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The Water Princess

This resource was created to accompany the Green-Schools Ireland Global Goals Book Club.

www.greenschoolsireland.org



This resource is designed to inspire your classroom with engaging activities that support critical thinking and meaningful discussions centred around the Global Goal of 'Clean Water and Sanitation'.

Age Group: Junior Infants - 4th class

Included in this resource:

- The Water Princess Guiding Questions
- Waterdrop Activity Sheet

Global Goals Book Club and Global Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Teaching children about Global Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation through books like "The Water Princess" by Susan Verde is important for many reasons. First, it raises awareness about the global water crisis and the challenges many communities face in accessing clean, safe water. By introducing these topics early, children develop empathy and understanding of the inequalities that exist worldwide. Books like "The Water Princess" provide a narrative that is relatable and accessible, showing a young girl's determination to fetch water for her village despite hardships. This aligns perfectly with our chosen books in the Global Goals Book Club, as they not only entertain and educate but also inspire children to think critically about environmental issues and take action in their own lives. Teaching about Global Goal 6 empowers children to become advocates for water conservation and sanitation improvements, fostering a sense of responsibility for our planet's resources from a young age.

We would love to see pictures of your bookworms artwork and creations from the activities in our Global Goals Book Club. Please email any photos to globalcitizenship@eeu.an.taisce.org



[Watch this story here](#)

Before Reading

1. What do you think the book "The Water Princess" will be about based on the cover?
2. Why do you think water might be important for people and animals?

While Reading

1. Why does Gie Gie have to walk a long way to get water every day?
2. How do you think Gie Gie feels about her daily journey to fetch water?
3. What challenges does Gie Gie face when she goes to collect water?
4. Why is the water Gie Gie collects not clean to drink right away?
5. How do you think it would feel to have to carry heavy water containers back home every day?

After Reading:

1. Why is clean water important for people to have?
2. How is Gie Gie's life different from yours when it comes to getting water?
3. What are some things we use water for every day?
4. How would your life change if you didn't have easy access to clean water?
5. Why do you think not everyone in the world has access to clean water?
6. What can we do to help ensure everyone has access to clean water?
7. How can we be more mindful about using water responsibly in our daily lives?

Reflection

1. If you could talk to Gie Gie, what would you want to ask her about her life and her journey for water?
2. What did you learn from Gie Gie's story that you didn't know before?
3. How do you think Gie Gie's community could benefit from having a closer and cleaner water source?
4. Why do you think the author, Susan Verde, wrote this story? What message do you think she wants us to take away?

Action-Oriented Questions:

- What are some ways we can save water at home and at school?
- How can we help raise awareness about the importance of clean water in our community?
- Can you think of a project or activity we could do as a class to help people who don't have access to clean water?
- What other books or stories can you think of that talk about the importance of water or other natural resources?

Before handing out the Water Drop activity sheet, invite your students to think carefully about the following:

- What do you use water for every day?
- How does water help you stay healthy and clean?
- Can you think of fun activities you do that involve water?
- What do you think would happen if you didn't have clean water to drink or use?
- How do plants and animals use water?
- Why is it important to save water and not waste it?
- What are some ways you can help save water at home or at school?
- How would your life be different if you had to walk a long distance to get water every day, like Gie Gie in "The Water Princess"?

Discuss these questions openly among the class.

Explain that you will now hand out the Water Drop Activity Sheet. The idea is for students to write or draw 'What Water Means to Me' in their droplet.

- Encourage students to use colours and images that represent their thoughts and feelings about water.
- Remind students to think about both their personal use of water and how it is important for the environment and community.
- Suggest that students discuss their ideas with a partner before drawing or writing to help spark more thoughts.
- Encourage students to imagine life without easy access to water and how that would affect their daily routines.

Did you know? Water Facts

- About 60% of the human body is made up of water.
- The average person needs about 2-3 litres of water each day to stay healthy.
- Nearly 1 in 3 people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water.
- Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save up to 8 gallons of water a day.
- Fixing a leaky faucet can save over 3,000 gallons of water a year.
- Forests, wetlands, and grasslands play a vital role in filtering and storing clean water.

Inside the water drop, write or draw what water means to you after learning about the different uses and benefits of water.



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What does water mean to you?

