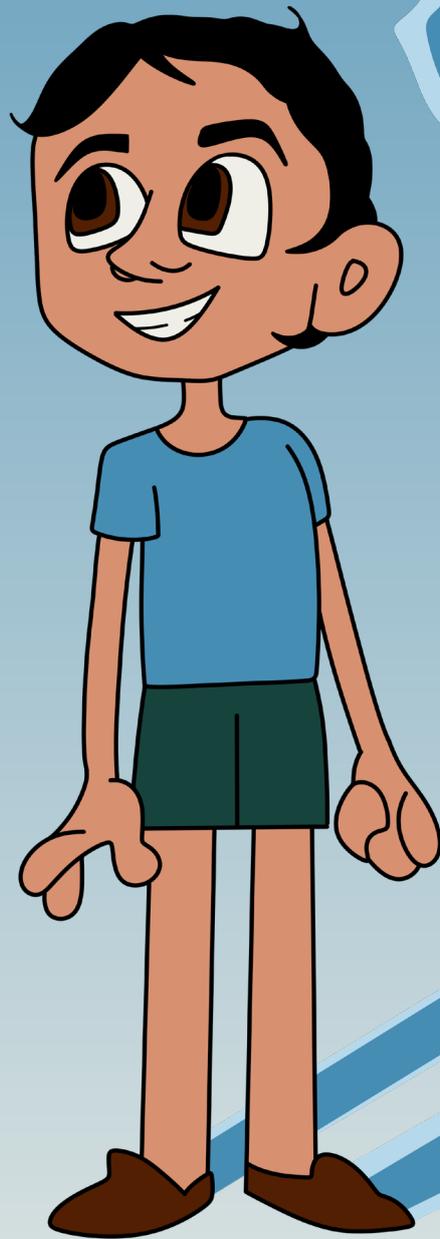


DEV



THE WATER WARRIOR

Credits

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Chapter 1

There was once a boy named Dev who lived in a small rural village in India. The village had a population of about 100 people, and their main source of water was a well located in the center of the town.

While some of the houses had smaller wells used for cooking and bathing, most of the town traveled to the large well for their water.

Because of this, many people used the same buckets to take out water from the well, and lots of trash fell into the well.

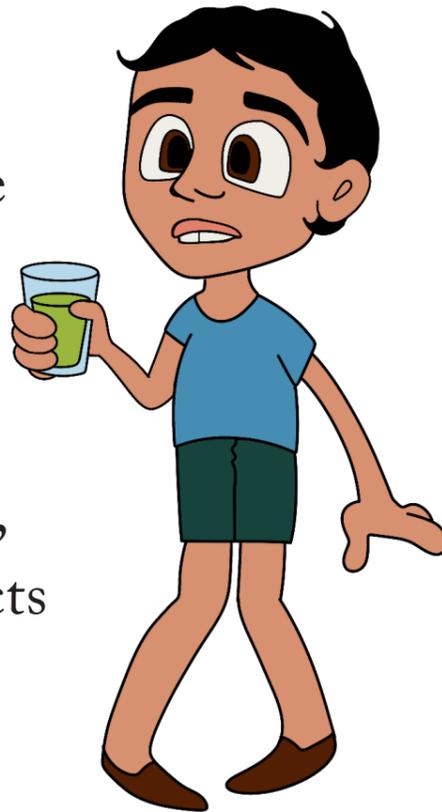
One day, Dev's mother went to get some water for their house. Once she got home, she poured out a glass of water and gave it to Dev to drink.

The next day, Dev woke up and went into the living room to greet his mother and eat some breakfast. When he got there, his stomach suddenly began to pain him.

His mother asked him if everything was okay, and he told her how he felt. Concerned, she went to the local doctor and asked him to come to their house.

The doctor found that the water Dev drank from the well was contaminated. Drinking it made him sick. Luckily, the doctor had medicine, and Dev was fine.

This was the first time that Dev, the water warrior, opened his eyes to the effects of water contamination in his village.



Chapter 2

It was three in the afternoon and the sun was shining bright overhead. The sweet chirping of birds, a cool breeze with a tint of citrus, and the spongy wet grass proved to be a beautiful backdrop. The trees danced across the vast farmlands.

Dev was walking home after a very fun day at school, especially after scoring the highest on his math exam. As he walked along a narrow path by the river, he swung his lunch bag with joy as he sang along to one of his favorite Shah Rukh Khan songs.

As Dev was looking off into space, his eyes' attention was captured by a plastic bottle floating in the river. This bottle was floating away to a large pile of plastic waste and smelled terrible.

Dev tried his best to clean up the plastic waste from the river bank and then invited his friends to help him out.

Although he and his friends worked very hard to clean the river as fast as they could, Dev was not satisfied. He knew that this problem exists in many communities which lack proper education regarding plastic waste disposal.



That day, after he got home, Dev powered his laptop on. With a few searches, Dev researched water contamination and waste disposal. Being a water warrior, he found that waste could be categorized in four categories:

(1) **Inorganic contaminants**, which include metals such as fluoride, arsenic, lead, copper, chromium, mercury, antimony, cyanide.

(2) **Organic contaminants**, which include pesticides, untreated domestic and industrial wastes.

(3) **Biological contaminants**, which include living organisms, such as algae, bacteria, protozoa or viruses.

(4) **Radiological contaminants**, which include radioactive materials that are found naturally in the soil or rocks.

After reading about the contaminants, Dev learned that:

- In India, 200,000 people die every year due to lack of clean water.
- 76 million people in India are without access to safe drinking water.
- India has only 4% of the global water resources.
- India will have only half the water it needs by 2030.

Chapter 3

The next morning, Dev and his best friend, Raju, walked to school together. Dev was very excited to tell Raju all about what he had learned last night about water contamination in India.

After talking about it with a friend, Dev realized that there is more to the water crisis than just contamination. He wondered how much water is being wasted in his own community.

He now understood how important having clean water is. He wanted to learn more about how to stop water wastage. He was excited to get home later that day to do some more research.

When Dev finally got home, he was shocked at what he discovered.

He learned that **India is among the top countries with the highest water waste around the world**, wasting a total of 30 trillion gallons of water per year!

This was mind-blowing to Dev. There was only one question on his mind: is there a solution to this?

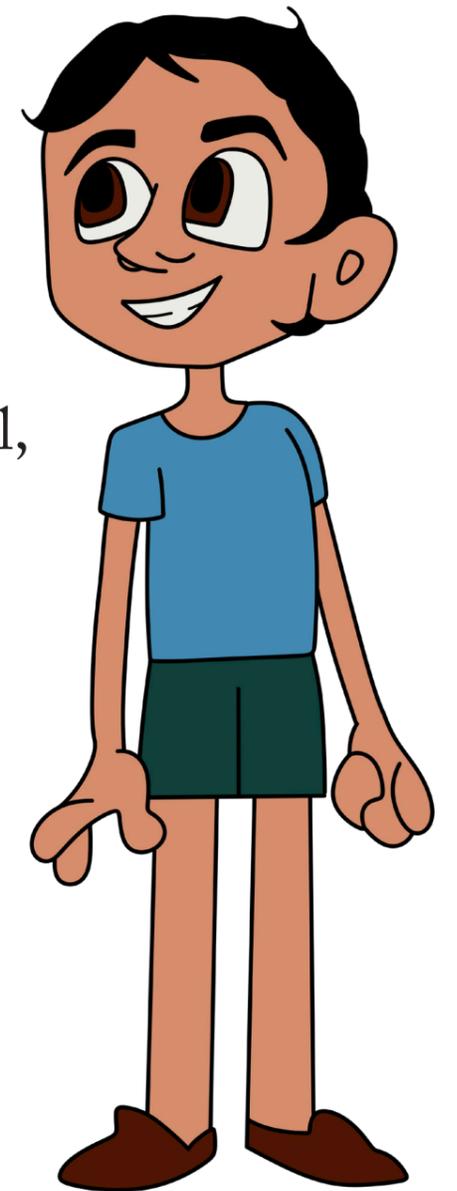
He quickly did some more research and discovered the concept of a watershed. A **watershed** is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet. These water bodies give us our decontaminated drinking water, water for agriculture and manufacturing, and more.

Without watersheds, so much usable water is lost and wasted. Watersheds can vary from a few hectares to even thousands of square kilometers! Dev then asked himself, why are watersheds so important?

Dev found that creating watersheds can help solve the problem of drinking water, improve the amount of water for irrigation, increase crop production, and reduce water wastage, all at once!

Watersheds can help supply water to every field in a community, remove hunger and poverty from areas, bring in more rainfall, and improve the environment.

Wow, Dev thought. He would've never known that there was such a good solution to the water wastage problem. He was on his way to being a true water warrior.



Chapter 4

“Why do you care so much about saving water?” Raju asked Dev. “There is so much water in this world!”

Dev was shocked by this comment. How could Raju think like this? There is very little freshwater in our world. Dev knew that with kindness and patience, Raju would be careful about not wasting water. He told Raju the truth about India’s water and of how children could help. He even wrote a song to help Raju remember!

Pick up trash and throw it in garbage disposal!

Use less plastic, that’s my proposal!

Reuse or recycle, that’s your plan!

Eat organic food like a true woman or man!

Stop disposing foreign materials into the river!

Join or create water organizations, be a giver!

Volunteer to help clean and maintain the local community!

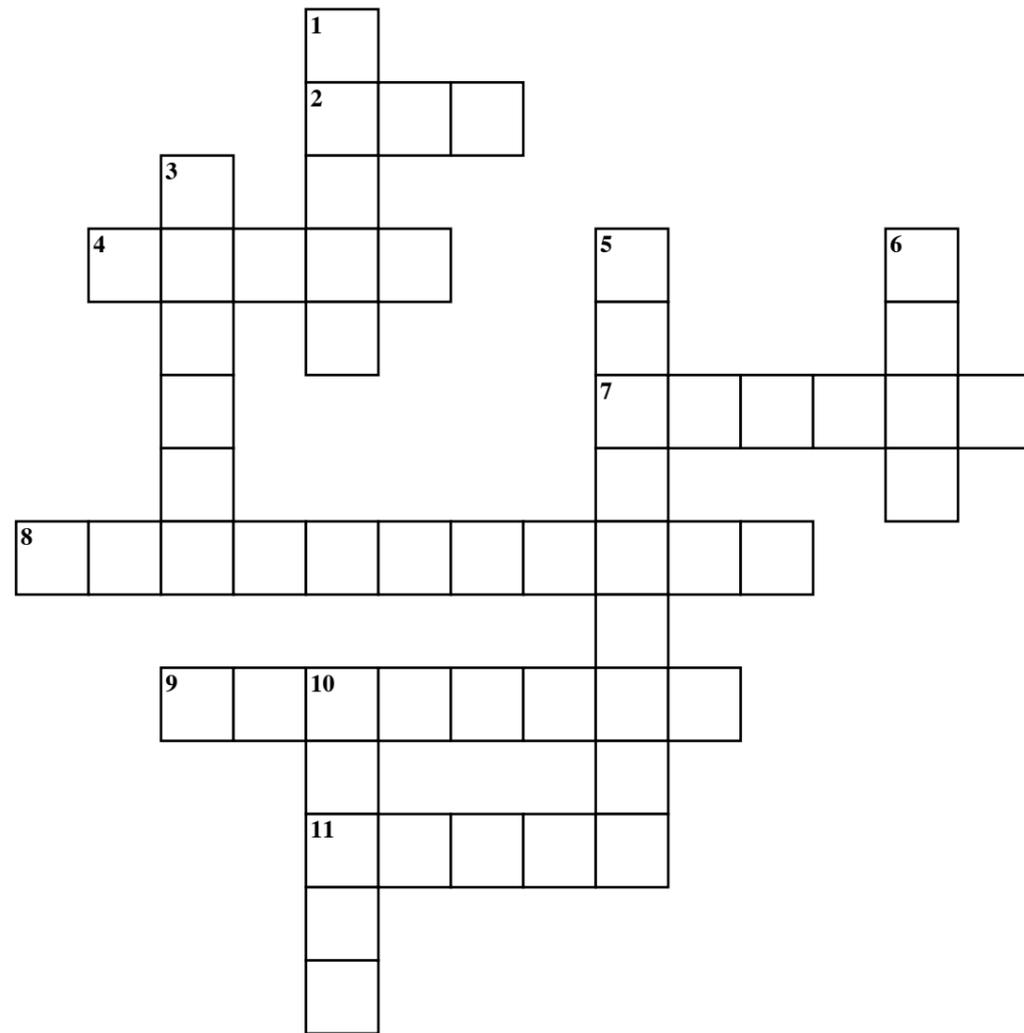
Do it now, what an opportunity!

Raju felt awful. He didn’t know India’s situation was so bad, but Dev promised him that they would save India together.

Power lies in the youth’s voice and action. Dev stressed that it is our duty to be careful with our water and encourage our family and friends to save it, too.

Let’s not take long showers. Let’s make sure to turn off our faucet. Let’s not use plastic bottles. Let’s work together to end the water crisis. You are a water warrior. Use your voice and power to show that.

Crossword



Across

2. I fear for sun, oh yeah, I am a solid form of water.
4. Made of hydrogen and oxygen.
7. A state where water flows freely.
8. Cultivation of plants and livestock.
9. Organism not visible to the eye.
11. I hit the land and can be a terror to man. I am the resource of life.

Down

1. I can run but never walk, I have a mouth but never talk, I have a bed but never sleep.
3. Gaseous form of water.
5. Contaminated environment.
6. Don't forget your umbrella!
10. Source of rain.

Word Hunt

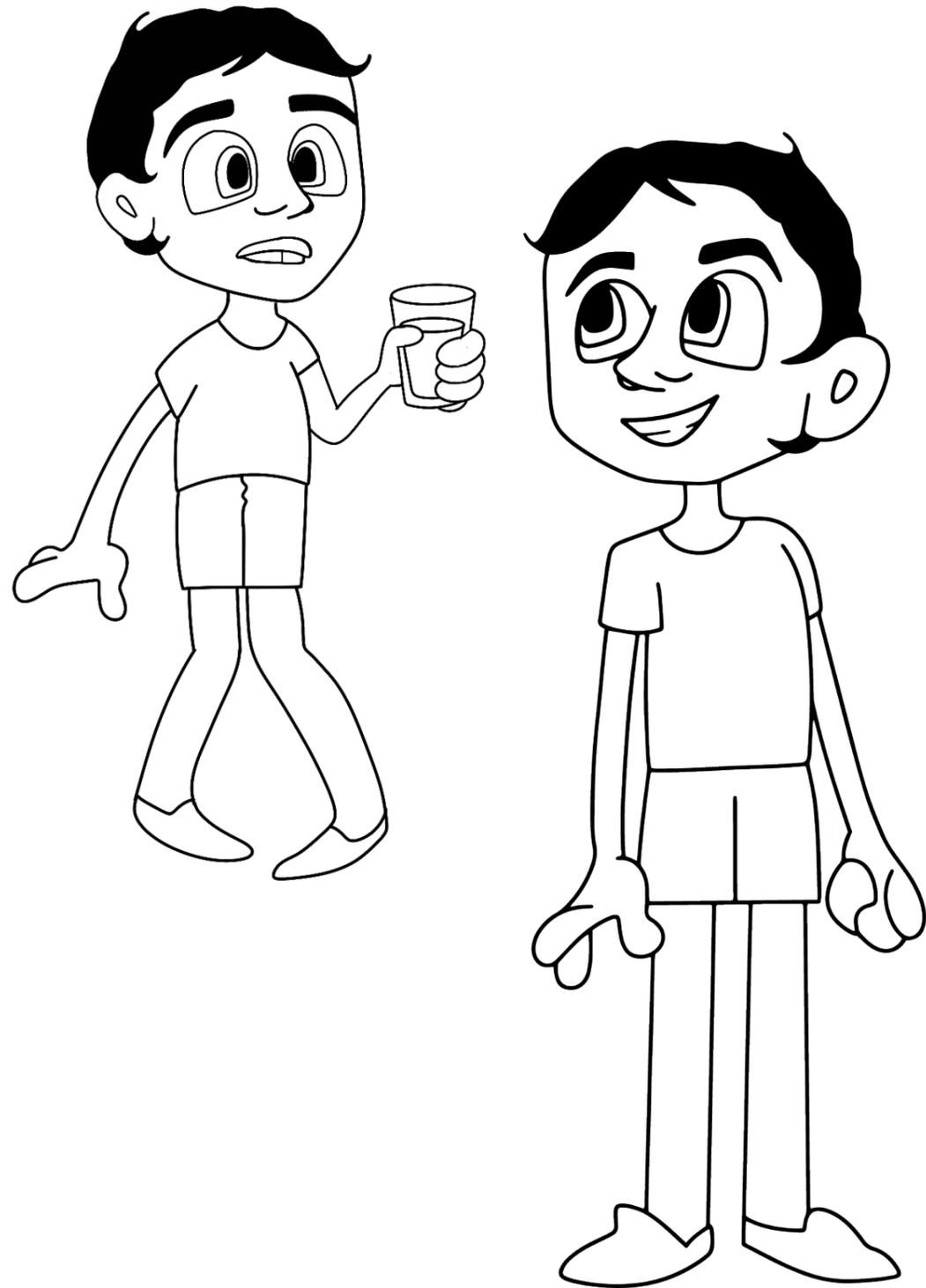
A	G	C	O	X	M	T	C	O	I	N	X	O	W	P
L	Y	R	L	R	V	O	Q	G	O	D	W	X	Y	M
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A	I	E	D	U	J	A	T	R	E	U	S	E	O	B
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D	U	U	O	S	A	N	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	R
P	A	N	O	I	T	A	S	N	E	D	N	O	C	F

ALGAE
CLEAN
CONDENSATION
CONTAMINATION
EVAPORATION
FILTRATION

FRESHWATER
GROUNDWATER
HUMIDITY
LAKE
ORGANIC
POND

PRECIPITATION
REUSE
SANITATION
SEWAGE
STREAM

Color Me!



Review

What did you learn from this book?

How are you going to be a Water Warrior?

CERTIFICATE

Of Completion

This Certificate Belongs to

For Completing the Book Dev: The Water Warrior. Just like
Dev, you are on your way to become a water warrior!

USC PROJECT RISHI
Los Angeles, California

