



# Maggie's Activity Pack

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Who Has Clean Water?



Maggie has clean water.

She can go to her kitchen to get water.

Not everyone can do this.

Some children need to walk to get water.

They walk for hours and hours.

This means they cannot go to school.

They cannot learn.

Maggie wants to help them.

Do you want to help, too?

Do you turn off the water when you brush your teeth?      Yes      No

Do you use rain water to water your plants?      Yes      No

How can you help children who need clean water?

Dear Colleague,

This activity is companion to our primary and intermediate article, *Bountiful Buckets? H2O for Life*. We encourage you to share one of the versions of the article with your emerging readers as a read-aloud. This will help your children answer the question, “How can you help children who need clean water?” and will hopefully prompt lively discussion in your classroom. I encourage you to ask your class to think about the many ways water is taken for granted in your local communities. While walking to and from recess, give the class a mission: How many ways do they see water being used? You may want to even talk about how water might be wasted. I remember when my daughter was in elementary school, a near-by construction project was wasting natural resources and polluting. The class took action! That is one of my daughter’s favorite memories. She felt empowered. Your data from children’s observations can be translated to a class chart. Wow – this is math in action. As we all know, when we connect math (or any school subject) to real life, it is more meaningful. And this equals more learning!

One of my favorite water-related books is *The Umbrella* by Jan Brett. A bonus for me is the setting this book is based on, the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica, a lovely area. As always, Jan Brett’s illustrations are guaranteed to delight your young readers and help them visualize a unique ecosystem that is so dependent on water. While Brett’s illustrations are usually framed by distinctive borders that correlate beautifully with the text, I find this book to be filled with eye-catching shapes painted with a perspective that will encourage critical thought in your young readers. Encourage listeners to consider why we look down into the umbrella, etc. What a way to encourage comprehension in a different way!

Have children follow-up by thinking about water in their lives. Draw (or paint) a picture as if someone from far away is looking at it. How might this person view our use of water? Might the person be someone who does not have easy access to water? Discuss this problem with your children. I find children, even young children, have ethical perspectives about these issues that surprise and even teach adults.

Happy teaching ... and happy learning from your students,  
Kathy

**Goals:**

Children will read a level-appropriate article that highlights the idea that not all children have easy access to clean water. Follow-up questions ask children to consider their own use of water and how they might be better stewards of this necessary resource. The Dear Colleague letter provides teachers with ideas as to infusing water ideas into the required curriculum. Companion intermediate and primary activities are available. This activity, especially the critical thought question, correlates with the IRA/NCTE Standard, “Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.”