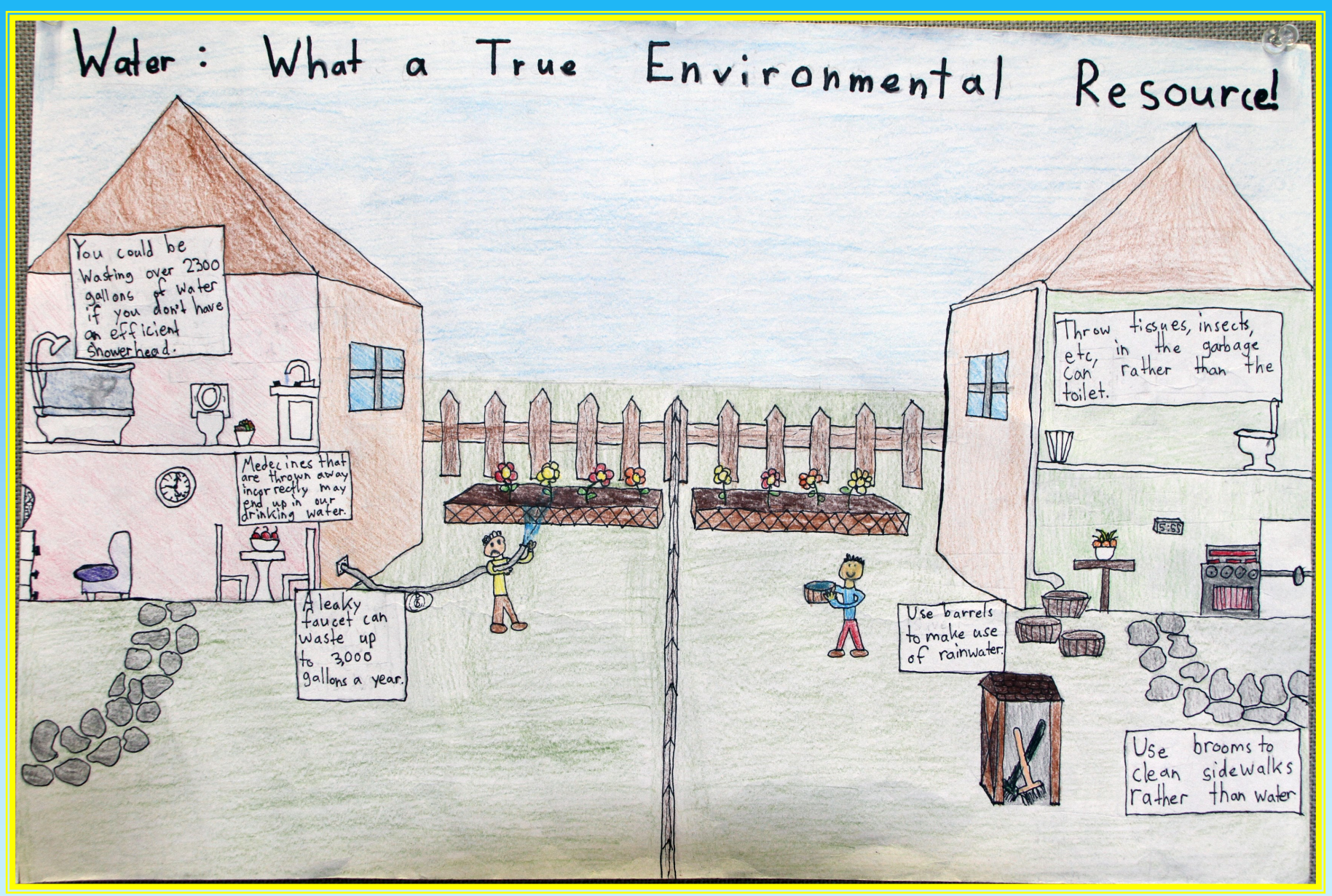

Jacob Gasior • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

June 2017

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July 2017

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Conserve It or Lose It

By: Jessica Domian

We use water every day. We don't usually think about the water we use, but the water in our world is slowly running out. Did you know that we waste water even in our own living rooms? Well, guess what. We do. We use water anywhere, anytime, anyplace we can.

A lot of our water is used in the bathroom. One of the things we use the water for is flushing the toilet. The average toilet uses about 3 gallons of water per flush. Also, if we don't turn the water off when you are brushing your teeth you will waste about 4 gallons of water. A 5-minute shower can use anywhere from 25-50 gallons of water. A way to use less water when flushing the toilet is by putting a brick in the tank of the toilet. This will cause the toilet to sense that the whole tank is filled up with water, even though it's not. Another way that we can save water in the bathroom is by turning the water off while brushing our teeth until we are ready to rinse. One last way that we can save water in the bathroom is by installing a low-flow shower head in the shower. They are costly, but they save a lot of water. These shower heads only release 5 gallons per minute. Doing all of these things will help us save water in bathrooms.

Most of water is used is in the kitchen. One of the things that we use water for in the kitchen is when we run our dishwasher. The average dishwasher uses about 20 gallons per cycle. Also, about 95% of the water we use goes down the drain. Some ways that we can save water in our kitchens is by washing dishes by hand. Washing dishes by hand only uses 9-12 gallons of water. Also if we are washing vegetables, don't keep turning the water on and off. Just fill the sink up with water and wash all the vegetables together. We can also wash the dishes in the same water. This will also help us not let so much water down the drain.

We use water outdoors in our lives a lot, so we need to use it with caution. Some ways that we can use less water outside is by not washing our car with a hose. Instead, just pour some water into a bucket and get a scrubber. This way we will get a more effective scrub and can save water. Also when watering the lawn, we should use the sprinkler after the sun goes down to avoid evaporation. Another way we can save water is by only watering our land when it's necessary. Also, we can place our sprinklers appropriately so that it maximizes the amount of water on our grass, instead of the sidewalk. One more way that you can save water outside is when it rains, use a container that can catch and collect the storm water. Then when we have to water a plant, we can reuse the storm water.

Some amount of water is wasted in our bedrooms and living rooms. For example, if we have a plant in our room, don't overwater it. That will waste water and the plant might actually die. Instead, when we buy houseplants, we can read the tag that tells us how much it must be watered. Also, if we have a water bottle in your room or living room, and the water gets old or goes bad, instead of throwing it out, we can reuse the water to hydrate the plant. Also, if we spill some water on the floor, after you wipe the water off the floor, we can put the wet napkin around the stem of the plant. The plant will absorb the water so that you don't have to water it.

As you can see, we use up a lot of water in our homes. So, do you want a home that wastes water or do you want a home that conserves water? It only takes one home, one person, and one drop of water. So what's stopping you from making a water-friendly home?

Jessica Domian • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

The Drought

By Dalal Hassane

The streets were filled with crowds. Everyone was wondering why there wasn't a lot of water. They were waiting for the mayor to explain everything. He went to the middle of the crowd, and then, there was silence so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

"Listen, everyone. I know you all are expecting an explanation from me. But I came here with an answer AND a solution. Isn't it obvious to you that we're having a drought?" The mayor asked. All he heard were whispers.

"But what's not obvious to you is the reason why we're having a drought. Do you want to know the reason?" He continued.

"YES!!!" Everyone shouted angrily, like a bunch of villagers attacking a vampire.

"We're wasting all of our water. Agriculture is one of the big ways we waste water. Pesticide runoff is polluting rivers and you farmers use way too much water on crops. You need to get more efficient irrigation systems. Farmer Tim Jefferson already did this by using a drip irrigation system, which is an irrigation method that allows water to drip slowly to the roots of a plant through a network of valves, pipes, and tubing. There are lots of other things other people have done to waste our water. It's not just farmers. One thing is over-watering the lawn and watering your plants when it's unnecessary. Our country's households waste over 1 trillion gallons of water each year! Surprising, isn't it? Now that I've told you the problem, let me tell you the solution. I've got one word: CONSERVE. And there are lots of ways to do that. For starters, we should turn off the sink while brushing our teeth and washing the dishes, and take shorter showers. You can also install water-conserving shower heads," he said. People started whispering again.

"But that's not all. You can use your clothes washer and dishwasher for full loads only. And, you should report broken pipes, leaky fire hydrants, and errant sprinklers to water providers and property owners. I could go on all day, because there are lots of other ways to conserve water. But the things I've told you still matter, because small impacts can make big differences. There will be consequences and fines for not following these new guidelines. I'll need your support by looking out for your neighbors and checking to see if they are following these new guidelines."

Everyone went back to their homes, and felt moved and powerful because they could make a difference. Everyone but Charles South. Not thinking about the consequences, he turned on the sprinkler, picked up his mail, and went inside to continue his chores.

The next morning, Charles woke up and realized there was a bunch of commotion outside. He opened the door, and saw the mayor and all of his neighbors.

"DO YOU REALIZE THAT WE ONLY HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF WATER?! I DEVELOP NEW LAWS FOR A REASON!!!" the mayor shouted. He gave Charles a ticket for leaving the sprinkler on overnight. Charles looked outside and saw that the sprinkler was still on. His cheeks went as red as a cherry. He apologized to everyone, and the mayor left.

Everyone carried on with their day, but this time, they were different. This time, the whole town did the things the mayor told them to. They were calmer, and happier. They weren't worried about the drought, and neither was the mayor. Everyone was confident they would survive.

"I think everyone will be okay." The mayor whispered to himself. "I *know* everyone will be okay. If everyone continues to work together and do their part to conserve our water."

Dalal Hassane • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

July 2017

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August 2017

September 2017

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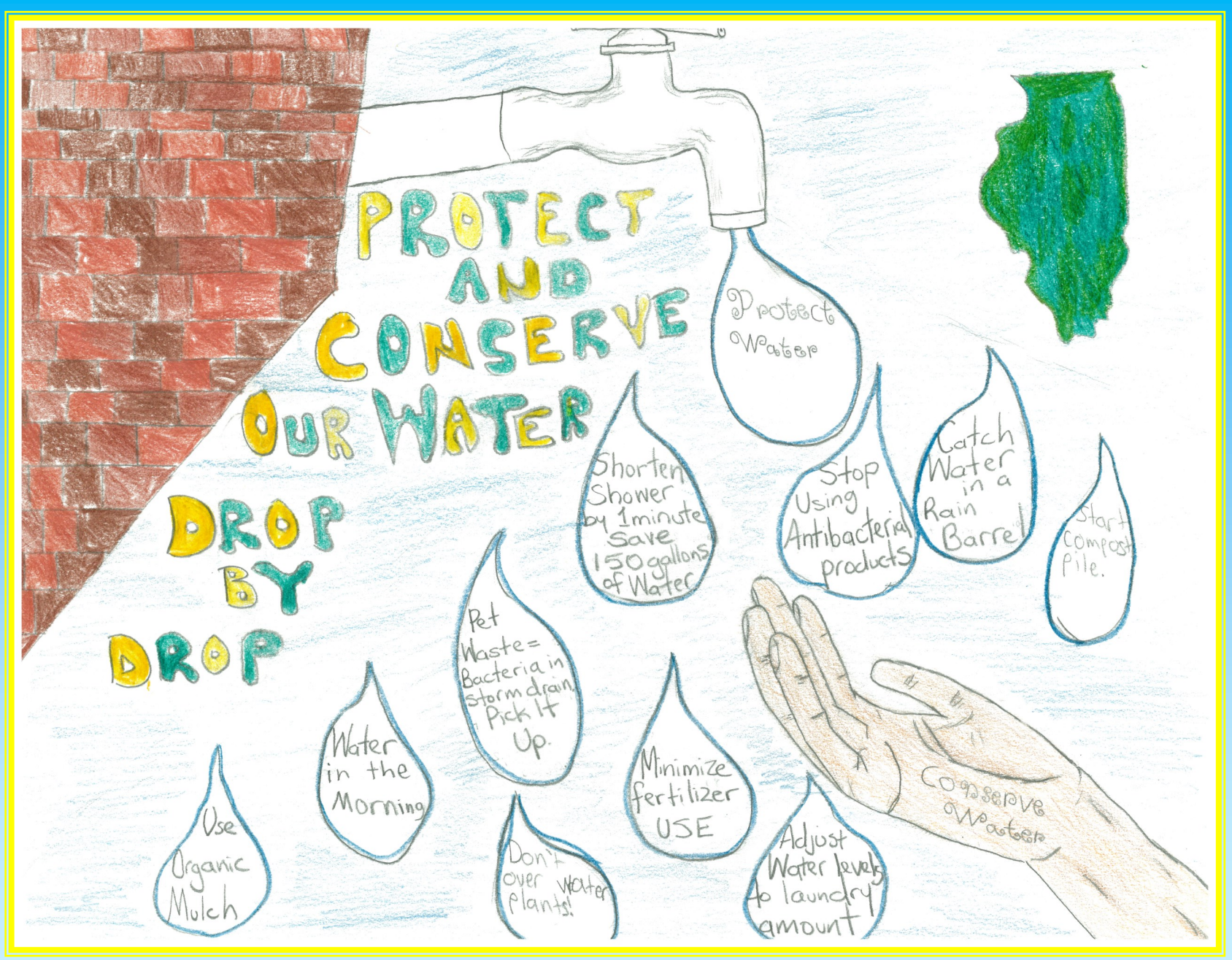

Pano Giannetos • 6th Grade
Hellenic American Academy, Deerfield

August 2017

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September 2017

October 2017

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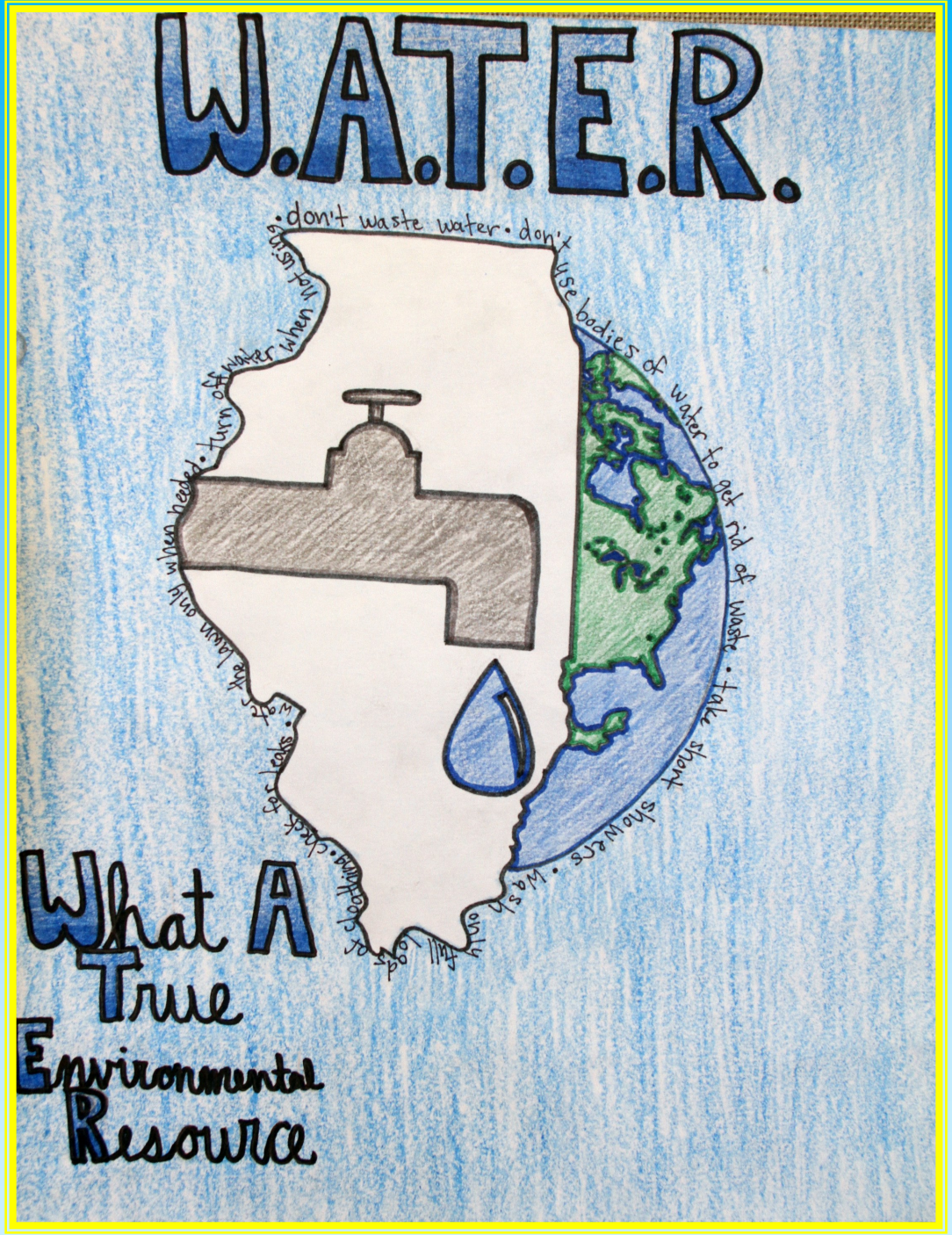

Hailey Lange • 6th Grade
Olson Park School, Machesney Park

September 2017

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October 2017

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29	30	31 Halloween				

Sanaiya Luthar • 5th Grade
Countryside School, Champaign

October 2017

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November 2017

December 2017

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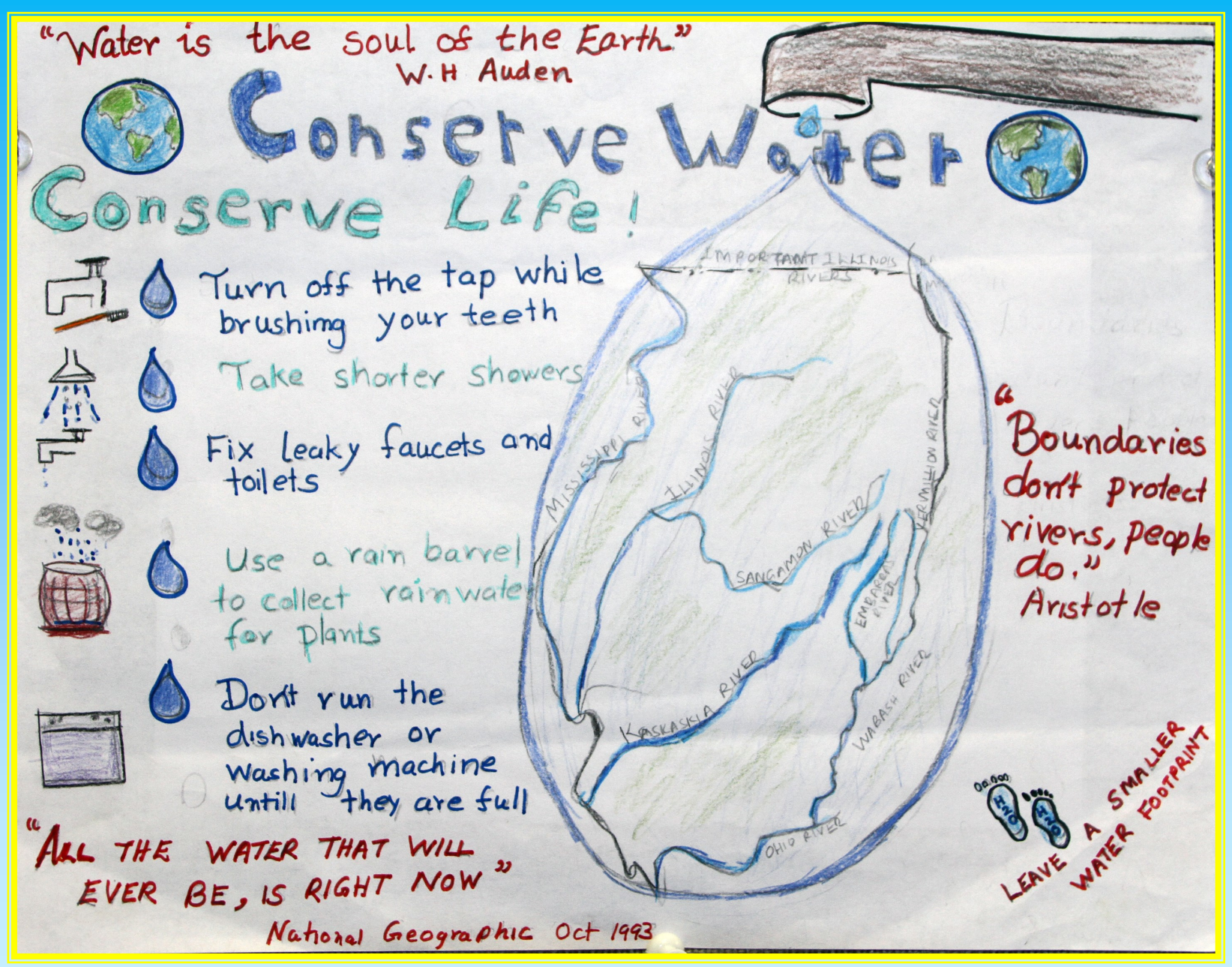

Shawn Syed • 5th Grade
Countryside School, Champaign

November 2017

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December 2017

January 2018

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24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

Clare Prilutsky • 6th Grade
Socrates Day School, Deerfield

December 2017

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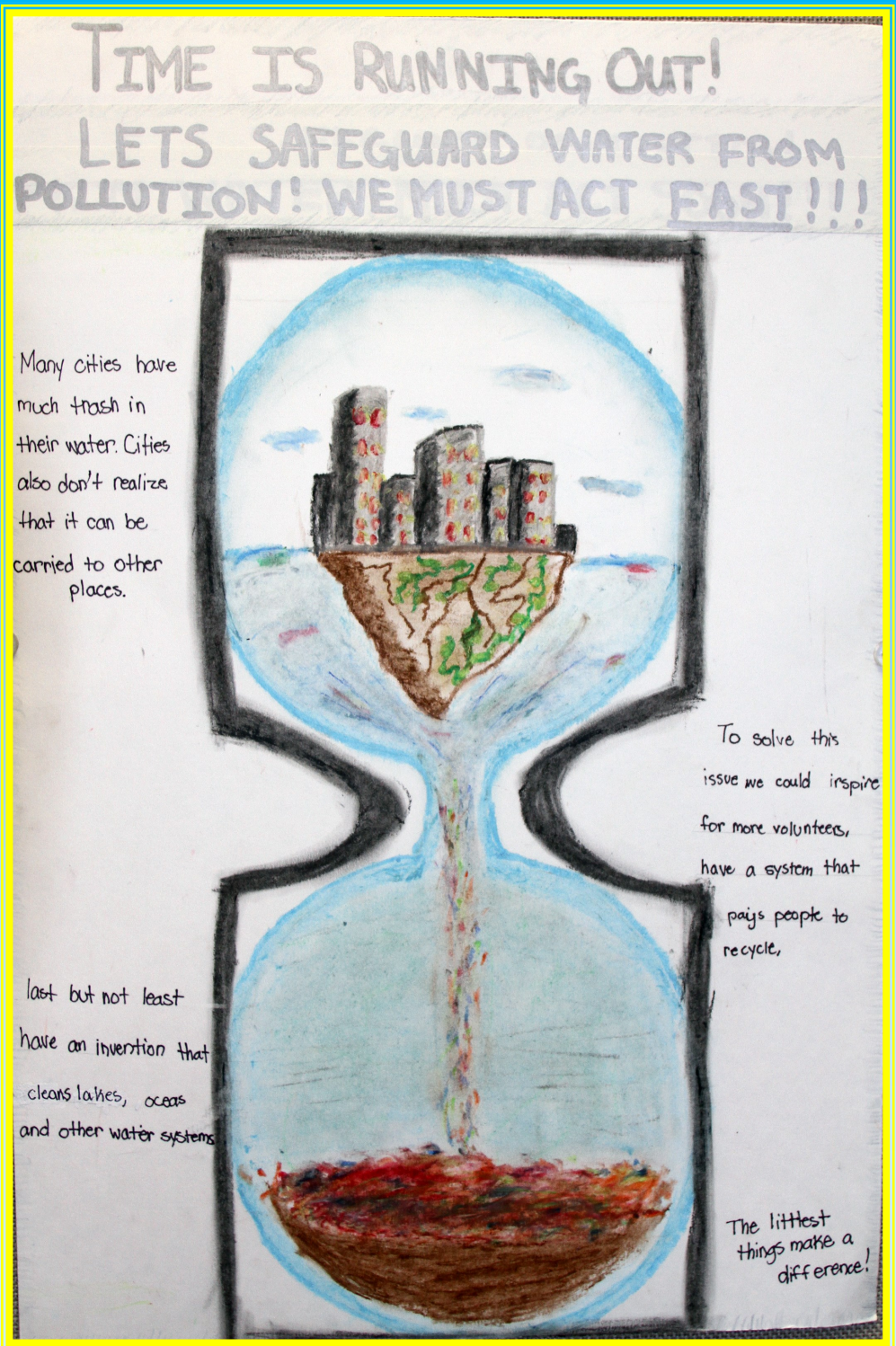
January 2018

February 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Alianna Locascio • 6th Grade
Maple Elementary, Loves Park

One Girl CAN Make a Difference

One day, Lanie came home from school with a determined look on her face. Her mom asked her why she looked so serious. She said, "At school today we learned about water and how much we waste without even thinking about it. It's disgusting! We also learned that when we litter, it can get into the water system, and cause many animals to get stuck in the garage, and become injured or sick. I decided on the way home that I'm going to change that if I can. I know I'm just one small girl, but I believe that every bit will help." Her mom was proud of her and asked her to come up with a plan.

On the way to her room, Lanie passed the bathroom. She heard a drip, drip, drip noise so she went in to investigate and found that the faucet wasn't turned all the way off. She twisted hard and the drip stopped. She thought about how all those drips added up.

Lanie lived in a building with seven other apartments. She thought she should first figure out how to save water in her apartment and then see if she could get the other families in the building to help. To start, she pulled out a piece of paper. She decided to focus on the main water sources: the kitchen and the bathroom. After an hour, this is what she came up with:

Conserve Water!

If you're like most people, you don't even realize how much you're wasting. Be smart with your water and we'll be able to save this important resource. Five easy, everyday ways to conserve:

1. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth. Make sure the faucet is all the way off so that it doesn't drip.
2. Don't flush the toilet after every use (unless you have to).
3. Don't overfill pots when cooking.
4. When washing dishes, turn off the water when you're scrubbing.
5. Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when you have FULL loads.

She showed her parents and brother the list over dinner. They agreed that they were wasting a lot of water and didn't even realize it! They encouraged her to go talk to the building's super to see if he would allow her to post her list on the message board by the mailboxes. She even thought maybe she would ask him about buying new toilets that didn't use as much water to flush, called low-flush/high-efficiency toilets. That would save a lot of water!

When Lanie went to bed that night, she was proud of herself. She knew she couldn't help save a ton of water, but all she could do was have hope and keep trying. She fell asleep dreaming about big, deep oceans full of clear water with clean and happy animals!

Katie Popp • 6th Grade
Prince of Peace Catholic School, Lake Villa

The Man Who Was Saved

Once upon a time, there was a man named Gabe who wasted water constantly. He never turned off his faucet when he was brushing his teeth, took 30 minute showers, and had no care for water. He thought there would be water forever and that it would never run out. His relatives and friends tried to get him to save water. They kept doing this because their state was in a water stress emergency. Water was running out, so people started saving water and being efficient. But, Gabe had no care at all. When he found out that his state is in a water stress emergency, he wasted water even more. He didn't want anyone to have access to water. Then, a drought occurred. No one had any access to water. But, that was no problem for Gabe. He just moved and didn't help anyone. His friends and family said he was selfish and rude, but he didn't care. So, he started living his life in Illinois. He used to live in California. He got several messages from his family to stop but he simply deleted them and ignored them. There was plenty of water in Illinois, so he was satisfied. So, the family back in California wanted to get Gabe to be water efficient. So, they hired someone to help Gabe start being water-efficient. They hired Brian so Gabe would be more smart about water. They hoped it would work. Brian knocks on Gabe's front door. "Who are you?" Gabe asks. Brian replies "I am here to help you be more water efficient." Gabe replies "Well, it's not going to work." He then slammed the door. Brian once again, knocked on the front door. Gabe opens the door and says "What?" Brian asks him to just give him a chance. Gabe said "If I do this, will you stop bothering me?" Brian sighs, and then says "Sure." Brian comes in Gabe's home. He says his home is lovely, Gabe appreciates the compliment. They both sit down at the kitchen table. "Would you like some water?" Gabe asks. "Sure, tap." Brian replies. "Why tap?". Gabe asks. "Because it's the same as bottled water, plus it's more efficient. Plastic needs a lot of water to be created, so I'd rather have tap." Brian replies. Gabe replies with "Fine." They both drink their water. "So, what's the deal?" Gabe asks. Brian replies saying "Your family sent me here. They hoped you would start being water efficient." Gabe says "Well, start talking, because I hope you're not here to simply bore me." Brian fascinates Gabe with fantastic ways to save water, and who it benefits. Gabe and Brian both think of more ways, and start a campaign. The two become close friends. They become very well-known for helping many families getting access to freshwater. One regular day, the two friends are hanging out at the movies. Brian says "Gabe, you should go visit your family. They would love to meet the new you." Gabe agrees, and they both buy plane tickets to California. The two knock on Gabe's old door, and the family opens up. They gasp. "Gabe, we missed you!" everyone says. Gabe talks and talks about what he's done, and helps his town get out of the water-stressed condition. He then is honored by the mayor and gets a ribbon. Gabe is now known world-wide and still helps people get fresh water to this day. Everyone has a great time, and everyone lives happily ever after.

Franciszek Wiercigroch • 5th Grade
Schubert Elementary School, Chicago

Roses are red, violets are blue
Plants need water and so do you
You need water to drink and to get clean
But please conserve it and think green
When you bathe please take short showers
Don't be in there for hours and hours
Turn off the faucet when teeth need brushing
Upgrade your toilet to save water while flushing
Use rain barrels and water early or at night
To keep plants, flowers, and grass green and bright
Conservation is important and this is why
Without water, all living things will die

Sara Schinker • 5th Grade
St. Cletus School, La Grange

Conserve Water

By: Grace Koziol

Water should be well used
It never ever should be abused
Don't pester, please don't be a bother
Now I will tell you how to use water
Come on now, let us think
You could wash dishes in a sink
Instead of a dishwasher, save some money
You could be one yourself, isn't that funny?
And if you want your water clean
Don't throw garbage in a stream
Throwing trash in a lake is very bad
And it makes others really sad
Think of those after our birth
They, too, will want a plentiful Earth
In the next generation
People will need water for family and vacation
Come on, keep your water clean
Conserve it now and be green!

Grace Koziol • 5th Grade
St. Cletus School, La Grange

W.A.T.E.R. - What A True Environmental Resource!

How Will You Conserve and Protect It?

Water Pollution is an ongoing problem. If we don't do something, whole systems of water biology could be contaminated to an extent where the water can't the used for humans. Water pollution occurs when pollutants enter bodies of water/aquifers without the needed treatment to get rid of them. Also, water pollution effects an entire biosphere in one way or another, so if possible, water pollution should be limited, if not avoided.

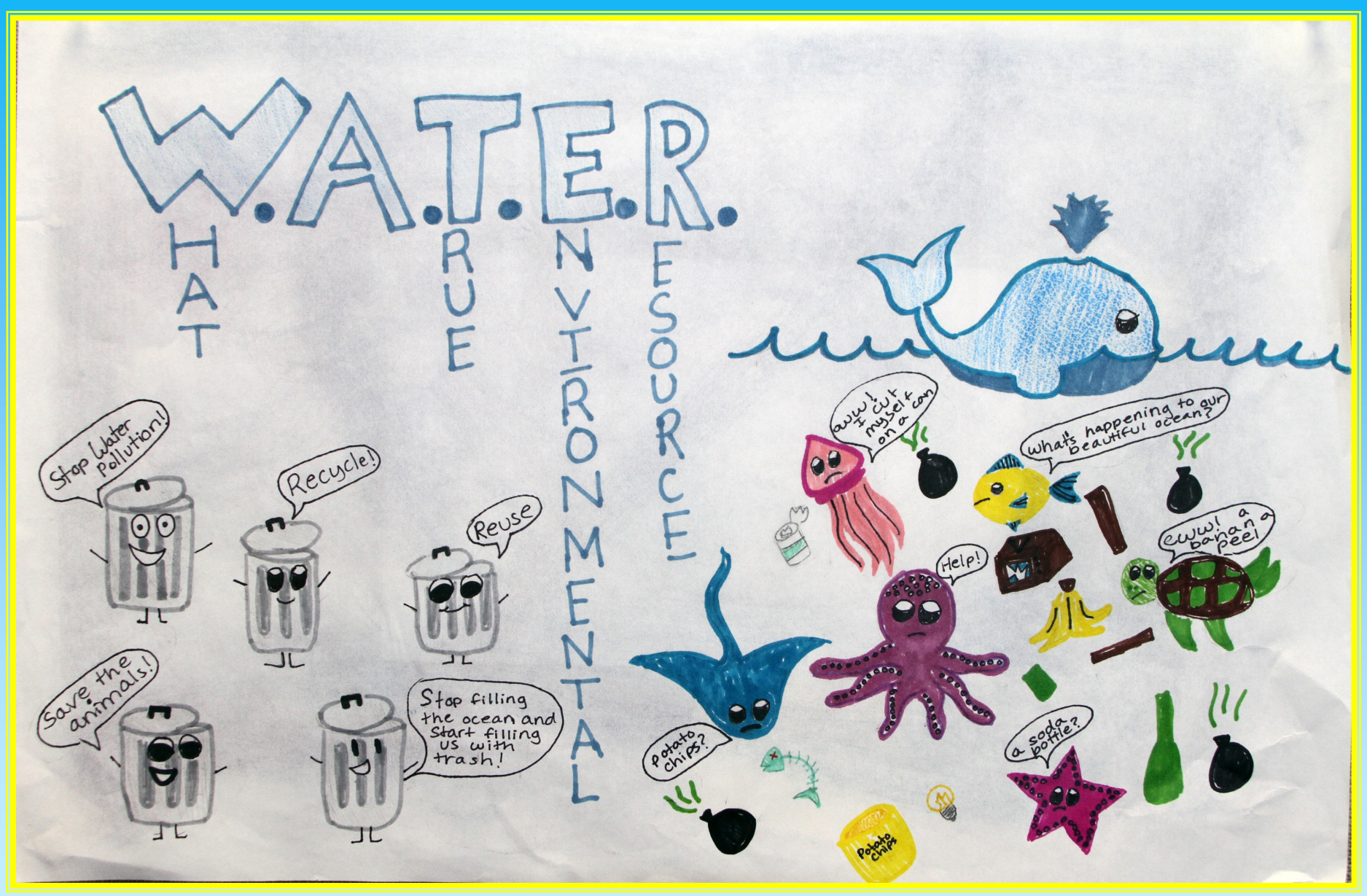
One example of water pollution is that China's national development head said that 1/4 the water in their seven main rivers was so contaminated that it harmed people's skin! If water is not treated properly or people continue to ignore the threats of water pollution, then one day we may literally not have safe drinking water. However, contaminants are not just man-made. Nature can also contaminate water. Floods can pick up many minerals and possibly toxic materials, furthermore contaminating the water.

In some places, people absolutely have no awareness at all of pollution. They just dump trash down into water, hoping people will not notice. Although contamination may not be evident right on the spot, still waters usually promote the chance of seeing trash because most contaminants float onto the surface. Many people who are aware of the damage pollution is doing are forming groups that help clean up places like the town park, or a lake, or even have a recycling drive. In places the amount of sewer water reached staggering amounts that manhole covers couldn't stop the sewage from spewing it.

Thermal water contamination is not well known to many people. The process occurs when water is heated or cooled down to a certain temperature, then the biodiversity of different species could change, and also could significantly change the food chain. It's also really easy for people to overlook thermal contamination, but cars produce large amounts of thermal contamination, so thermal contamination is not to be overlooked.

If we don't protect water, species would go extinct very quickly, and the amount of food available to us would quickly deplete, because water might be too toxic to water to plants, and animals like fish would die. In order to promote environmental awareness, we will need to ensure everybody takes part in cleaning up the world. Remember, the is ours, not yours!

Ryan Wang • 5th Grade
Countryside School, Champaign



Charlotte Chesser • 5th Grade
Countryside School, Champaign

This calendar is the product of the 29th annual Poster, Poetry, and Prose contest sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The drawings, essays, and poems in the calendar are identified with each student's name, grade, school, and city. These entries were selected from the many 2016 entries received from fifth and sixth grade students throughout Illinois.

THANK YOU to the special judges this year:

Gina Bean, Administrative Coordinator, Association of IL Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Matt Hanauer, Watershed Specialist, Association of IL Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Harry Hendrickson, Executive Director, Illinois Science Teachers Association
Mike Rahe, Manager, Office of Natural Resource Management, Bureau of Land and Water Resources, Illinois Department Of Agriculture; retired
Susan Shaw, Director, Adams Wildlife Sanctuary; retired
Tracy Zeman, Site Coordinator, Illinois Audubon Society

Special Thanks to...

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency & The Old State Capitol

For more information about the annual art and essay contest, please contact: Kristi Morris, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 1021 North Grand Ave. East, MC #17, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276 • Phone: (217)558-7198 • Email: kristi.morris@illinois.gov; Website: www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest/index