

World Water Day: A Week of Water


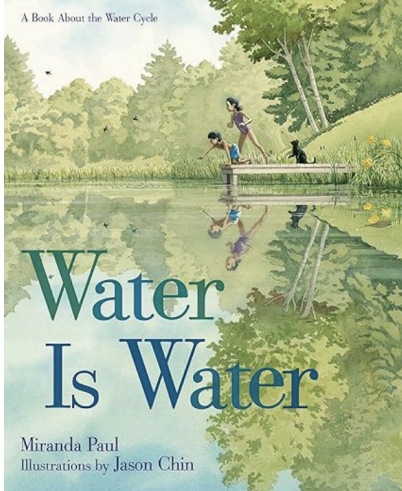
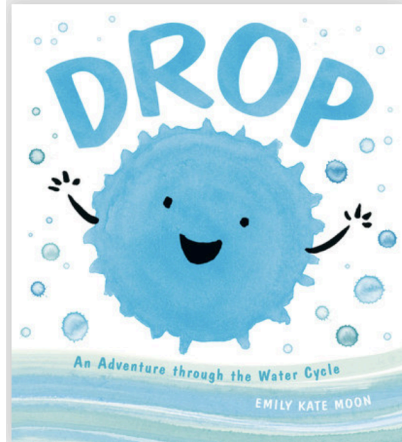

Lessons for PreK

Overview:

The purpose of this mini-unit is to explore how water-related picturebooks influence young learners' thinking about their relationship with water and their role as stewards of the earth.

Project Overview:

Over the course of the week, young learners are read aloud 3 -4 picturebooks centered on water and then engage in some kind of follow-up engagement. Below are some examples.

			
<p>Read Aloud Plan Extension 1: Water Art & Stories Extension 2: Become the Wave</p>	<p>Read Aloud Plan Extension 1: Cloud Catchers Extension 2: Puddle Painting</p>	<p>Read Aloud Plan Extension 1: Water Journeys Extension 2: Water Explorers</p>	<p>Read Aloud Plan Extension 1: Water Gratitude Extension 2: Water Class Book</p>



A wordless picturebook by Suzy Lee. This book highlights the children's joy in play with and being in the waves. Invites readers to consider their own joyful experiences with water.

Literacy: Wordless picturebooks offer young learners opportunities to explore critical thinking, predictions, and storytelling. Encourage habits of reading of observation, predictions, and engaging *with* the text.

Science: The science in this book invites conversations about waves, water, and human/water interactions.

Before Reading

Before reading come around a water source if possible. Provide open-ended questions about water. (ex: Have you been to a beach or a lake? What did you do? What happens when there are waves? How do waves move?)

Invite children to act it out or play a wave sound game. By making different movements for different waves (ex. Rub hands for soft waves, clap for crashing waves, whisper shhh for pulling back waves)

Preview the story. We are going to read a book about a girl exploring waves. As we read see what you notice and how she is feeling. This book is special because it is all pictures, and no words. Let's tell our own story as we read!

During Reading

Slow Down & Observe

- Cover: *What do you see? What might happen in this story?*
- First pages: *What is the girl doing? Why?*

Encourage Storytelling & Predictions

- Ask: *What do you think she's feeling? What do you see in her face?*
- Ask children narrate what they see in their own words.
- Use gestures & facial expressions to model emotions.

Make It Interactive

- Act out the girl running and the waves crashing.
- Pause at the big wave moment: *What do you think will happen?*
- Encourage sound effects (whooshing, splashing).

After Reading

What did you notice?

Why do you think waves matter for the ocean?




A wordless picturebook by Suzy Lee. This book highlights the child's joy in play with and being in the waves. Invites readers to consider their own joyful experiences with water.

Literacy: Wordless picturebooks offer young learners opportunities to explore critical thinking, predictions, and storytelling. Encourage habits of reading of observation, predictions, and engaging *with* the text.

Science: The science in this book invites conversations about waves, water, and human/water interactions.

Extension Option 1: Sensory Wave Paintings

 **Objective:** Children will create a collaborative ocean scene using sensory materials to explore water movement.


 **Materials:**

- Large butcher paper or fabric
- Washable blue & white paint
- Textured tools: Sponges, hands, sea sponges, bubble wrap
- Natural materials: Shells, sand (optional)

 **How to Do It:**

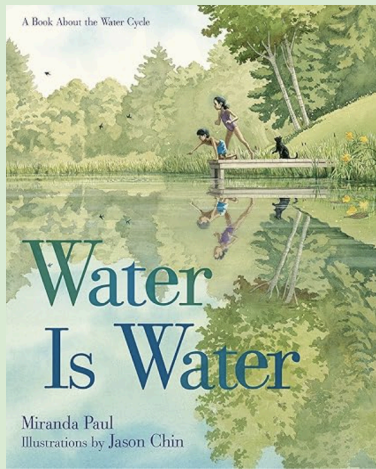
1. Big Wave Painting:
 - Lay down large paper on the floor; Let kids use hands & sponges to spread paint in wave-like motions; Encourage swooshing, swirling, and splattering for dynamic water effects.
2. Add Textures & Natural Elements:
 - Press bubble wrap to make foam patterns; Drag shells through the paint to mimic water movement; Sprinkle sand on wet paint for a tactile beach feel.
3. Have students tell you their water stories as they compose. Transcribe their stories on the wave paintings. *Optionally, save these for a class book.*

Extension Option 2: Become the Wave

 **Objective:** Children will use movement to act out waves and explore water's role.

 **How to Play:**

1. Set the Scene: "You are little waves in the ocean! Let's start as small ripples."
2. Teacher Calls Out Different Wave Actions:
 - *Gentle rolling waves* → Sway back and forth.
 - *Big crashing wave!* → Jump up, then squat down.
 - *A wave pulling back* → Walk backward, hands waving.
3. Partner Play: One child is the wave, one is the girl on the beach reacting.



This spare, poetic picture book follows a group of kids as they move through all the different phases of the water cycle. From rain to fog to snow to mist.

Literacy: This text invites learners to make connections. You can invite in dialogue around the importance as readers of making personal connections.

Science: Exploring the transformative power of water, and different forms of water.

Before Reading

Provide children with opportunities for water play (optional). Have children explore and observe water – either in nature or in a container/cup. Invite observations and connections about where they see water and the different forms it is in.

During Reading

Engage with Movements:

When the book mentions rain, pretend to sprinkle fingers like raindrops.

- When it talks about fog, wave hands like swirling mist.
- When it says snow, pretend to catch snowflakes.

Pause & Connect:

- *Have you ever jumped in a puddle? What did it feel like?*
- *What do you wear when it's rainy?*

Invite Predictions:

- Before turning pages, ask: *What do you think will happen next?*

After Reading

Quick Turn & Talk: Pair students to share:

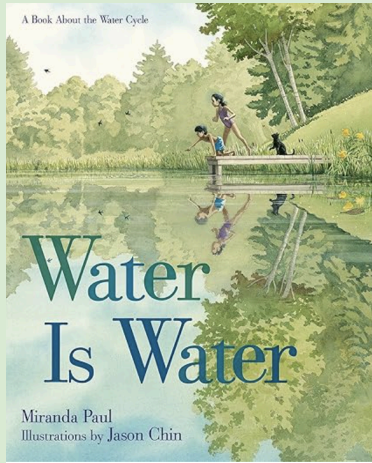
- *What was your favorite part?*
- *Where do we see water at home?*

Simple Water Cycle Play:

- Hold up a sponge and let them see how it soaks up water (like clouds holding rain).
- Squeeze it to show rain falling. Ideally offer each child materials for extended water play. As they play - invite them to think about additional water stories.

Stewardship Connection:

- *Why is water important? How can we take care of it? (e.g., turn off the sink, pick up litter near water.)*



This spare, poetic picture book follows a group of kids as they move through all the different phases of the water cycle. From rain to fog to snow to mist.

Literacy: This text invites learners to make connections. You can invite in dialogue around the importance as readers of making personal connections.

Science: Exploring the transformative power of water, and different forms of water.

Extension Option 1: Cloud Catchers & Water Movers

Concept: Exploring how water moves and changes form

Materials:

- Small cotton balls (representing clouds); A shallow container of water; Sponges; Small empty cups

Activity:

1. Cloud Absorption: Give each child a dry cotton ball and have them dip it in water. Ask, *What happens? What does this remind you of?* (Clouds holding water).
2. Rain Release: Let them gently squeeze the cotton ball to make it "rain."
3. Water Movers: Introduce sponges and have them transfer water from one container to another, mimicking how water moves in nature (rain to rivers to lakes).

Wrap-Up: Discuss, *What did we learn about how water moves? Where do we see this happen outside?*

Extension Option 2: Puddle Painting

Concept: Using water as a creative medium

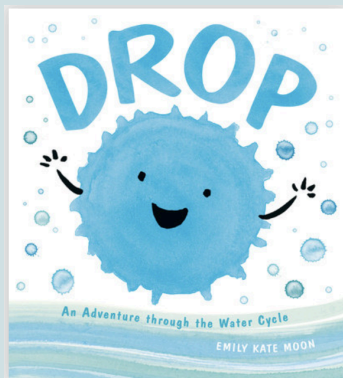
Materials:

- Cups of water; Paintbrushes (or just hands and sticks!); Sidewalk, rocks, tree trunks, or other natural surfaces

Activity:

1. Let children "paint" with water on the ground or rocks, noticing how it darkens surfaces.
2. Observe together as the water disappears. Ask, *Where do you think the water went?* (Hinting at evaporation.)
3. Encourage them to make water trails and watch them dry, noticing which spots hold water longer (shade vs. sun).

Wrap-Up: Guide a short discussion: *What happens to puddles after it rains? Where do they go?*



Meet Drop. She's water. Drop takes readers on an adventure through the water cycle and beyond. Filled with irresistible artwork, funny asides, and a steady sprinkle of kid-enticing facts.

Literacy: This lesson offers an opportunity to make predictions and also follow the sequence of events.

Science: The science can extend from the previous book to explore the water cycle and forms of water.

Before Reading

Sensory Prompt: Hold up a small dropper filled with water and squeeze out a single drop onto a child's hand. Ask:

What does this feel like? Where do you think this drop of water has been before?

Prediction Prompt: What do you think a drop of water does all day? (Encourage ideas like rain, puddles, lakes, and clouds.)

During Reading

Follow Drop's Journey:

- *Encourage children to mimic Drop's movements:*
- *Wiggle fingers like raindrops falling.*
- *Make big floating movements like a cloud.*
- *Curl up small like an icy snowflake.*

Pause & Connect:

Have you ever seen rain? What about snow? Where do we find water outside today?

Invite Predictions:

Where will Drop go next? before turning pages.

After Reading

Discussion

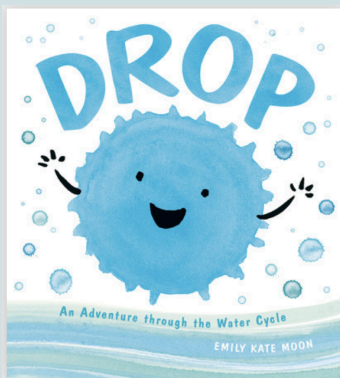
Where have you seen water outside?

What was your favorite part of Drop's journey?

Water Cycle in Action:

Warm Breath Experiment: Have children blow on a small mirror or metal spoon to see how their warm breath turns into tiny droplets—like water turning into clouds!

Jump Like Rain: Call out different forms of water (drip, puddle, ice, steam) and have them move like it—jump for rain, stand still for ice, swirl for steam.



Meet Drop. She's water. Drop takes readers on an adventure through the water cycle and beyond. Filled with irresistible artwork, funny asides, and a steady sprinkle of kid-enticing facts.

Literacy: This lesson offers an opportunity to make predictions and also follow the sequence of events.

Science: The science can extend from the previous book to explore the water cycle and forms of water.

Extension Option 1: Water Journeys

💧 **Concept:** Exploring how water interacts with natural surfaces and connects to puddles, rivers, and streams.

💧 **Materials:** Spray bottles with water; Leaves, rocks, sticks, soil, sand; Ramps (wood, slides, or natural slopes)

💧 **Activity:**

Predict: Ask, What will happen when we spray water on these? Will it soak in, roll off, or stay on top?

Test: Let children spray different materials and observe. Have them try spraying gently vs. hard—does it change?

Compare: Use a ramp to see which surfaces make water puddle or flow like a river.

💧 **Wrap-Up:**

Where do we see puddles and streams outside? How can we help keep water clean as it moves through nature?

Extension Option 2: Water Explorers

💧 **Concept:** Children take the lead in imagining and acting out water's journey.

💧 **Materials:** Open outdoor space; Simple props (scarves, cups, spray bottles, or natural materials like leaves and sticks—optional)

💧 **Activity:**

Ask: If you were a drop of water, where would you go? What would you do?

Let children decide if they want to be raindrops, puddles, streams, clouds, or waves.

Encourage them to move and make sounds that match their water role.

If a child says, I'm a raindrop! ask, Where are you falling? What happens next?

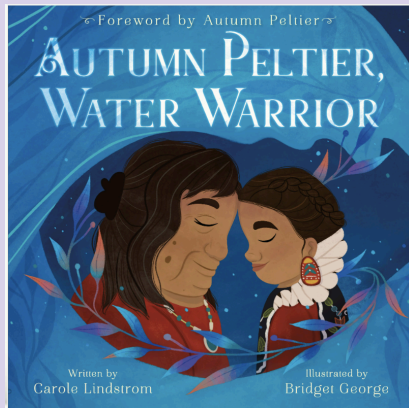
If they become a puddle, ask, Will the sun dry you up, or will you flow into a river?

💧 **Water Storytelling:** Encourage children build their own water adventure by interacting with the space—running like streams, collecting leaves in puddles, or "floating" as clouds.

Join in by narrating their ideas (Look, the puddle is growing! Uh-oh, the wind is making waves!).

💧 **Wrap-Up:**

Where did your water go? What happens next in your story? Reinforce that water moves, changes, and connects everything—just like they imagined!



The story of a real-life water protectors, Autumn Peltier, and her great-aunt Josephine Mandamin, two Indigenous Rights Activists inspiring a tidal wave of change.

Literacy: This book invites critical thinking and application to their lives.

Science: This is about the interconnection and relation between people and water and the responsibility we have to be stewards of earth.

Before Reading

Water Reflection: What do we use water for every day? (Drinking, washing, playing, cooking.)

What happens if our water is dirty?

Prediction Prompt:

What do you think a "water warrior" does? How can kids take care of water? (Encourage simple ideas like turning off taps, picking up trash near water, or using a rain barrel.)

During Reading

Engage with Movements & Sounds:

When water is mentioned, have children gently pat their legs like raindrops.

When Autumn speaks, cup hands around mouths and say Water is important!

When the book describes lakes or rivers, wave arms like flowing water.

Pause & Connect:

Have you ever seen a river, lake, or ocean? What did it look like?

How do you think Autumn feels about protecting water?

Invite Predictions:

What do you think Autumn will do next? How would you help?

After Reading

Water Promise Circle:

Have children stand in a circle and take turns saying: I promise to take care of water by... (Give examples like not wasting water, keeping water clean, or helping animals who need water.)

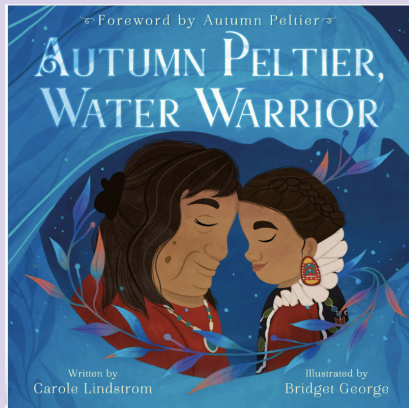
Mini Water Walk:

Take a short walk outside and look for places where water might be—puddles, damp leaves, or even the sky.

Ask: Where do you think this water comes from? How can we take care of it?

Wrap-Up:

Water is important for everyone, and we can all be water protectors, just like Autumn!



The story of a real-life water protectors, Autumn Peltier, and her great-aunt Josephine Mandamin, two Indigenous Rights Activists inspiring a tidal wave of change.

Literacy: This book invites critical thinking and application to their lives.

Science: This is about the interconnection and relation between people and water and the responsibility we have to be stewards of earth.

Extension Option 1: Water Art Gratitude

Concept: Expressing care for water through visual storytelling.

Materials: Blue paper or recycled cardboard; Crayons, markers, or natural materials (leaves, mud, sticks); Water droppers or brushes with water

Activity:

Create Water Scenes:

Ask children to draw or build a place where water lives (a river, a lake, rain, or the ocean).

Use water to "paint" over parts of the drawing and watch how it changes.

Water Promise Writing (or Dictation):

Have children share: How will you take care of water?

Write down their words or let them "sign" their names with water.

Wrap-Up:

Display their artwork and remind them: Every water drop matters!

Extension Option 2: Thank You Water – A Class Book

Take a water walk and then come back to make a shared book.

Write Thank You, Water as the title.

Let children decorate with waves, raindrops, rivers, or anything they saw during the walk.

Each child gets a page with the sentence starter:

Thank you, water, for... (Encourage responses based on what they heard, saw, or felt.)

As they draw, ask them to describe their illustration, and write their words on their page.

Final Page – Our Class Water Gratitude Pledge:

As a group, write a short statement like:

We listen to water. We care for water. We say thank you, water!

Have each child sign their name or make a water thumbprint.