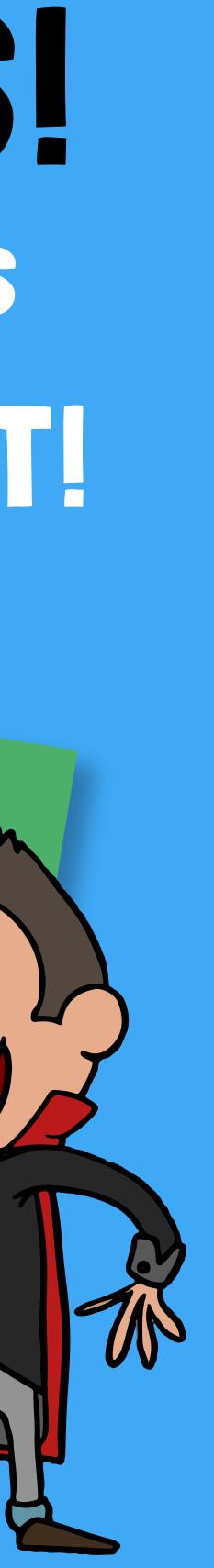


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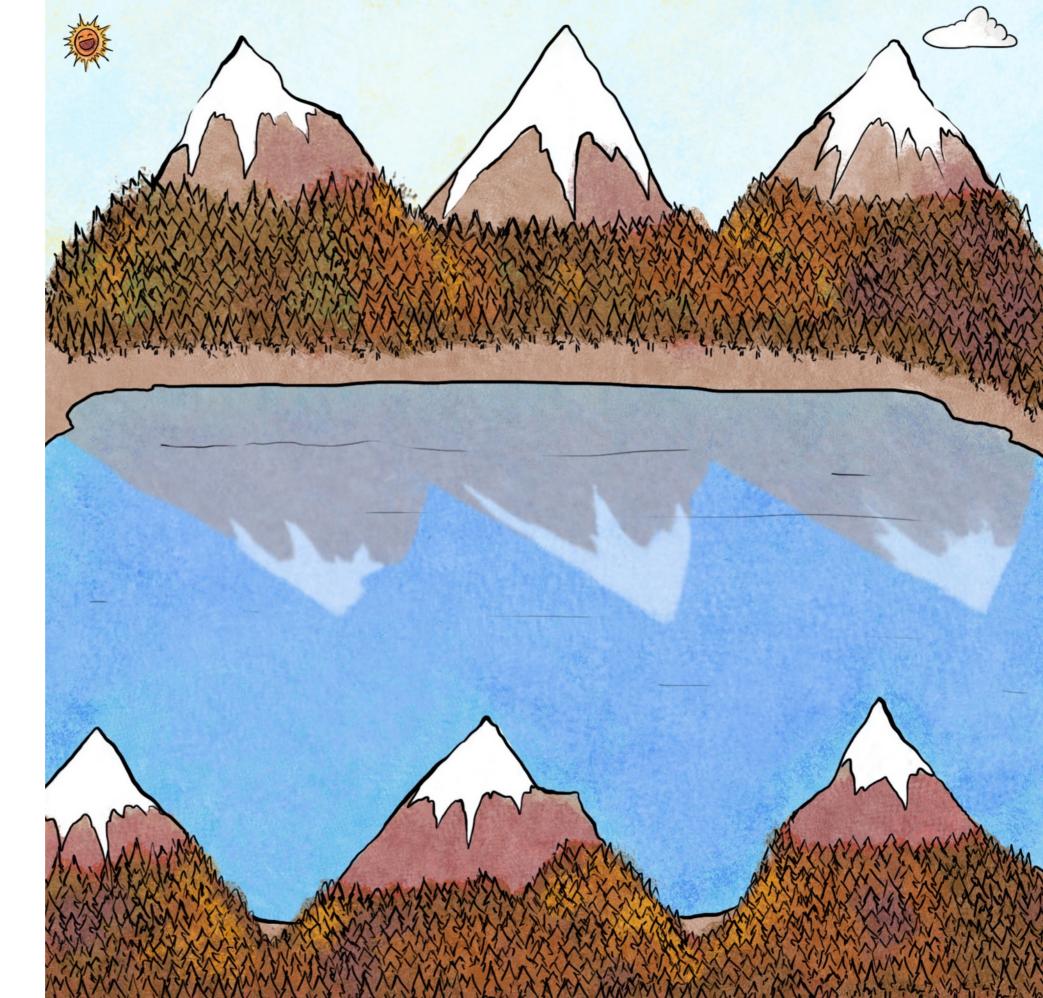
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Once upon a time, there was a large lake in the middle of six sky-high mountains.

The water was a beautiful icy blue, and the mountains were covered with tall green trees.

But the green leaves turned to orange and red.



Outside, things were changing.

Each day was colder and colder.

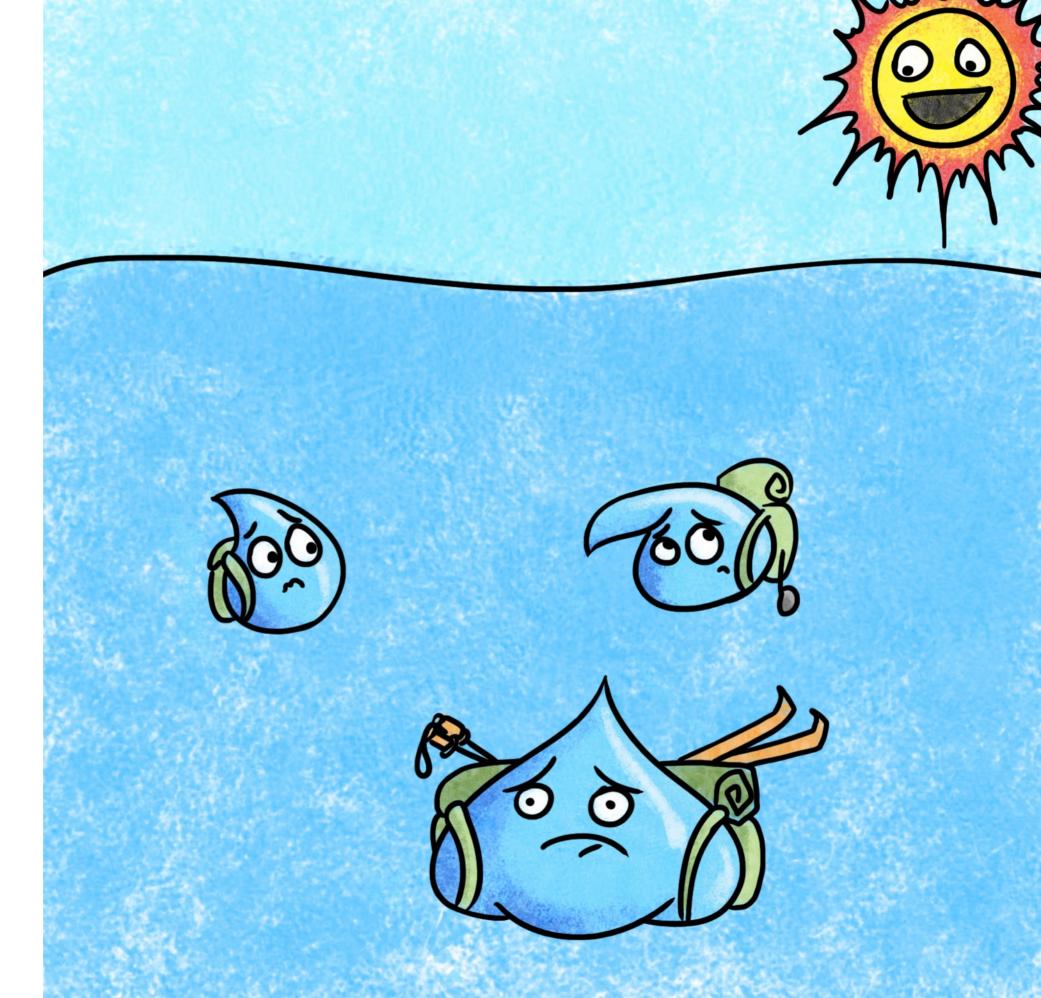
And the red and orange leaves fell from the trees.



Inside the lake, the itsy-bitsy, pinky-ponky water drop and his friends were worried.

Change Day was coming.

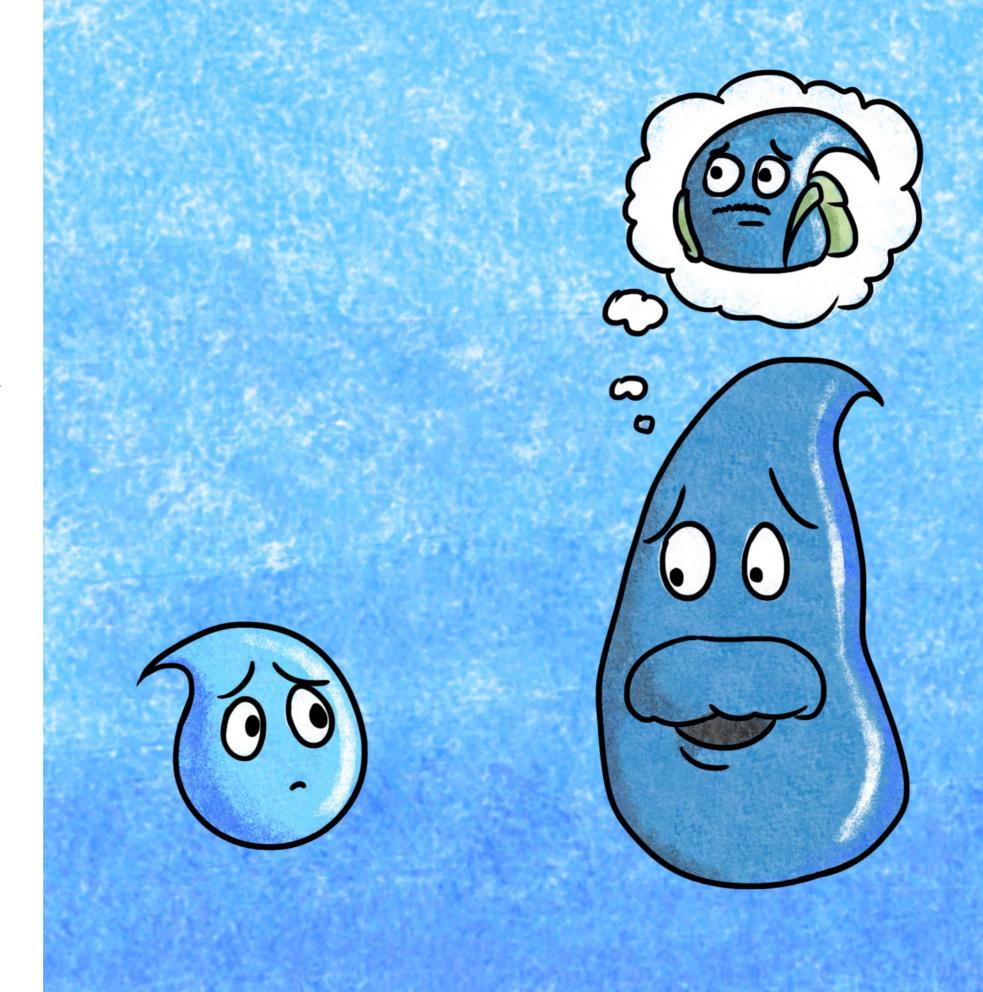
Soon, they would leave and change.



"Dad, I am scared," said Little Water Drop.

"Son, I was scared too, but it was okay," said Daddy Water Drop.

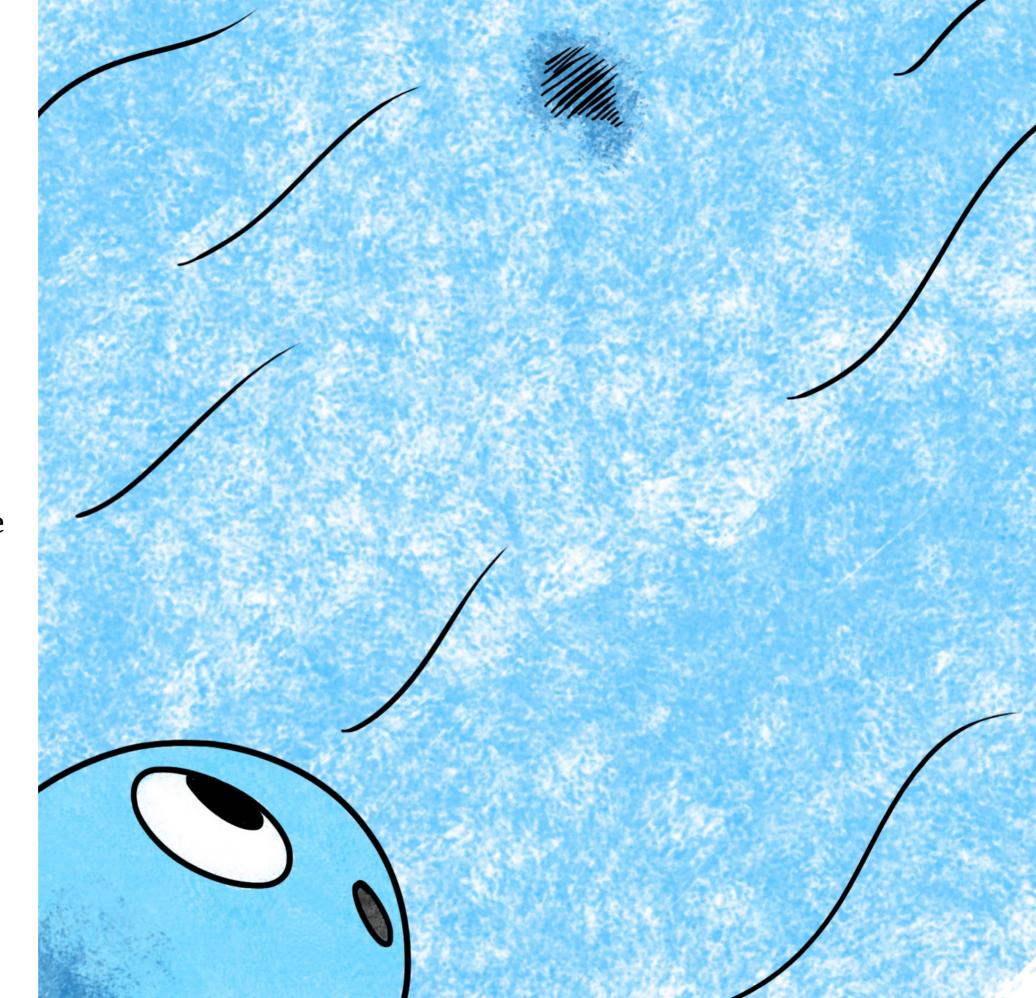
"Every water drop from this lake has to do it."



Later that day, Little Water Drop saw something falling slowly toward the lake from the sky.

He had never seen something fall so slowly.

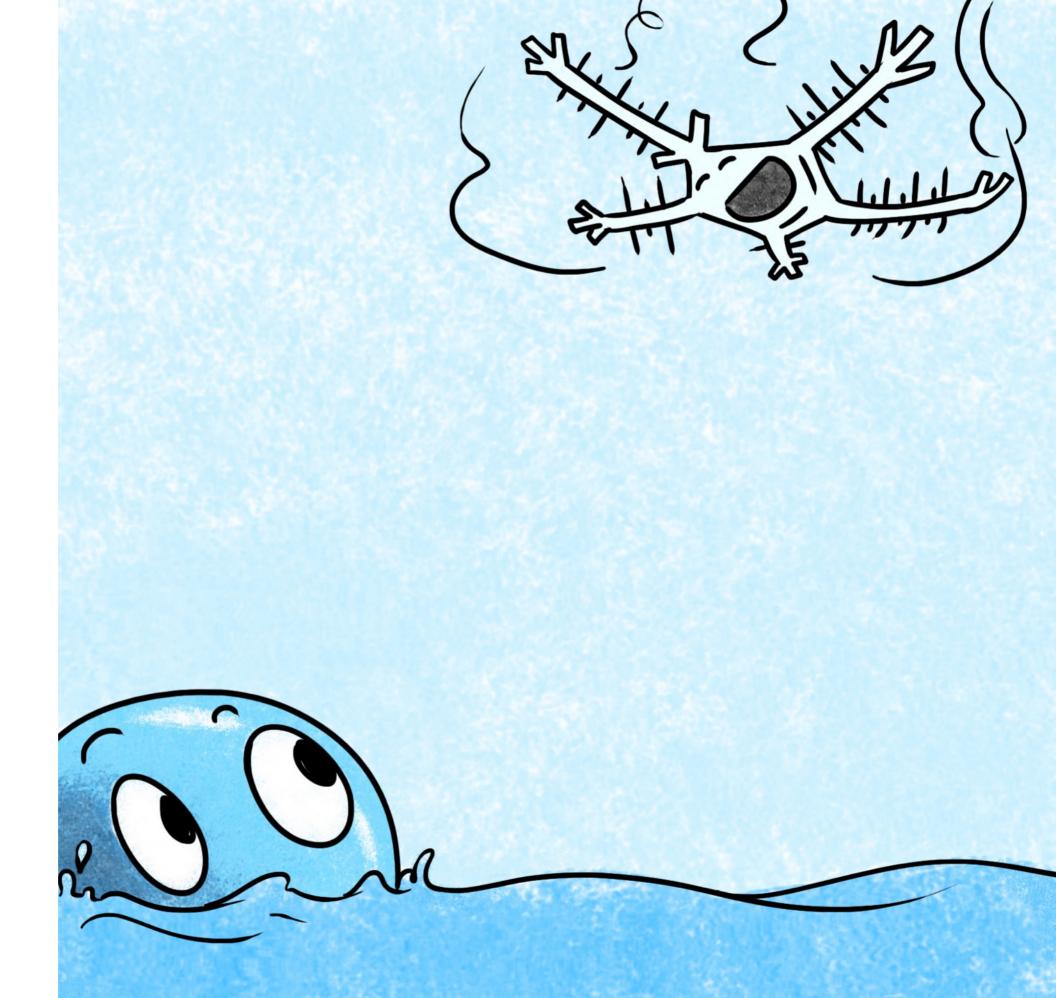
He was curious, so Little Water Drop swam to the surface to see.



It was a teeny-tiny, shiny little snowflake!

"Yahoo!" shouted the little snowflake...

... falling slowly, back and forth, side to side.

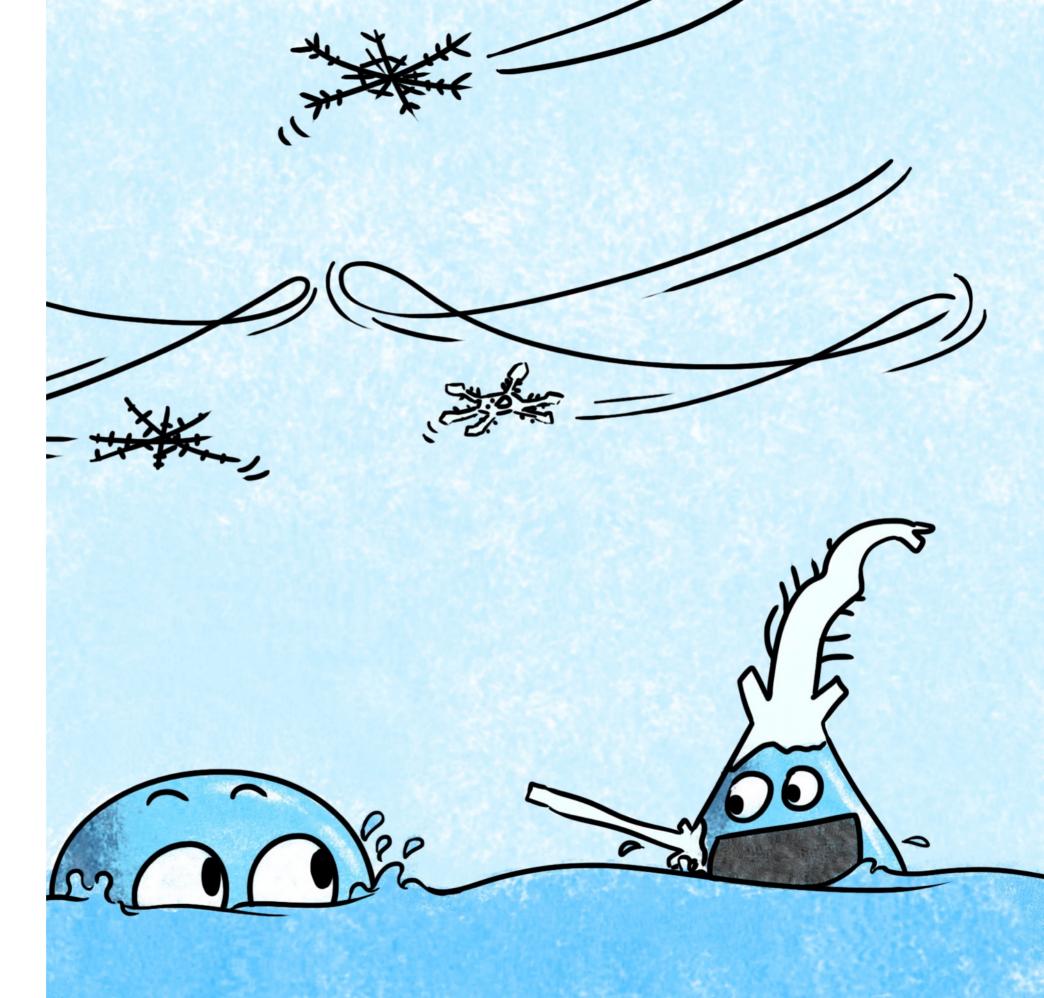


Splash!

The little snowflake landed in the lake next to Little Water Drop.

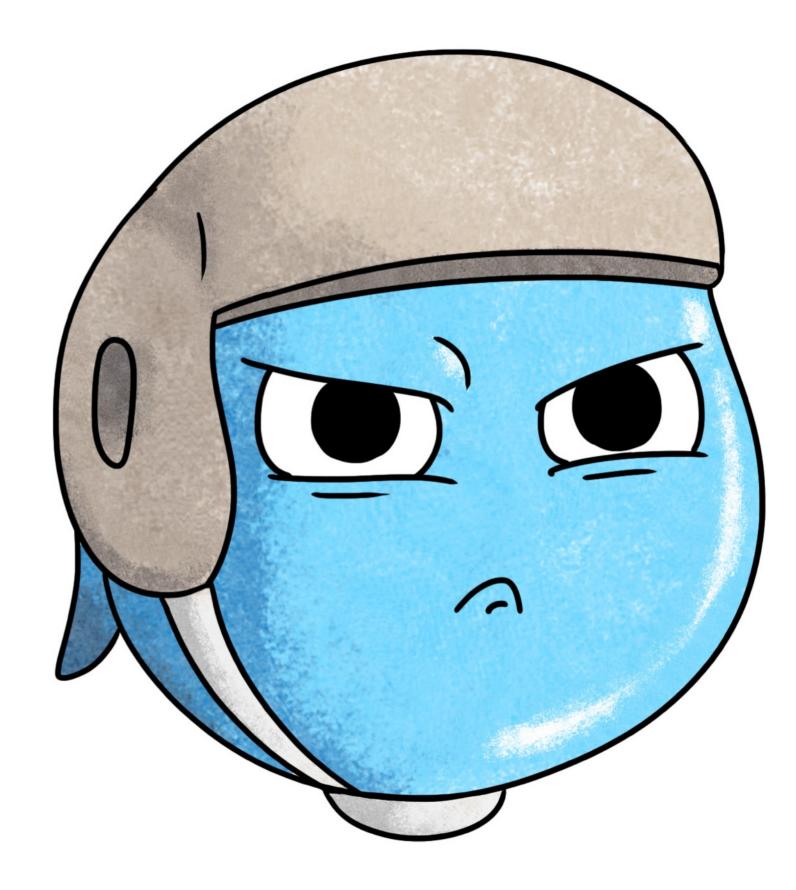
Suddenly... the little snowflake changed into a water drop!

"I'm back!" shouted the little snowflake. "That was fun! Change Day is great."



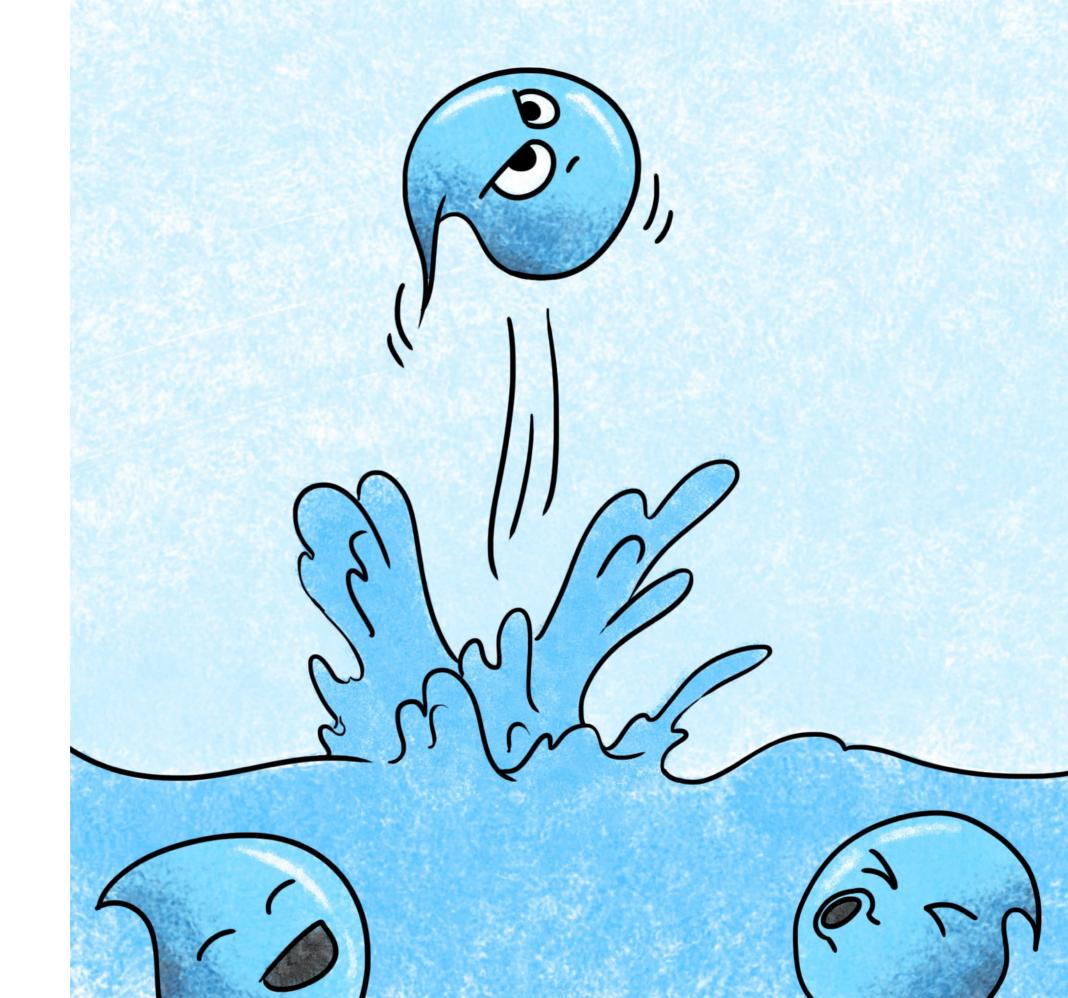
Little Water Drop became brave. He put on his helmet.

"I am ready," said the Little Water Drop. "I am ready for my Change Day. Ooh, haa!"



So Little Water Drop left the lake.

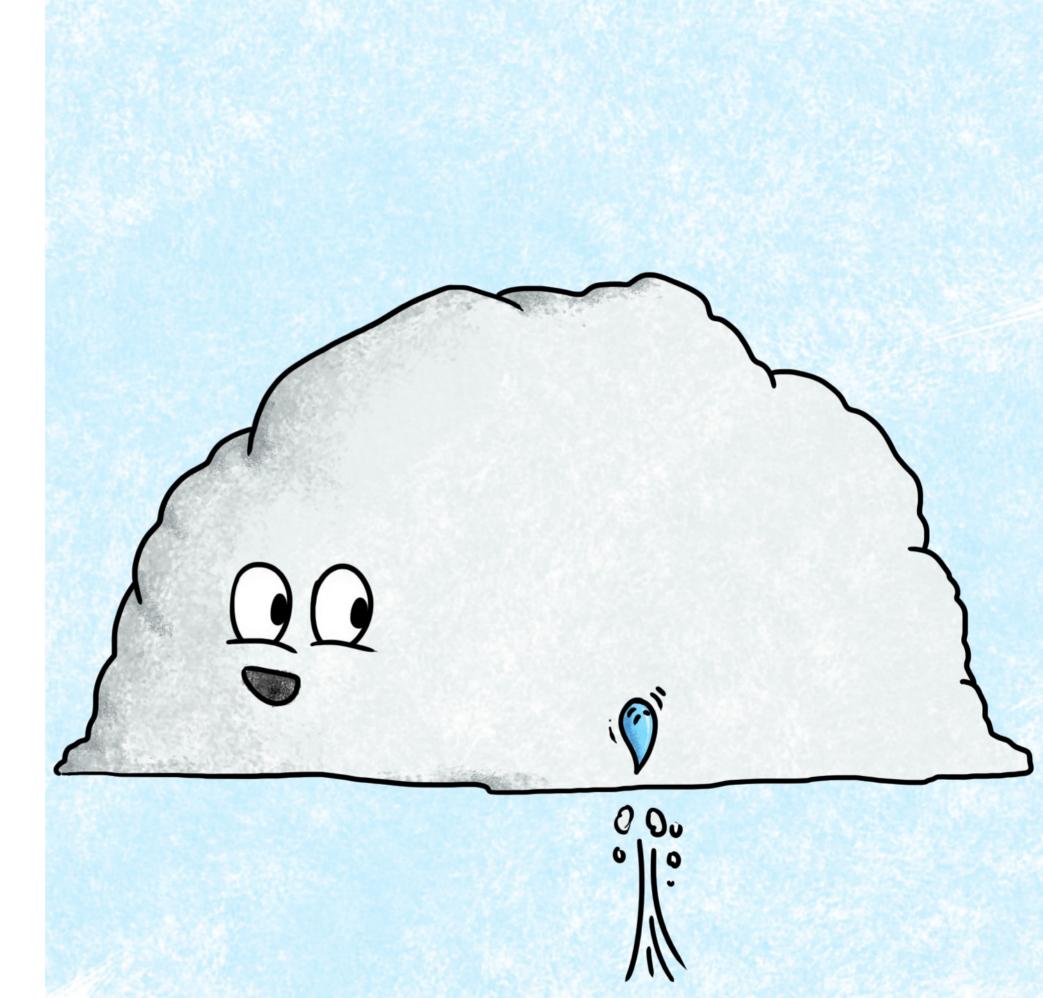
Up, up and away he went.



"Hello, brave Little Water Drop," said Cold Cloud. "Are you ready to change?"

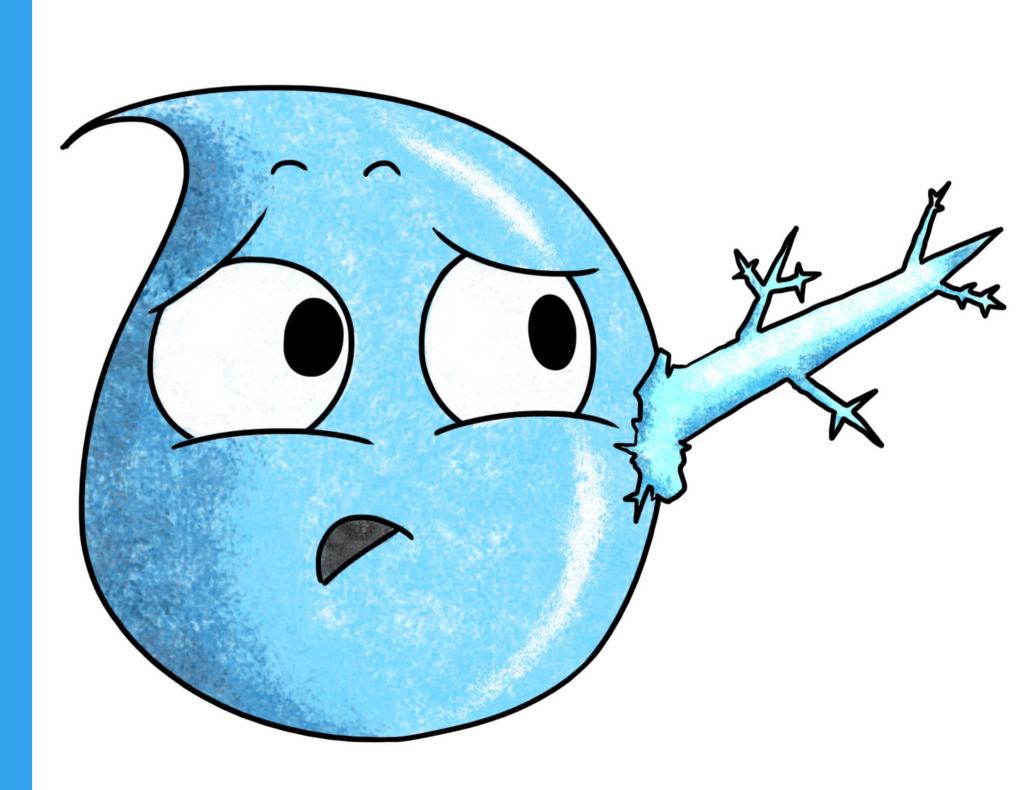
"I... I think so," said Little Water Drop, a little worried.

"The cold will change you in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1..." said Cold Cloud.



Suddenly, a long icicle arm grew from Little Water Drop's left side! The change had started.

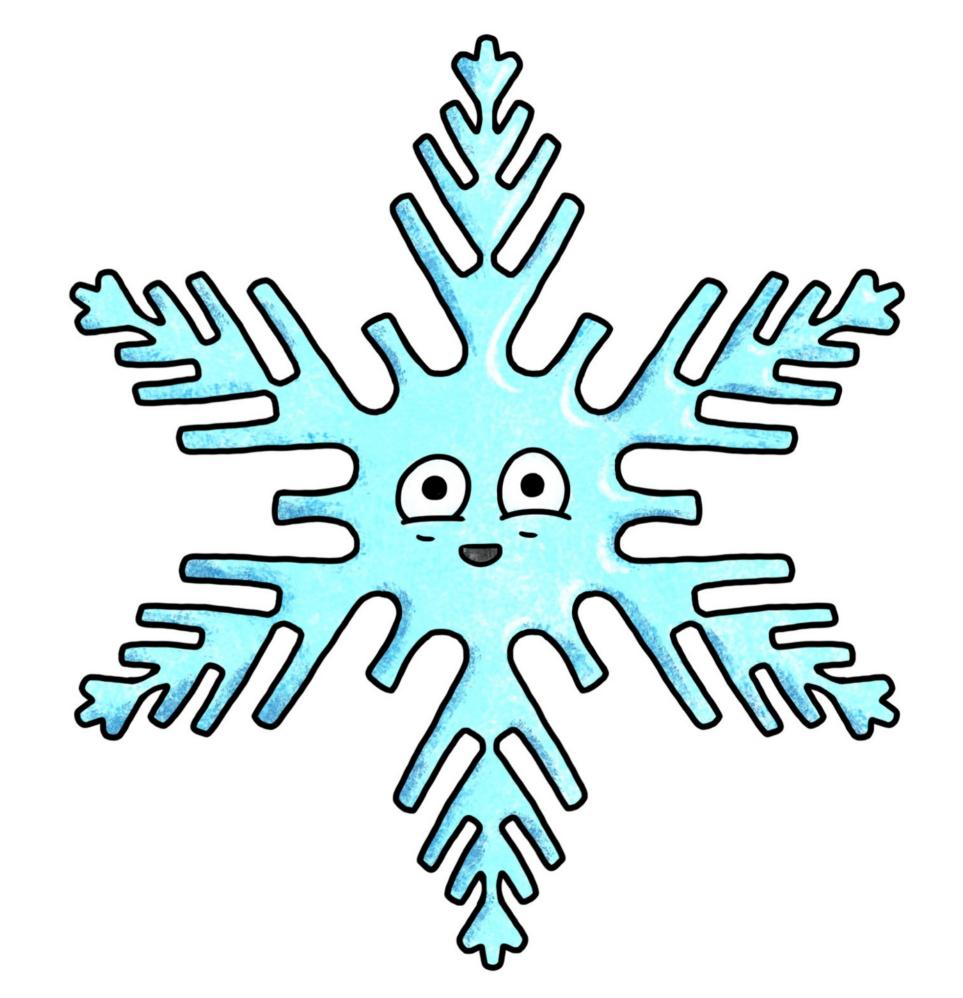
And soon after...



Little Water Drop was completely frozen!

Cold Cloud changed his waterbody into a beautiful ice crystal.

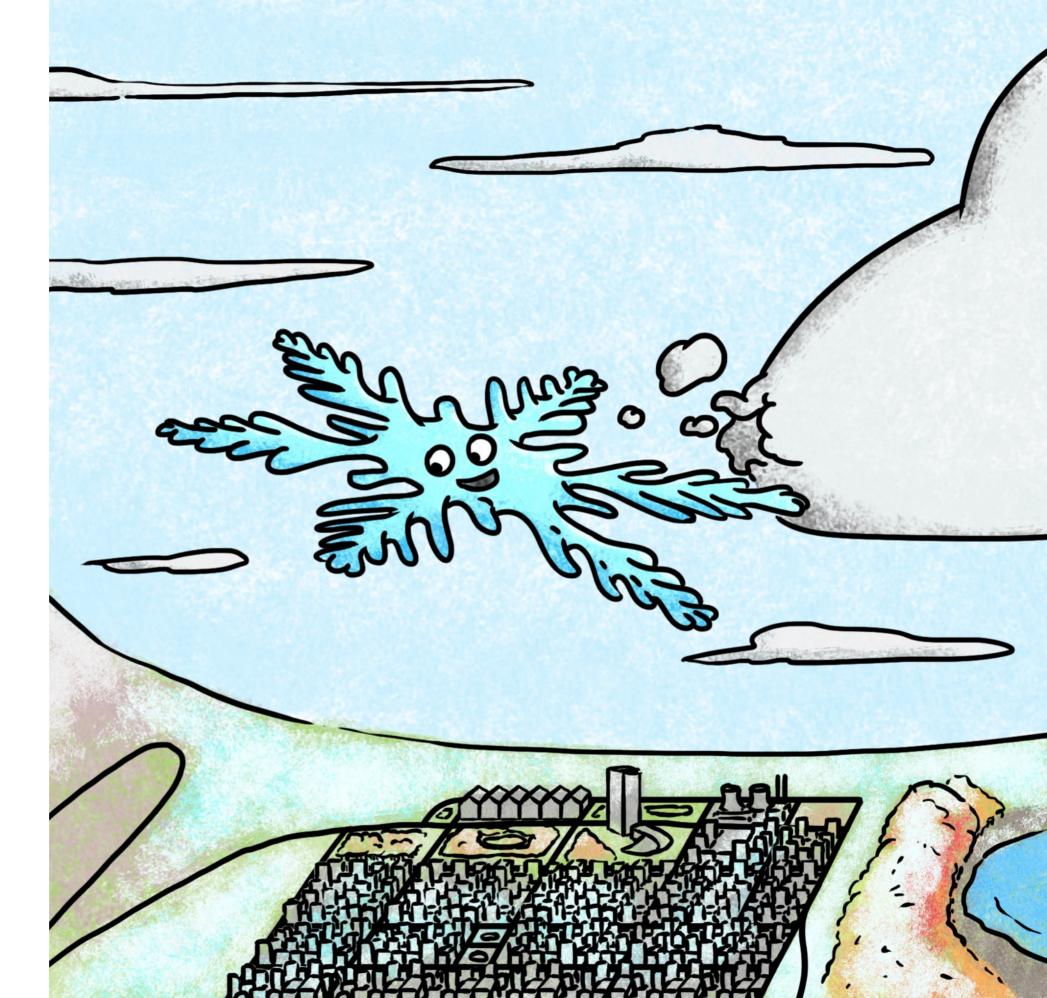
Little Water Drop was now a teeny-tiny, shiny white snowflake.



"Geronimo!" yelled Little Snowflake.

Cold Cloud opened up, and Little Snowflake jumped!

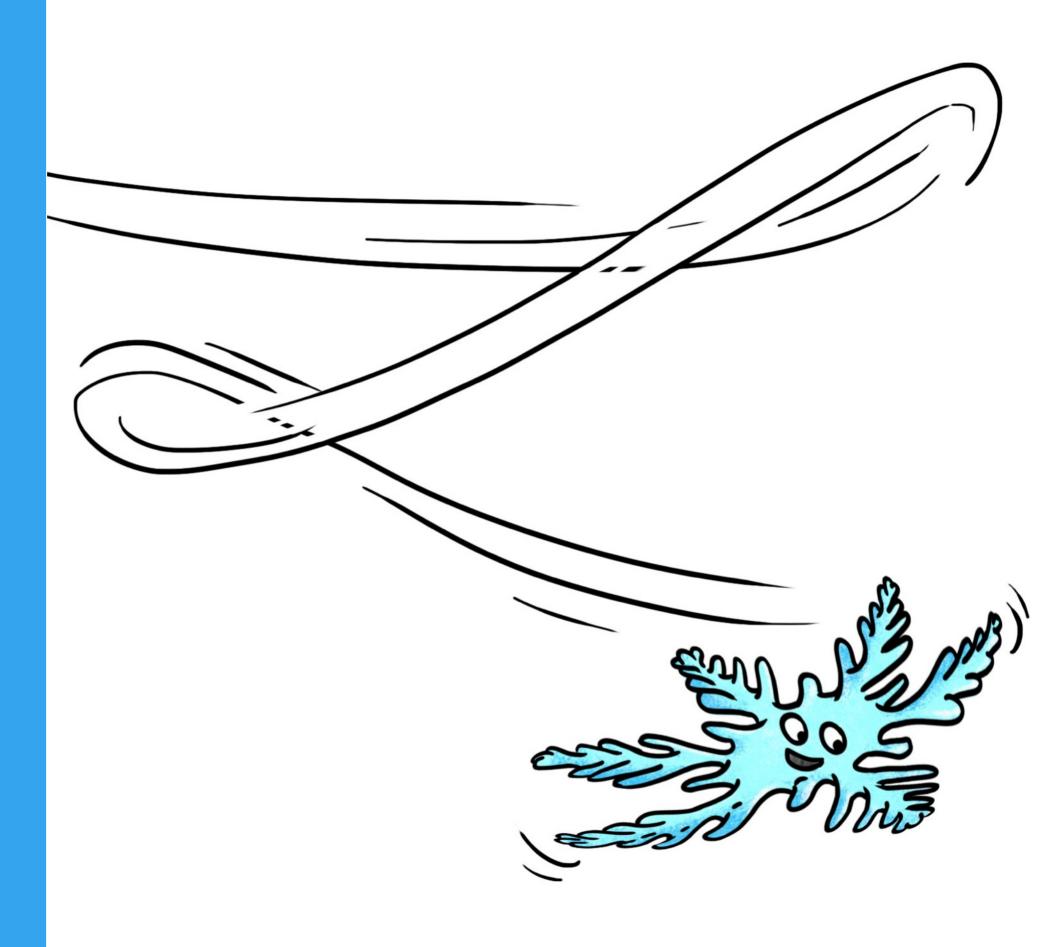
He was ready to race towards the town below. Faster and faster! But...



Little Snowflake didn't fall faster and faster!

He didn't race towards the town below.

He floated slowly back and forth, side to side.

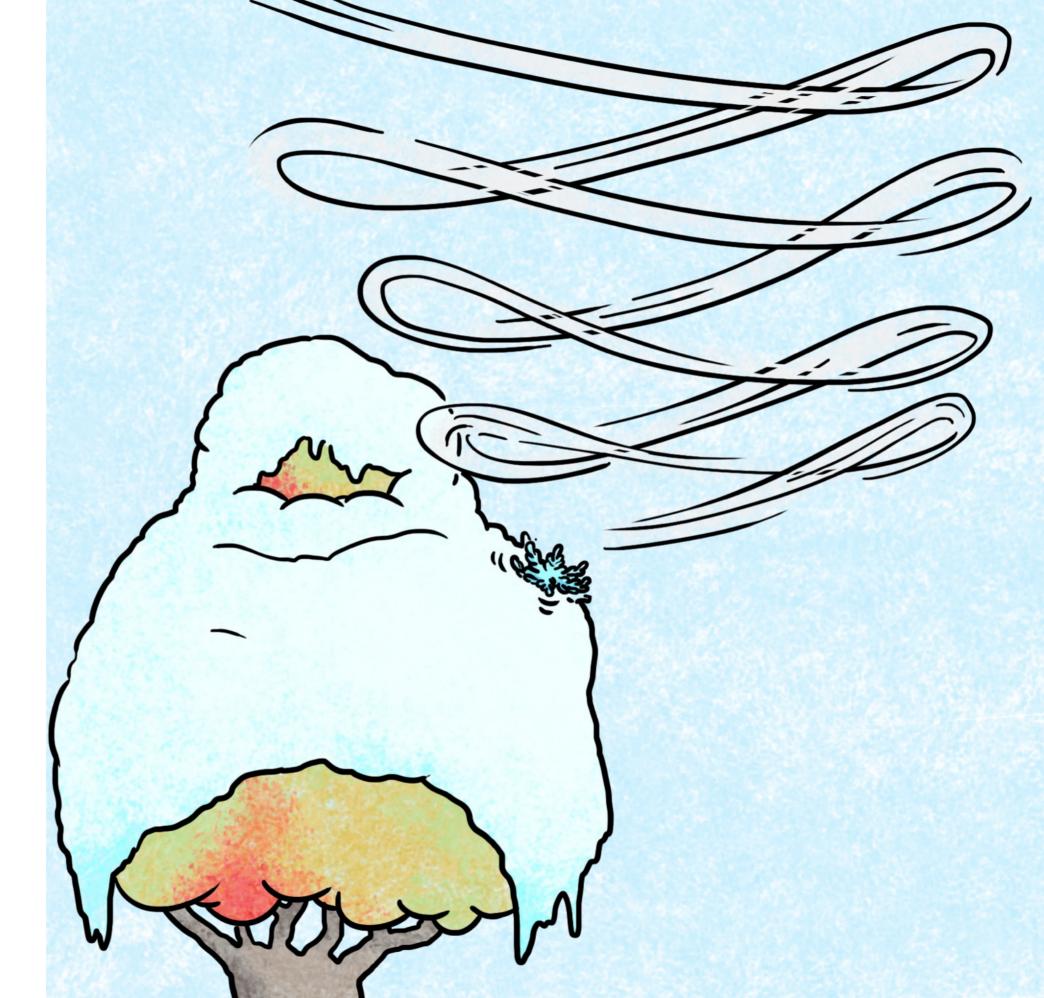


Back and forth.

Side to side.

Falling slowly.

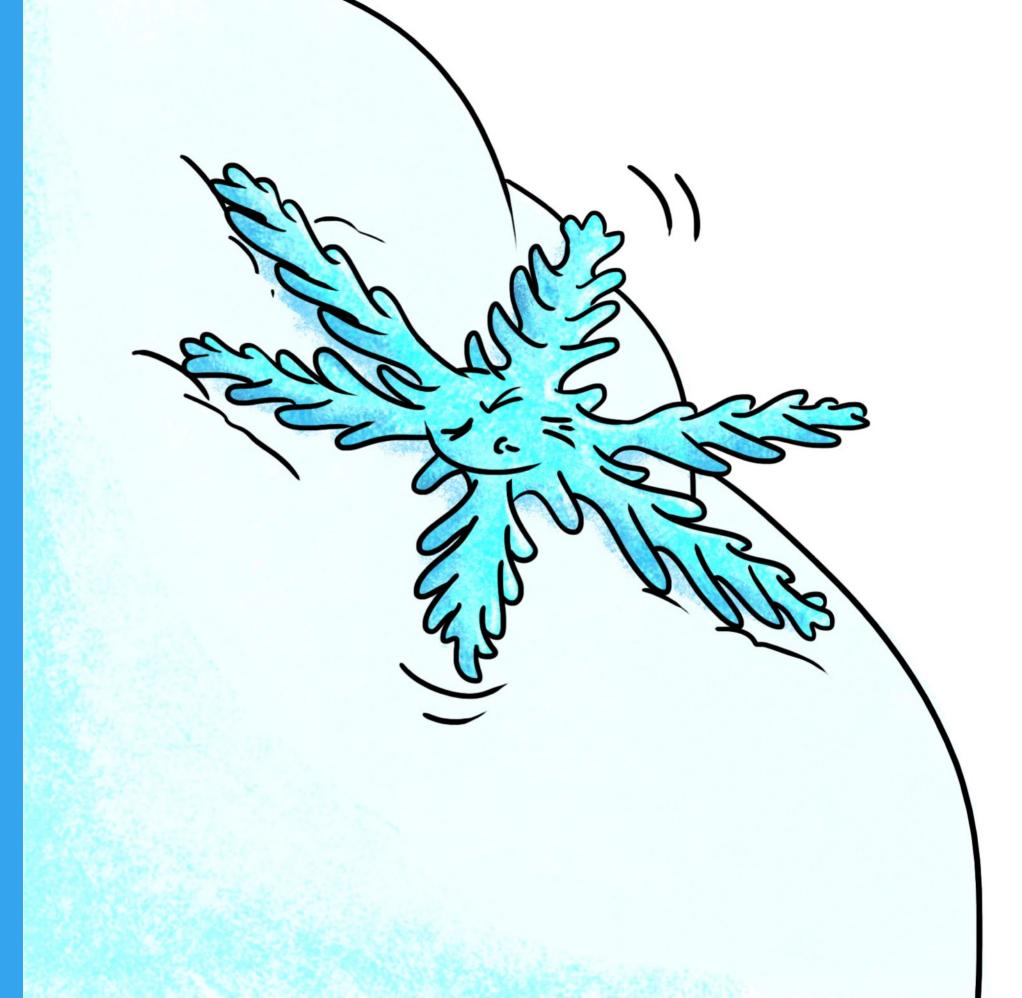
Finally, dizzy Little Snowflake landed softly on a pile of snow in a tree.



Little Snowflake tried to move, but he couldn't!

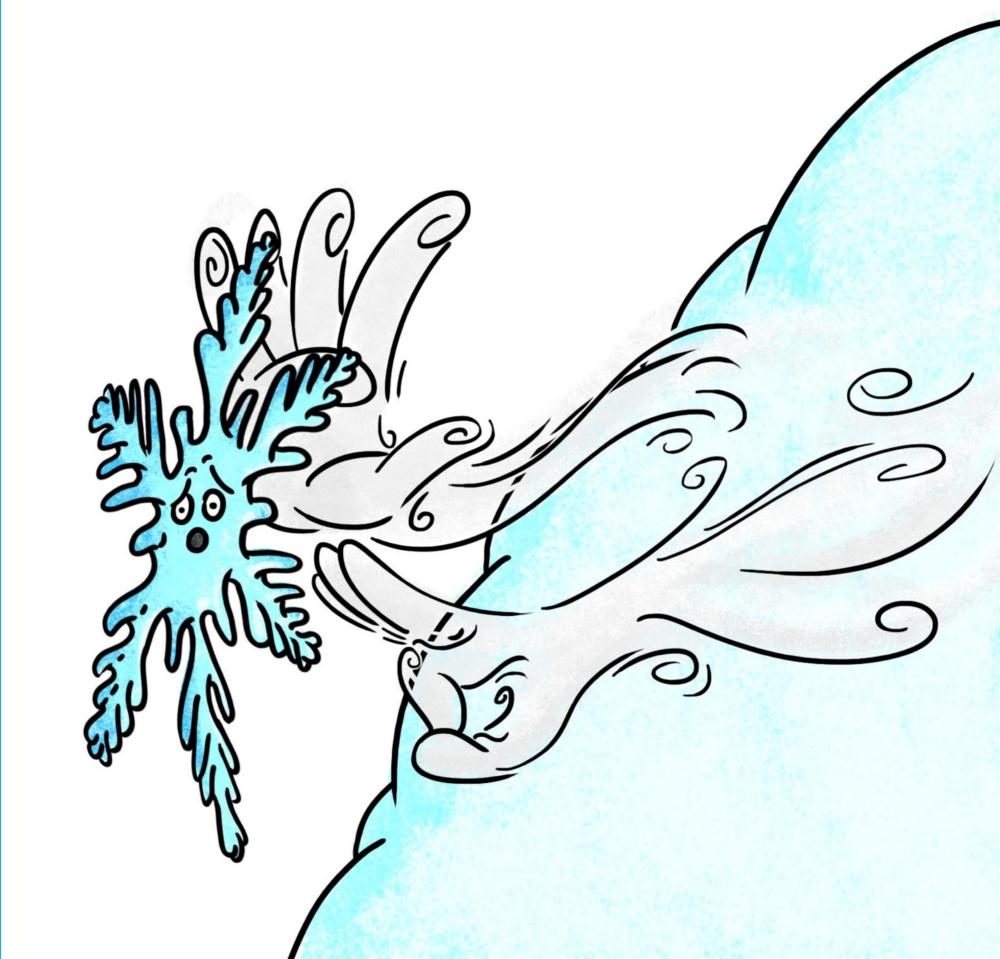
Little Snowflake was worried.

"If I can't move, I will be stuck here for the whole winter," he thought to himself.



"Help!" he shouted. "I'm stuck."

Suddenly, a gust of wind picked up Little Snowflake and flung him from the tree.

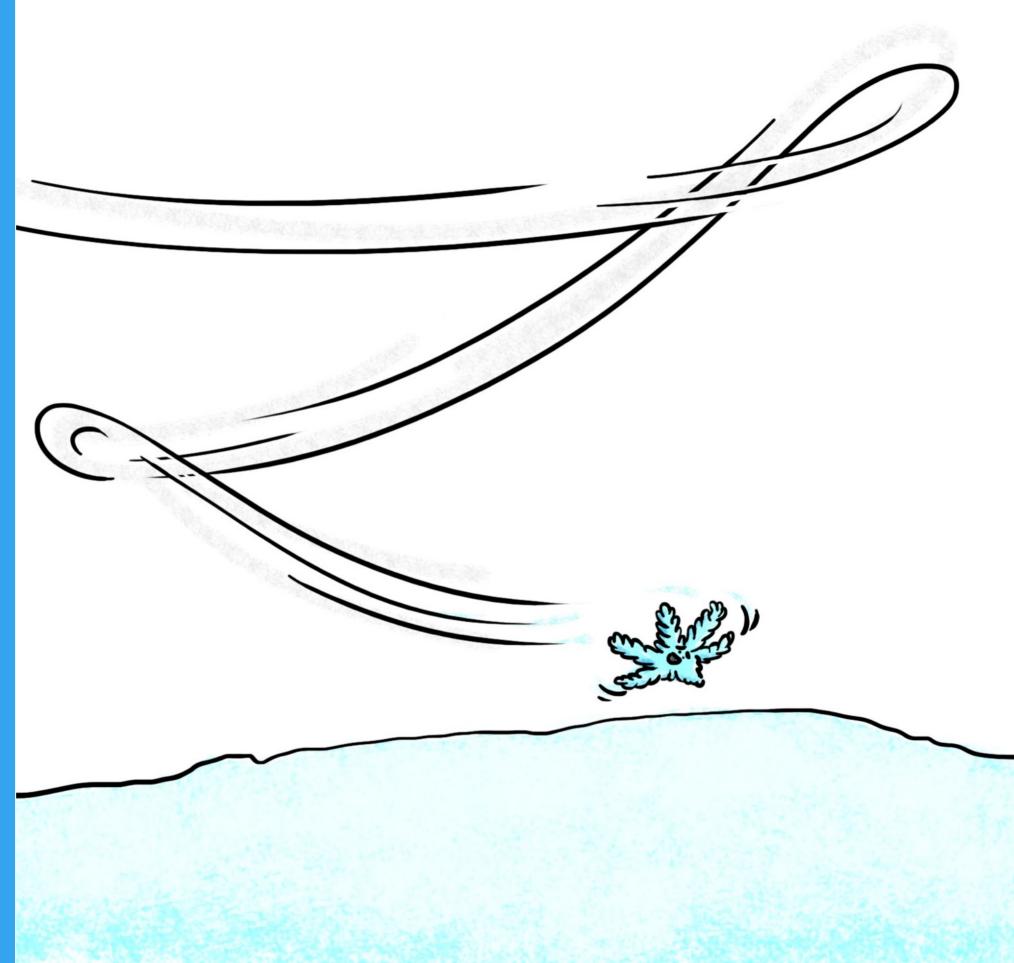


He didn't fall fast.

He glided back and forth, side to side.

Then landed softly on a pile of snow.

"The wind will move me," he thought.

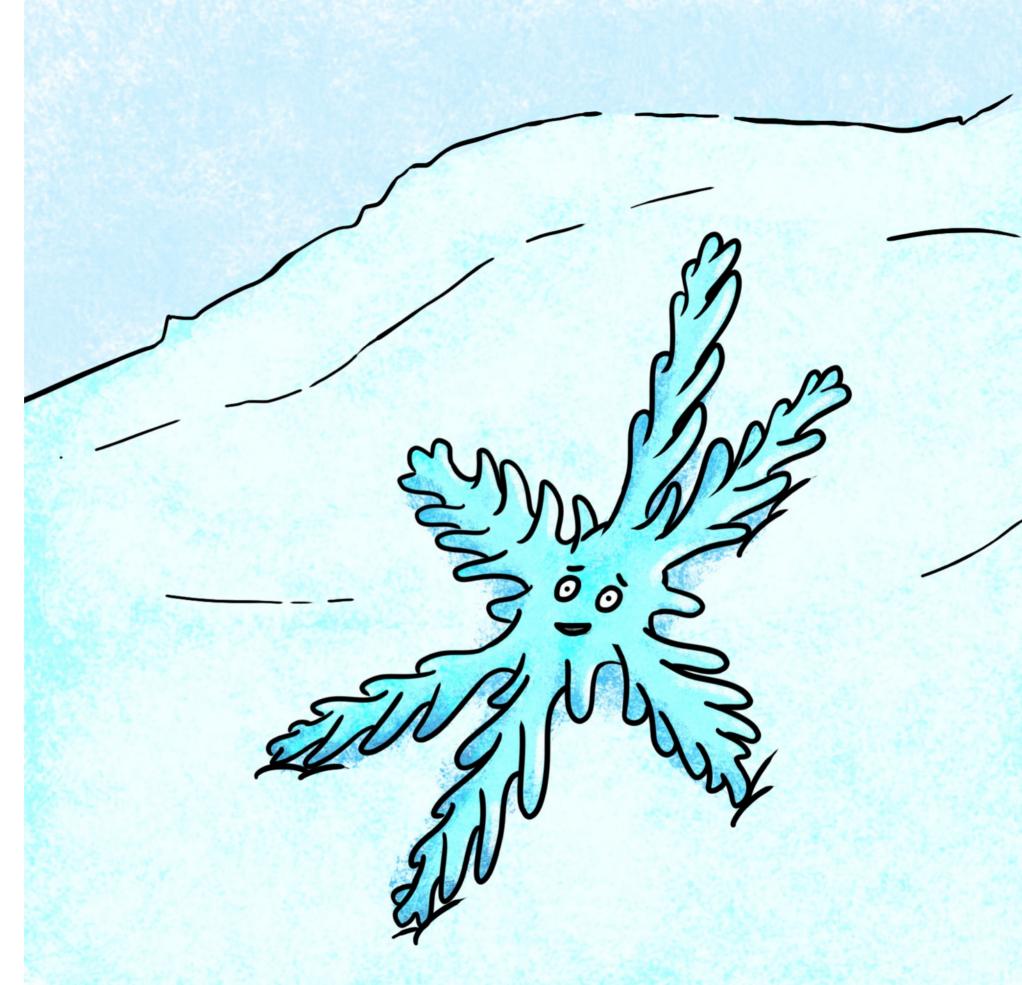


Little Snowflake relaxed.

He looked at the beautiful blue sky.

Resting on the ground and looking at the sky, everything was calm.

Then suddenly...



Two giant hands scooped him up from the ground!

The hands squished and squeezed him together with the other snowflakes!

Then the hands...



Smashed him into the face of a giant snow man!

"Ouchie!" shouted Little Snowflake.

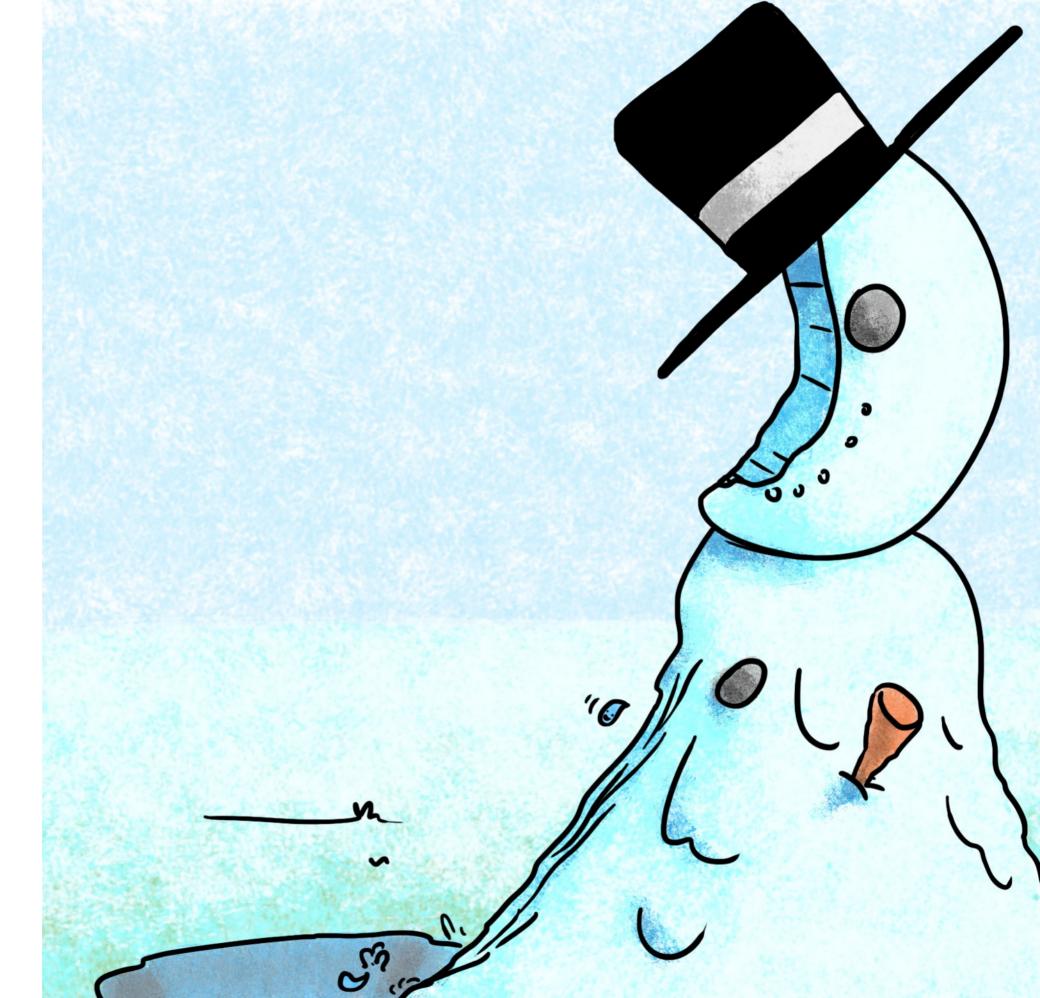
He was now part of the snowman, and stayed there for the night.



The next day, the sun was bright, and the day was warm.

Little Snowflake became Little Water Drop again!

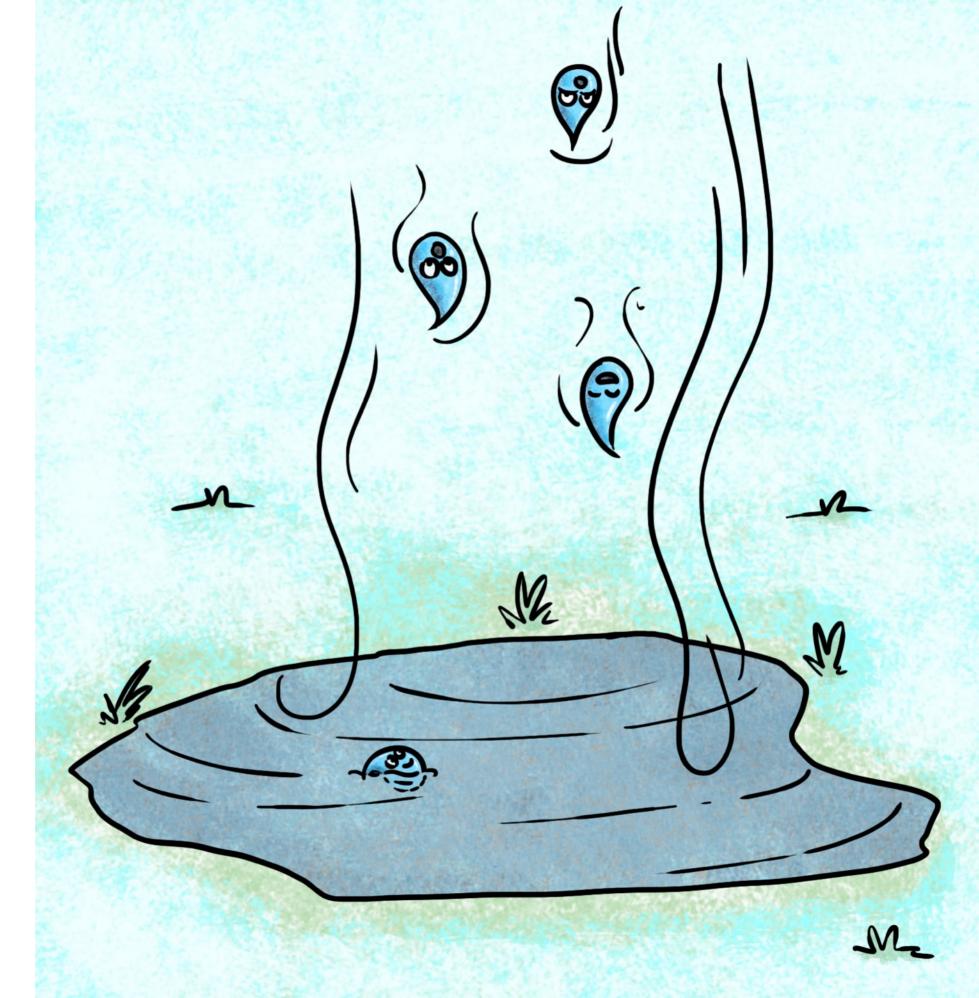
The water drops gathered in a puddle below.



Splishing and splashing in the puddle, Little Water Drop thought of the lake.

It was time to go home.

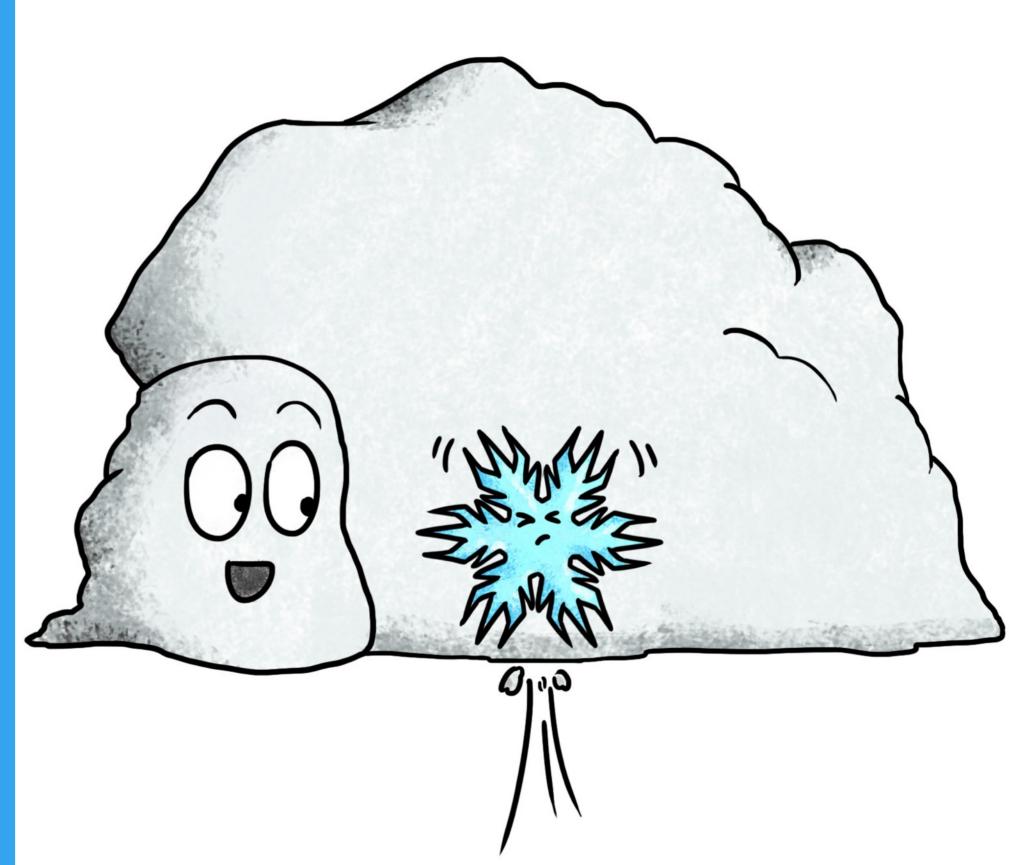
Up, up and away.



"Welcome back," said Cold Cloud. "Ready? 5, 4, 3, 2, 1..."

Little Water Drop changed again, but he was not the same snowflake, because no two snowflakes are the same.

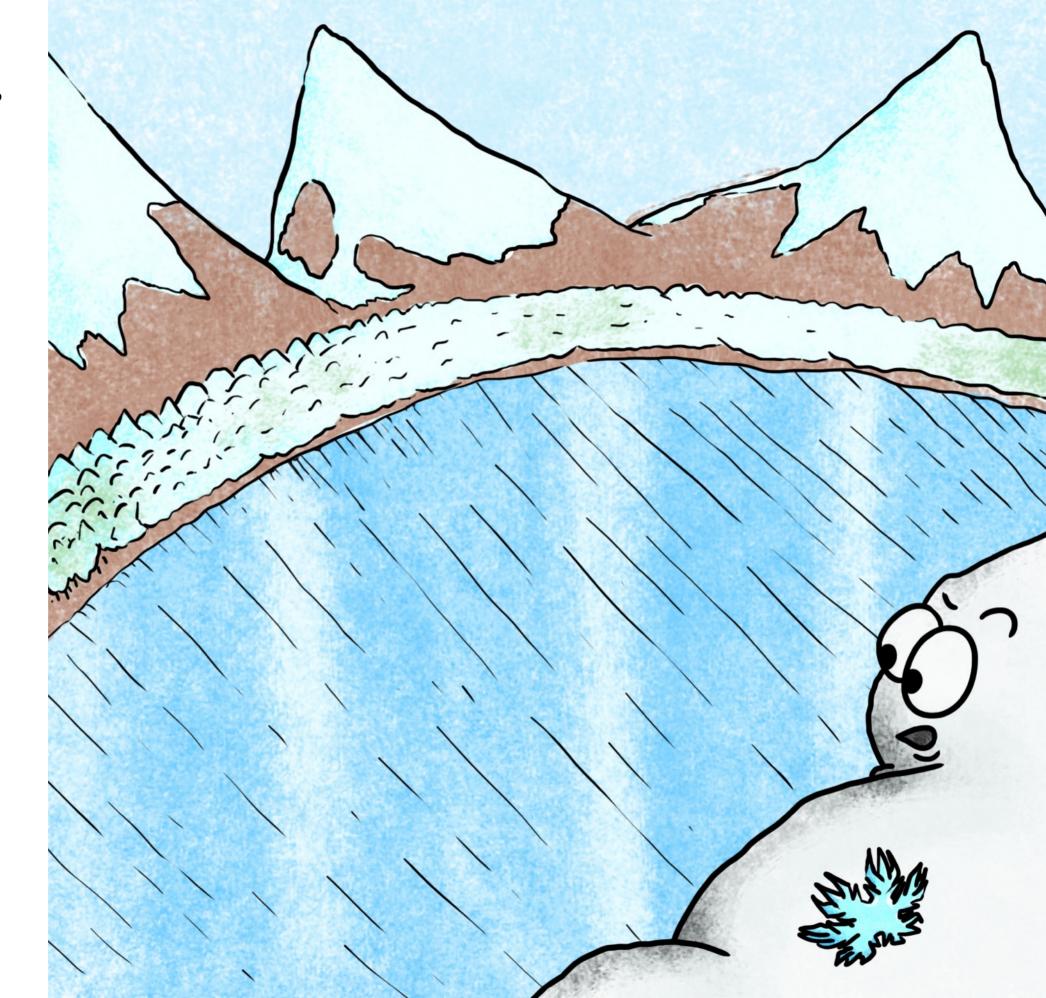
This time, he was bigger and stronger!



"My lake," said Little Snowflake. "I'm home."

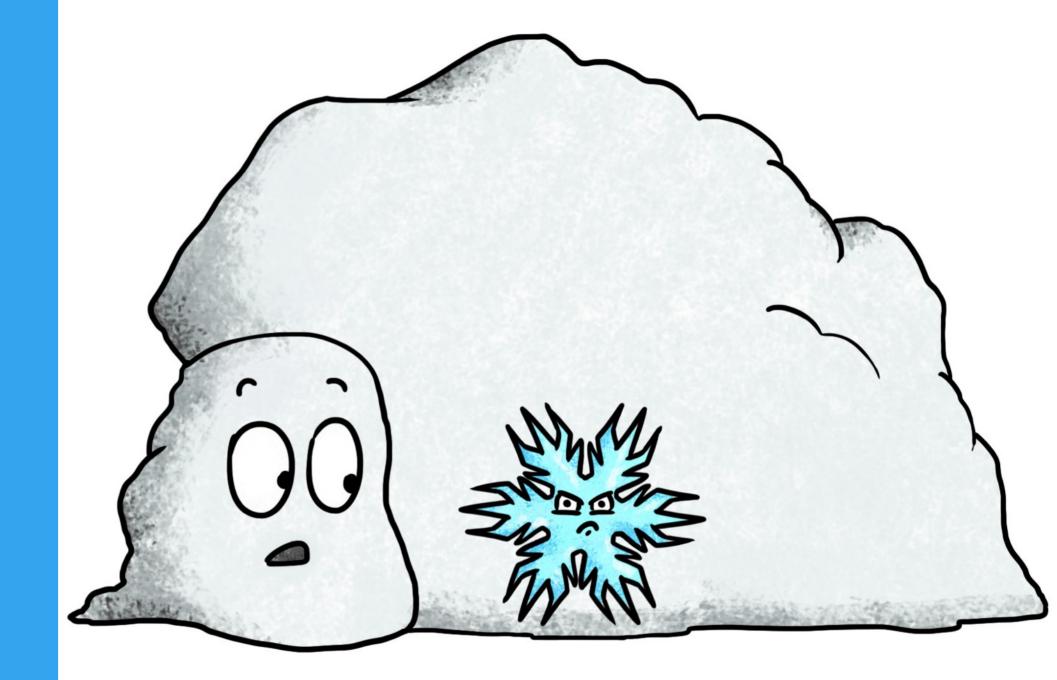
"Oh no," said Cold Cloud.

"The lake is frozen. You can't go home."



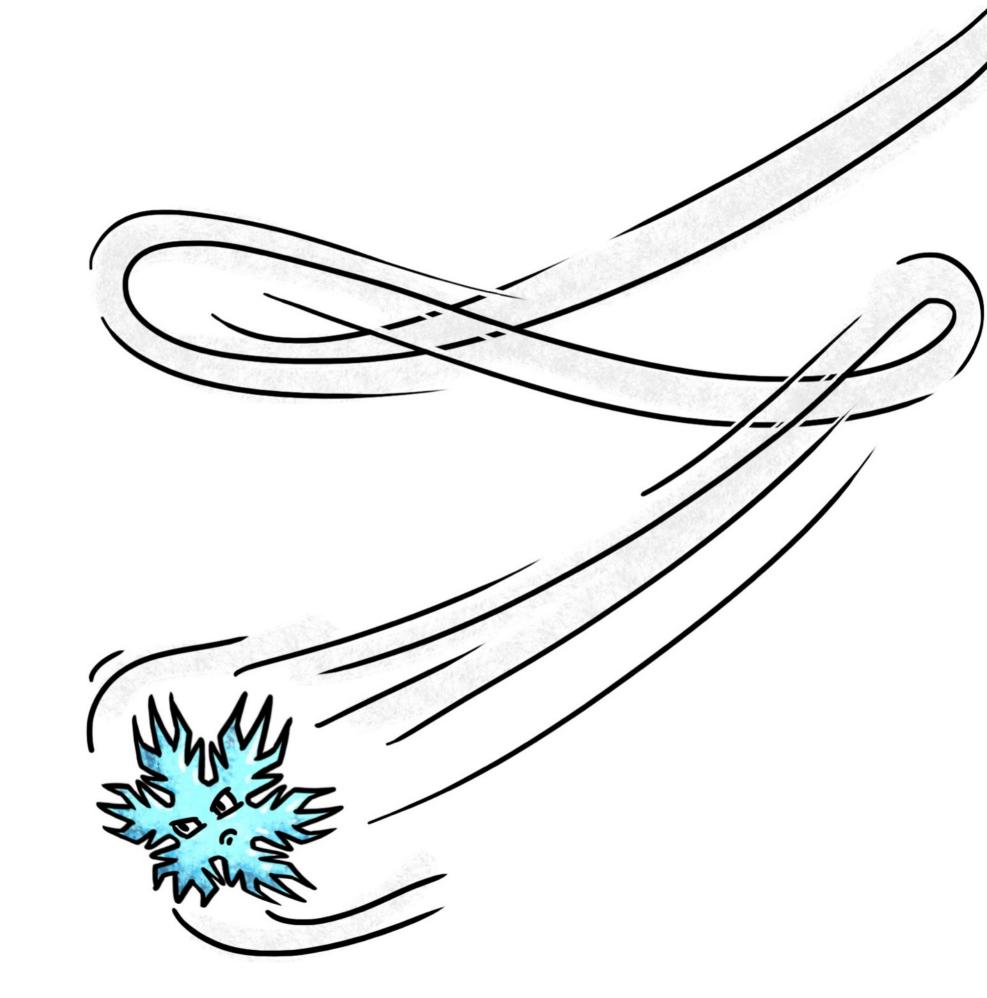
"I'm going home," said Little Snowflake.

"I have an idea."



"Geronimo!" yelled Little Snowflak<u>e</u>.

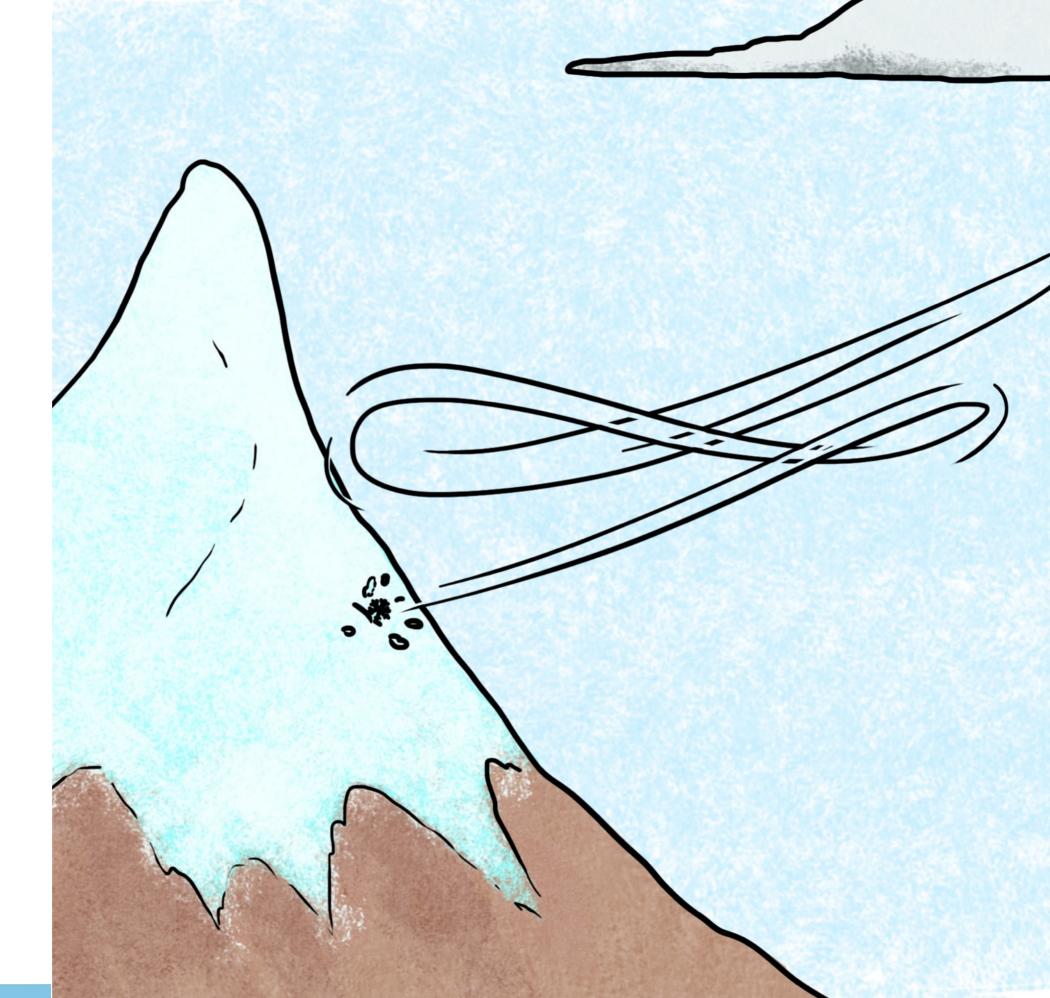
He jumped from the cloud, and floated fast down toward the ground.



Thud!

Little Snowflake slammed into the mountain.

Everything shook, and started to move!

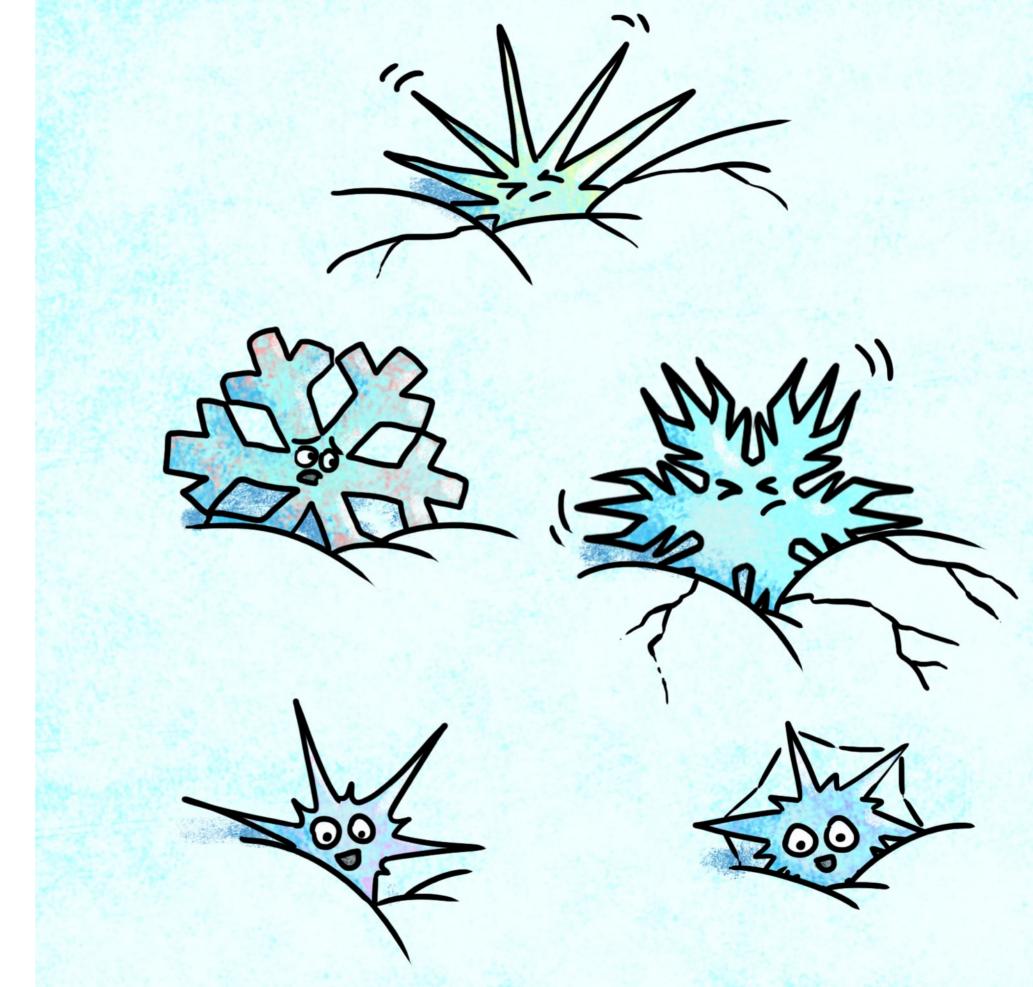


"Jump with me," shouted Little Snowflake.

All the little snowflakes began to bounce up and down.

Now everything was shaking and rumbling!

Suddenly....



All the snowflakes started to race down the mountain!

"Whoosh!" went the snow.

"Crack!" went the trees.

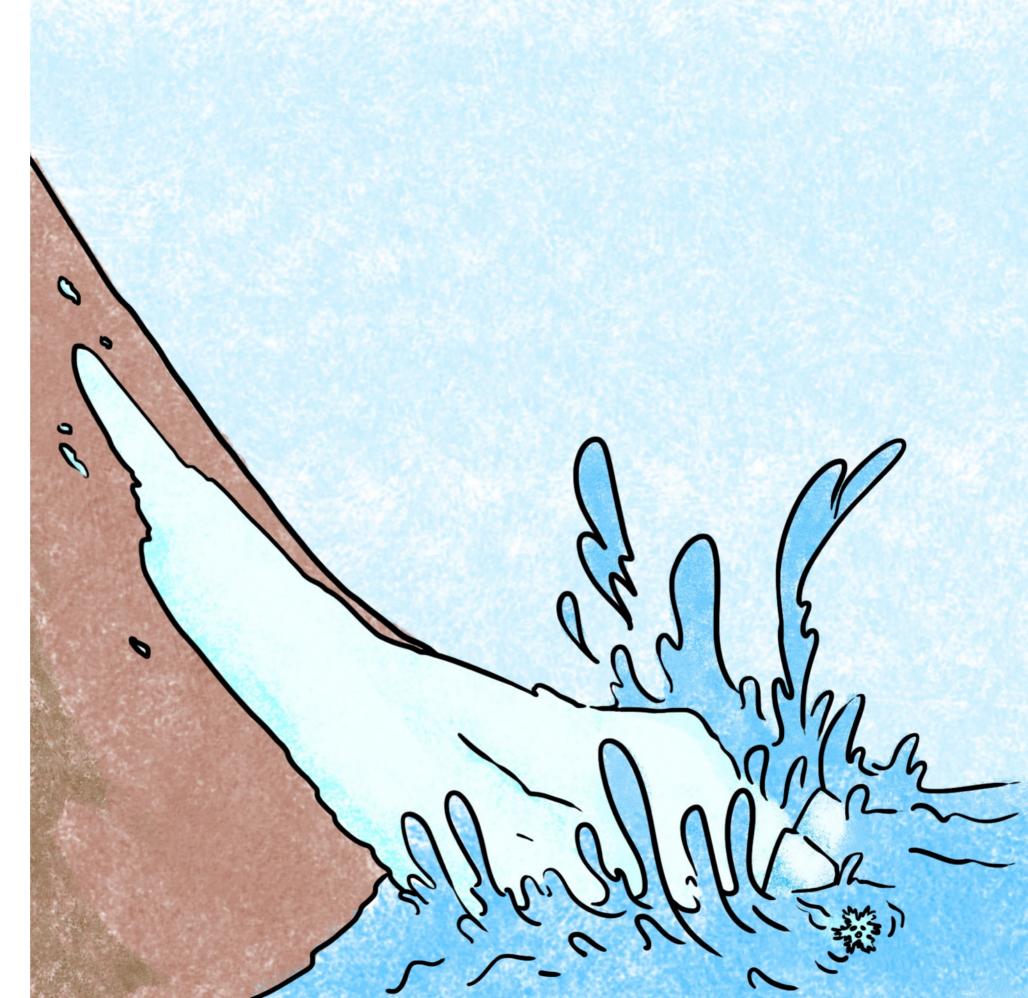
They were moving so fast as they raced down the mountain faster and faster.



Smash!

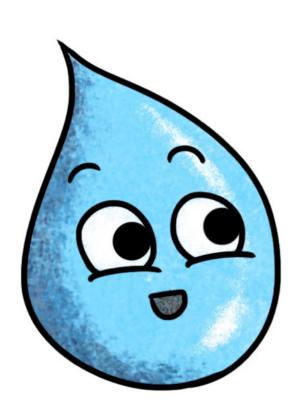
The snow smashed through the ice and into the water.

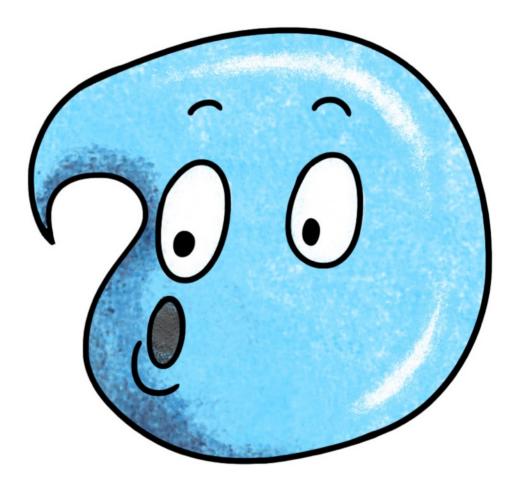
Little Snowflake changed back to Little Water Drop.



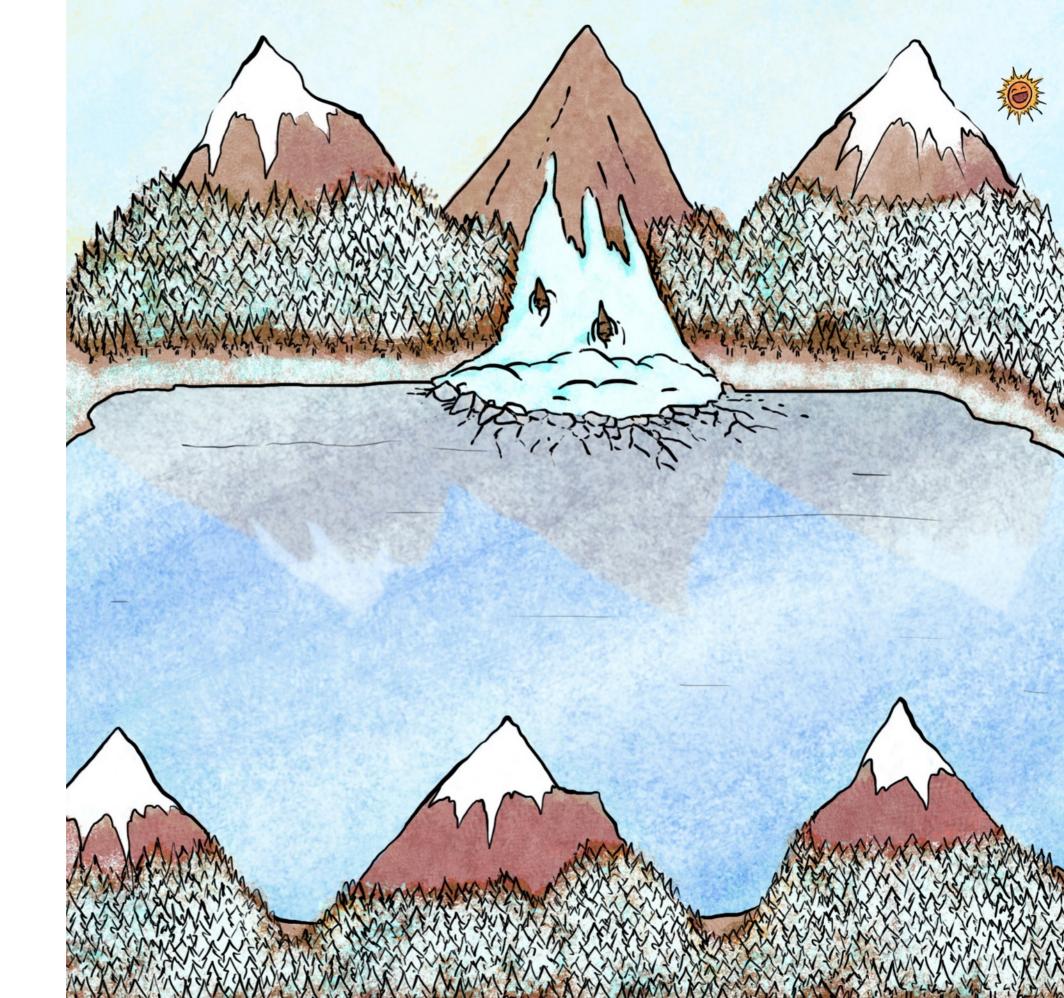
"You're back so soon!" said his older brother. "That was the fastest Change Day ever!"

"Home for the holidays," said Little Water Drop. "Being frozen is fun, but I like being a water drop in our lake."





Sorry about the mess.



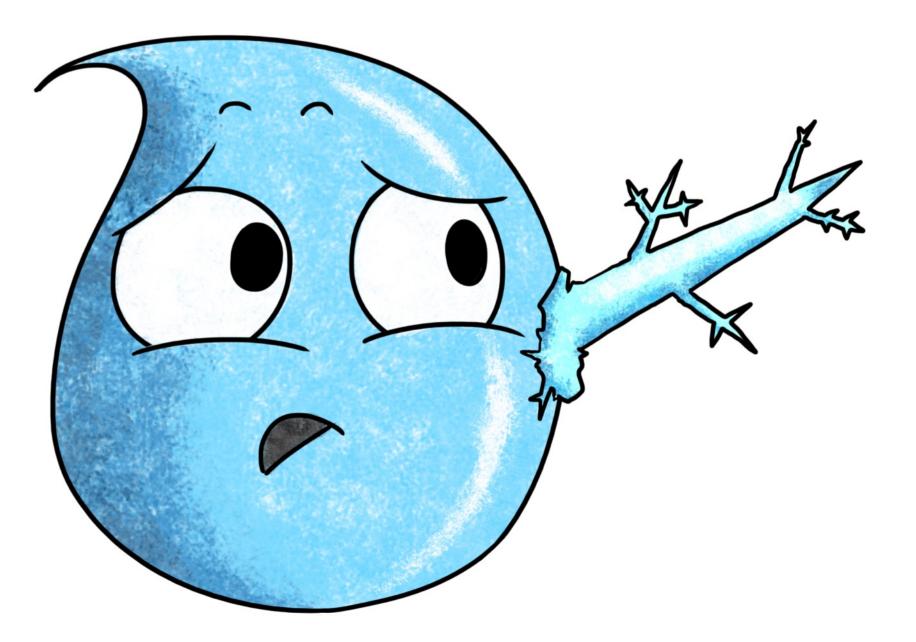
PARENTS VS SNOW



Snow and rain come from the same place. They are both formed by water vapor in the atmosphere.

Snow is formed when the temperature of the atmosphere drops below freezing. Water vapor in the air starts to freeze around small dust particles or bacteria. It then slowly begins to grow molecule by molecule, or snowball if you will, and eventually a snow flake is formed!

Snow has six basic shapes. They are: Needles, columns, plates, columns capped with plates, dendrites, and stars. Each different shape is the result of atmospheric and temperature conditions within the cloud.

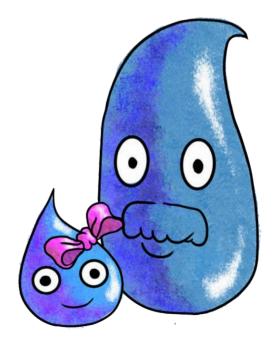


Parent's Cheat Sheet

Reading to Children Four and Under

- You're on the clock! Most children at this age will stay engaged for 10 to 15 minutes. The older, the longer usually.
- **Prepare yourself.** Read or skim the book beforehand. The adult reader will probably need to summarize the page to keep interest.
- **Pictures are worth a thousand words.** Make sure the child can see the pictures. Sitting the child on the side with the picture (as opposed to the text) is a good idea.
 - Lights, camera, action! Read each character's spoken lines in character. Make sure to use intonation and inflection.
- 5 Encourage participation. Read aloud the title, sentences and onomatopoeia (e.g. smash, splash, crash, whoosh and other words that represent noises). Have the child repeat sentences and key phrases according to their level. Keep your finger under each word you read to encourage reading recognition.
- 6 Ask questions! Kids are smart! Really smart! Their listening comprehension is much higher than their speaking skills. See the activities section for ideas and recommended questions. For this age group, questions with a definite answer work best. "Is he happy? How many mountains are there?"





Parent's Cheat Sheet

Reading to Children Four and Over

You're on the clock! Older children will usually have longer attention spans (20-30 minutes), but there is usually a limit. Get to know how much time you have.

Prepare yourself. Read or skim the book beforehand. The adult reader might need to summarize the page to keep interest. When reading to advanced learners, the adult should be aware of the difficulty level of words and sentences. This way the advanced learner can try to read the easier words and sentences according to their level. Two popular techniques are as follows:

Alternate reading sentences aloud with the adult reading the more difficult sentences.
Have the child read one or all of the character's lines in quotes.

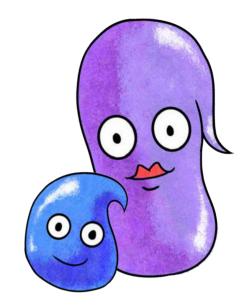
Reinforce reading. Make sure the child can see the words. Keep your finger under each word you read to encourage reading recognition.

Lights, camera, action! Read each character's spoken lines in character. Make sure to use intonation and inflection. A popular technique is to allow the child to read the characters' lines, as the language is usually at a lower difficulty level.

Encourage participation. Read aloud the title, sentences and onomatopoeia (e.g. smash, splash, crash, whoosh and other words that represent noises). Have the child read sentences and key phrases according to their level. Keep your finger under each word you read to encourage reading recognition (if needed).

Ask questions, and have kids ask you questions! Kids are smart! Really smart! Their listening comprehension is much higher than their speaking skills. See the activities section for ideas and recommended questions. For this age group, in addition to questions with a definite answers, try open-ended questions. "Why is he happy? What will happen next?"

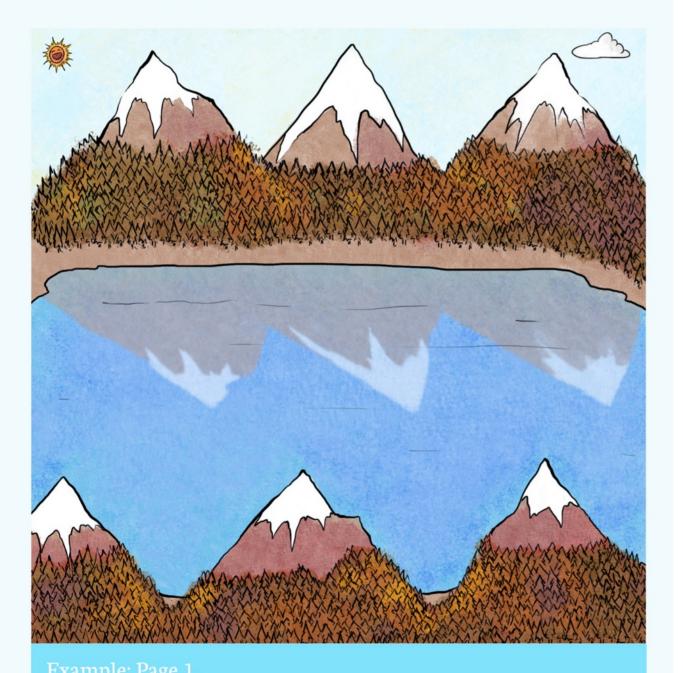
Your turn to listen. At a certain stage, the child will be able to read to you. Have them keep their finger under each word they read and sound out (if needed), and correctly pronounce it after they read it.





Activities

In this section, we'll show some of the possibilities on one page. Each illustration provides a chance to interact with the child.



Easy Questions – usually with a definite answer

- Where is the cloud?
- Where is the sun? Is the sun happy?
- How many mountains are there?
- What color are the trees?

More Difficult Questions – usually open-ended

- How many trees are there? ("A lot of trees" is the best answer.)
- How many fish are there in the lake?
- What's on the top of the mountain? How did it get there? (Ice is frozen water drops!)

Have the Child Ask You a Question:

Example: Ask me a question about the lake.

Some suggestions:

- What is its name?
- How old is it?
- What is the name of its best friend?
- What does the lake do every day?
- Can the lakes climb the mountain?



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