



Water Spirit Wisdom

Grades 4-6

By

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Fantasy used to tell a message about the importance of the conservation of the earth's natural resources, using water spirits to help get the message across.

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Cast of Characters

- : Workers Group 1
- : Workers Group 2
- : Water Spirits
- : Spirits of Nature
- : Coral
- : Truck Driver

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(Scene opens with construction workers signaling a truck to back up into the ocean center stage. Water spirits are frozen watching Stage R, Coral is frozen and watching stage L)

WORKERS GROUP 1

Okay, back it up, back it up! Whoa! Stop!

WORKERS GROUP 2

(truck driver gets out of truck and joins in all of the dialogue with Workers Group 2)
That ocean sure is something.

WORKERS GROUP 1

Okay, okay. Let's just dump this stuff so we can get off early.

WORKERS GROUP 2

Are you sure it's okay to dump here? I thought we were supposed to go to the landfill.

WORKERS GROUP 1

Aw come on, the landfill is 20 miles away. I hear the other work crews always dump their trash here.

WORKERS GROUP 2

Okay.

(workers prepare the dump truck to unload)
(Nature spirit walks quickly in standing in front of the works with arms crossed and startles them)

WORKERS GROUP 1 AND WORKERS GROUP 2

Who are you?

NATURE SPIRIT

We are the spirit of nature and you had better not even think about dumping your trash in the ocean.

WORKERS GROUP 1 AND WORKERS GROUP 2

Why not?

NATURE SPIRIT

Okay, water spirits tell them!

WATER SPIRITS

(moving from kneeling to standing as they chant their lines)

*I rise from the sky from the sea below
Then down to the ground as rain or snow
I keep it moving, moving, 'cause I'm the water cycle
Moving, moving, 'cause I'm the water cycle
Moving, moving, 'cause I'm the water cycle.*

WORKERS GROUP 1 & 2
What are you all singing about? We simply asked why we shouldn't dump anything into the ocean!

(water spirits shake their heads)

NATURE SPIRIT
Tell them water spirits!

WATER SPIRITS
Reason 1: you will make the fish very sick.

Reason 2: you will kill the coral.

NATURE SPIRIT
Which is a living thing by the way, in case you didn't know.

WORKERS GROUP 1
I didn't know coral was alive. I saw it once while I was snorkeling.

(all other workers shake heads in agreement and say to each other "me too!")

NATURE SPIRIT
You didn't step on it did you?

WORKERS GROUP 1
Well, I don't know. I don't remember. Why?

NATURE SPIRIT
Because miles and miles of coral are damaged and killed each year because people touch and walk all over the coral.

CORAL 1
Hey nature, thanks so much! Everyone always forgets we are alive.

CORAL 2
Yeah, I am always getting stepped on. Geesh, why can't people be more careful. After all coral reefs are the largest living structure in earth.

CORAL 1

And home to 25% of the fish population in our oceans.

CORAL 2

So why aren't people more respectful of coral? I'm a nervous wreck everytime someone comes in the water near our reef..always kicking me..stepping on me..kicking me..stepping on me

(Coral 2 is holding her head and speaking in a very upset manner, Nature interrupts)

NATURE SPIRIT

Okay, Okay. They get it. That's why I am trying to th..

(Water spirits cut off Nature Spirit and begin to chant again)

WATER SPIRITS (start singing again)

We rise from the sky..

(Nature interrupts)

NATURE SPIRIT

Water spirits take a break, enough already! Everyone is a nervous wreck around here. I get it and I am trying to explain the whole water deal to these workers.

WORKERS GROUP 1

What water deal? Look out there. There is plenty of water!

WATER SPIRITS

How much water?

NATURE SPIRIT

Water spirits please don't start singing again!

WORKERS GROUP 1 & 2

Well I don't know how much water, but there should be plenty enough to go around for everyone.

(Coral shakes head, looking sad)

(Water Spirits start chanting again, and Nature cuts them off)

WATER SPIRITS

We rise from the sea..

NATURE SPIRIT

Water spirits just give me a minute here. (talking to workers)For your information there are many people

NATURE SPIRIT (cont'd)

around the world today who do not have fresh drinking water. The ocean covers about 70% of the earth, and salt water accounts for more than 97 % of water on earth. Water spirits do the math. What percentage of all water on earth is fresh water?

(Water Spirits put heads together and start counting on their fingers, Nature spirit gets impatient and hands them a calculator from her pocket)

NATURE SPIRIT (nature spirit hands water spirits a calculator)

Use this. It will be quicker.

WATER SPIRITS

3 % ! *(punch numbers in calculator and say)*

NATURE SPIRIT

And of that already small percentage of fresh drinking water, only 1 % is easily accessible.

WORKERS GROUP 1 & 2

We still don't understand how ocean pollution affects drinking water, not that we think it's okay to pollute the ocean of course. (looking at coral, water spirits and nature as they say this)

NATURE SPIRIT

Even if you live hundreds of miles from the nearest seashore ocean pollution affects you. That's because each day earth's atmosphere recycles billions of gallons of salty seawater and turns it into fresh water.

(Workers look as if the information is starting to make sense and continue to shake their heads in agreement and look at each other as nature explains the rest)

Molecules of ocean water evaporate and rise into the atmosphere. There they condense and precipitate--fall to earth as rain or snow. This fresh water collects in rivers, streams, and lakes and trickles down to underground sources. These are the main sources of our drinking water. Water spirits - sing it! I think they understand it now.

(Water spirits sing opening chant with great enthusiasm adding more movement to it)

I rise from the sky from the sea below

Then down to the ground as rain or snow

I keep it moving, moving, 'cause I'm the water cycle

Moving, moving, 'cause I'm the water cycle

Moving, moving, 'cause I'm the water cycle.

WORKERS GROUP 1 AND WORKERS GROUP 2

Okay, Okay. We get it, but what can we do to help?

WATER SPIRITS

You can get back in your truck..

CORAL 1

and keep driving..

NATURE SPIRIT

and follow all the laws about dumping which mean..

NATURE SPIRIT, CORAL, AND WATER SPIRITS

Don't dump waste in the ocean!

WORKERS GROUP 1 AND WORKERS GROUP 2

Okay, Okay, we're going.

(get back in truck and leave)

CORAL 2

Oh I hope they listened..I;m so nervous..everyone always kicking and stepping on me..kicking and stepping on me..

WATER SPIRITS

(start chanting and are interrupted by Nature)

WATER SPIRITS

We rise from the..

NATURE SPIRIT

Look everyone calm down! We made our point. Let's have a meeting and brainstorm about how else we can get the message out. If we work together we can do this!

(all say "yes!" and mill around each other with excitement about ideas..scene fades)