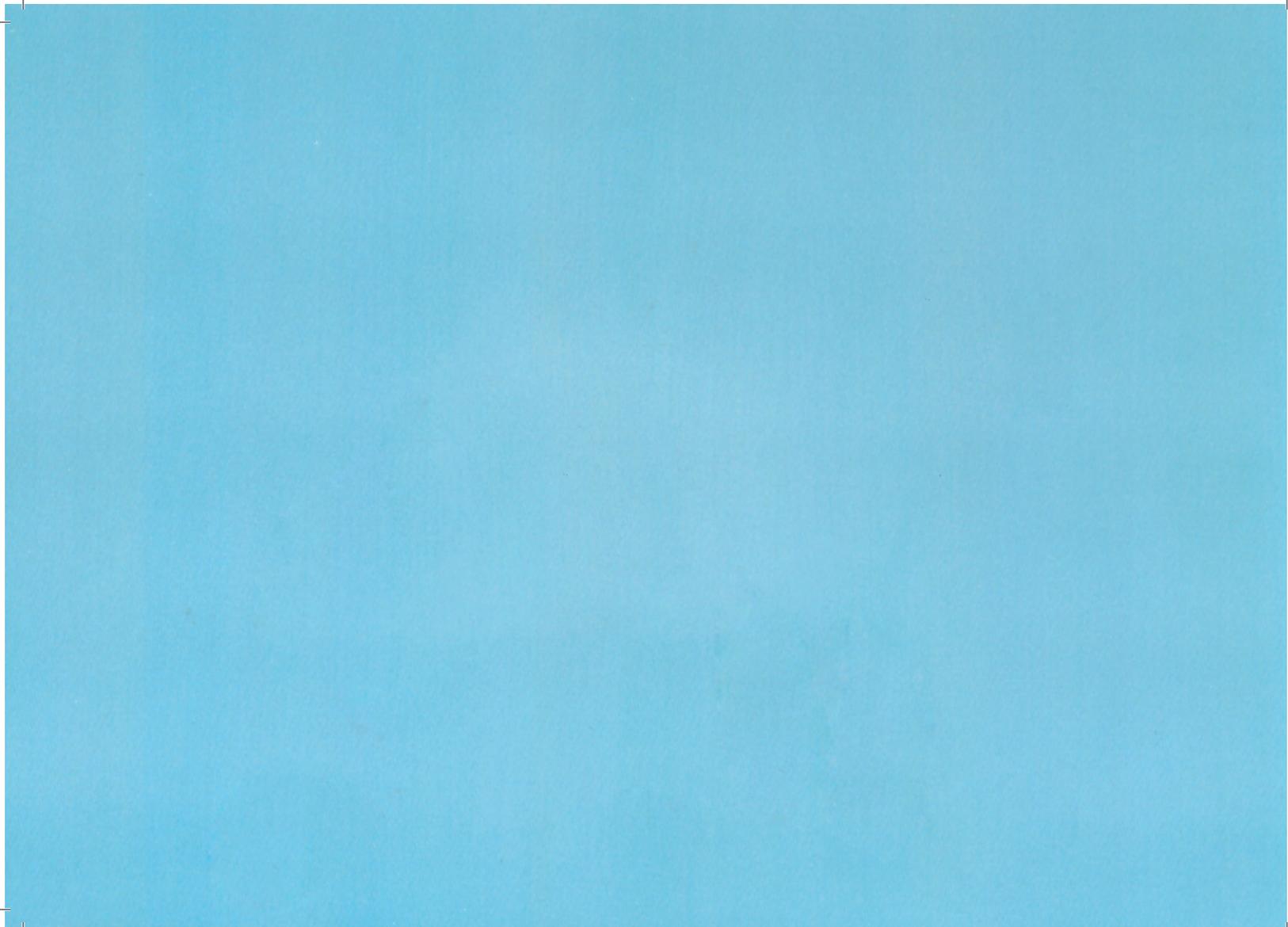




The Story of a

Raindrop



Hi!

I'm Florence the raindrop.

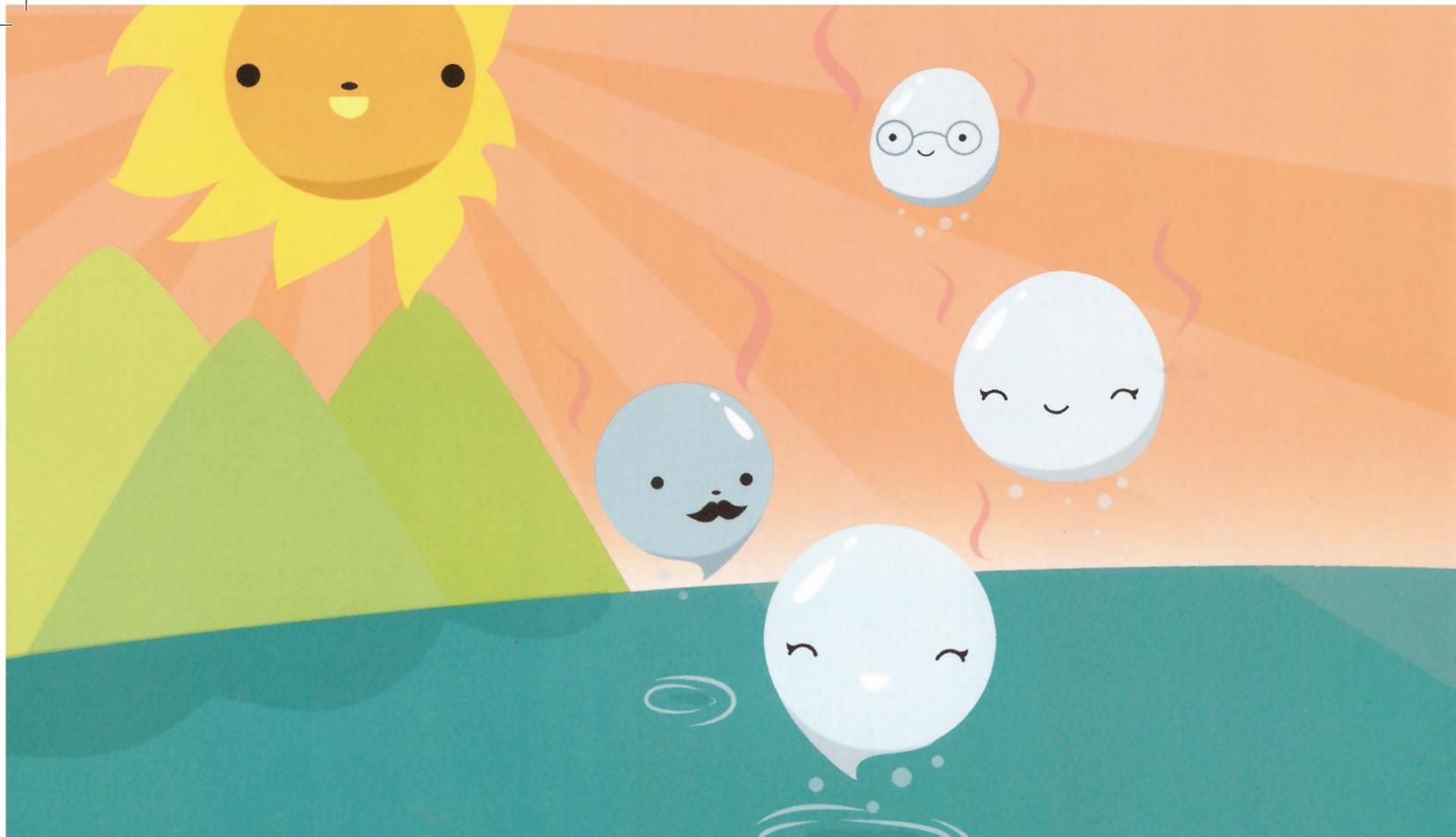


This is the story of my journey
from the land to the sky
and back again.



It starts with me living in a river, lake or the sea
as just another drop of water.





When my friend Sparky the sun shines his powerful rays down from the sky, I heat up and turn into water vapour.

Some of the other water drops do too.



This is called **evaporation**.

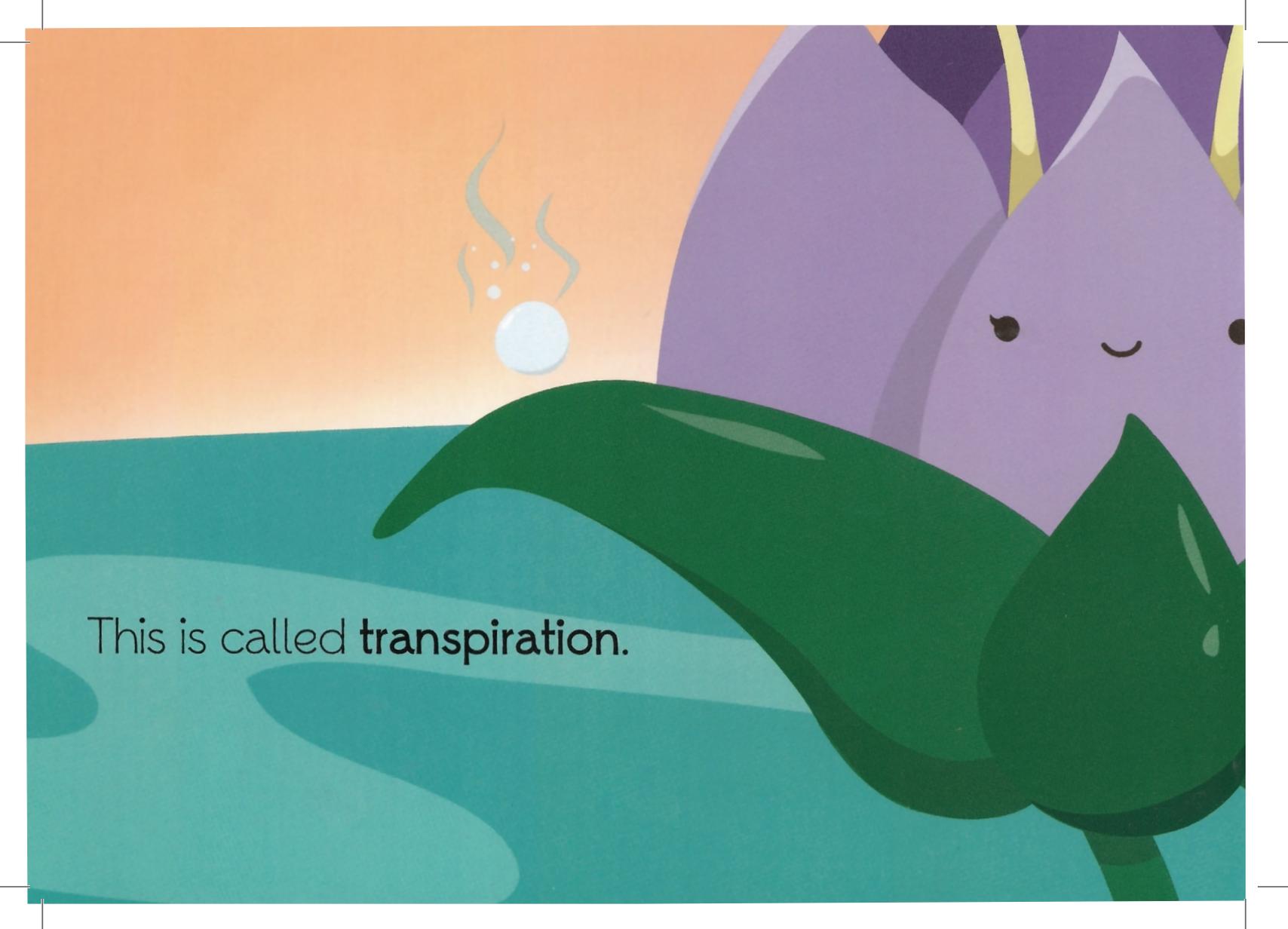


We begin to rise and rise...

...like the steam from a tea pot.

Even though you can't see it, some of my other friends like Lily the plant also create vapour by sweating water out of their leaves when they get hot.



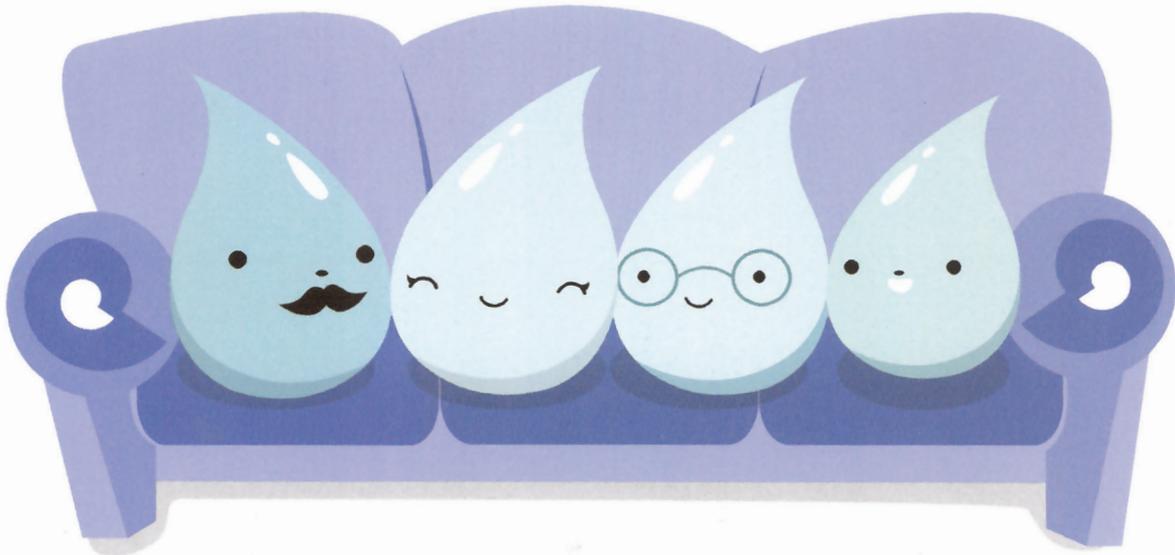


This is called **transpiration**.



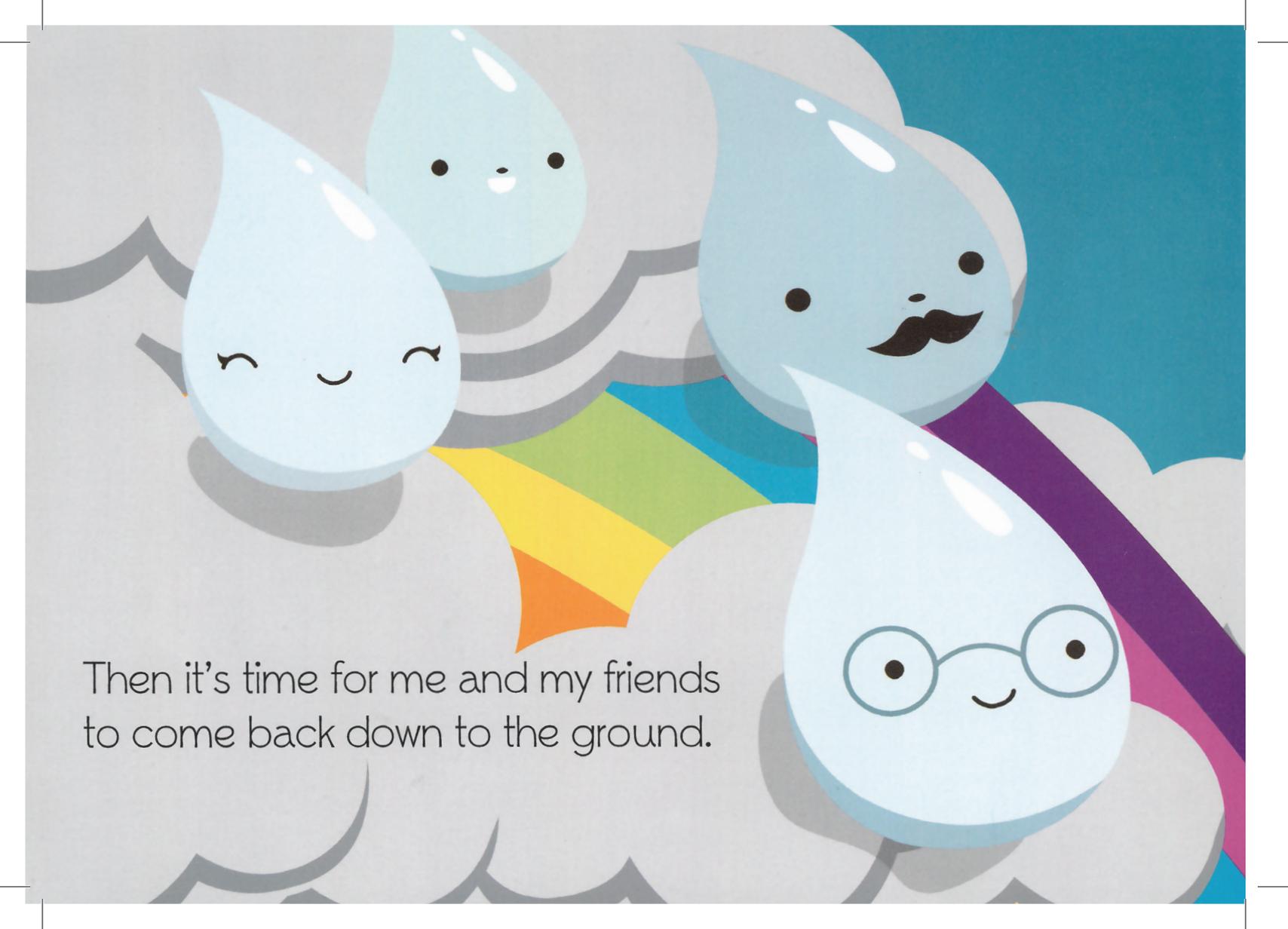
As we rise up, up into the air, we cool down and turn into tiny water drops, who stick together to make clouds.

This is called **condensation**.



When more and more of us are made, the clouds get heavier and heavier until the air can't hold us anymore.



An illustration featuring four light blue water droplets with human-like faces, floating on a grey, fluffy cloud. A vibrant rainbow with stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple arches across the scene. The background is a solid teal color. The droplets have various expressions: one has closed eyes and a smile, another has a mustache, and a third in the foreground wears round glasses. The fourth droplet is partially obscured behind the others.

Then it's time for me and my friends
to come back down to the ground.



We fall out of the clouds as
rain, hail, sleet or even snow.

This is called **precipitation**.

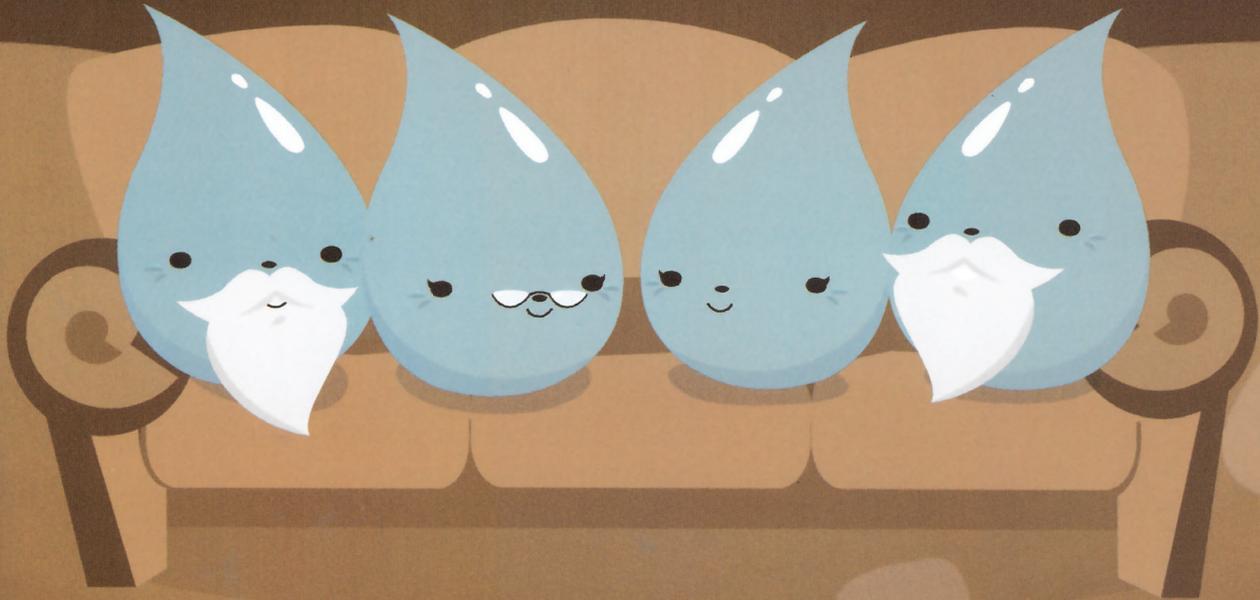


We tumble and dance out of
the sky, landing everywhere
from puddles and creeks to
hills, mountains and
your backyard.

Some of us will end up in reservoirs
that store your drinking water.



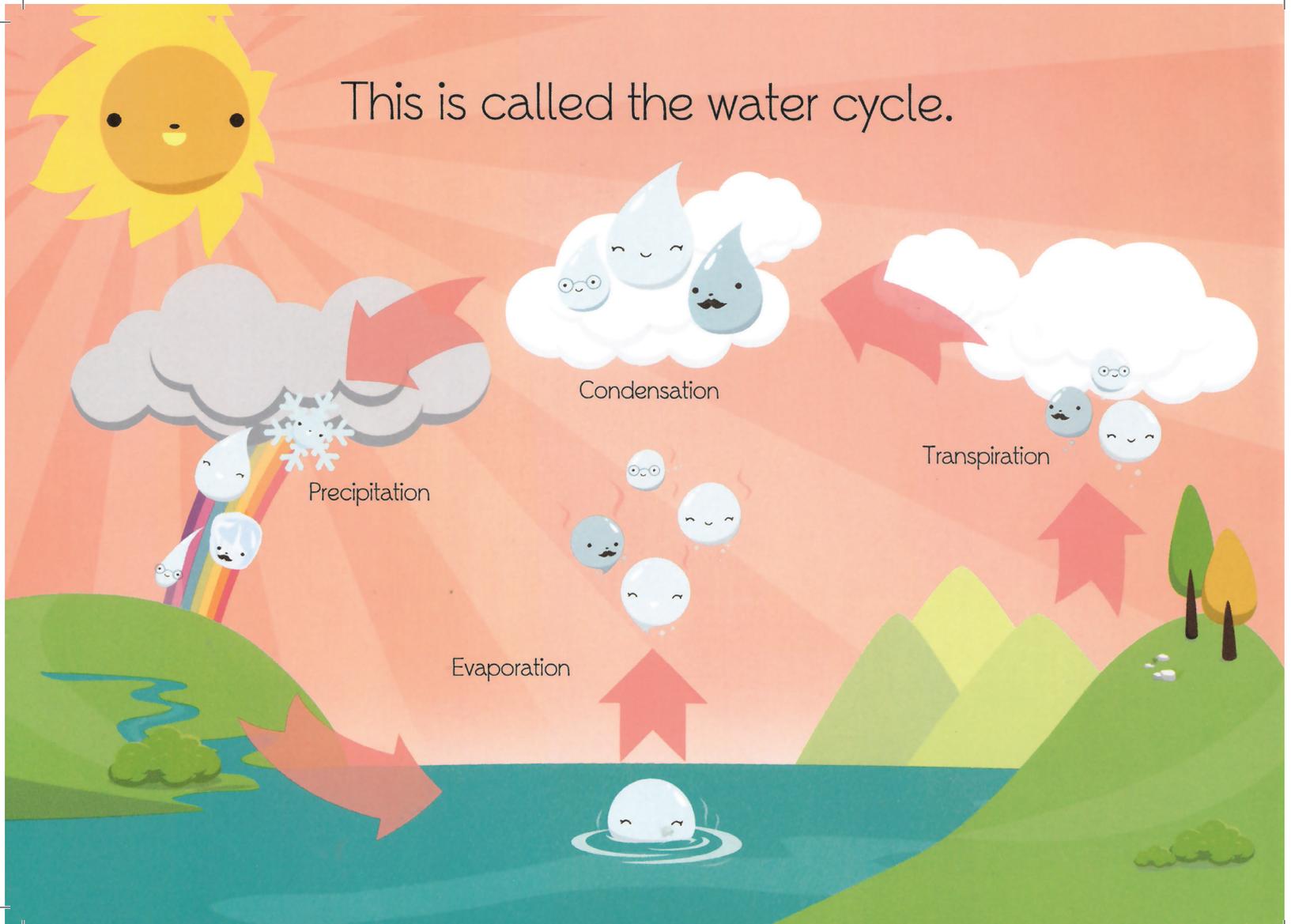
Some of us will seep into the ground, where we can live for hundreds and thousands of years.





But most of us will trickle and flow
our way back into rivers, lakes and
eventually, the ocean, to start our
fun journey all over again!

This is called the water cycle.





The End

Written by Bridget Cull

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and Swinburne University of Technology

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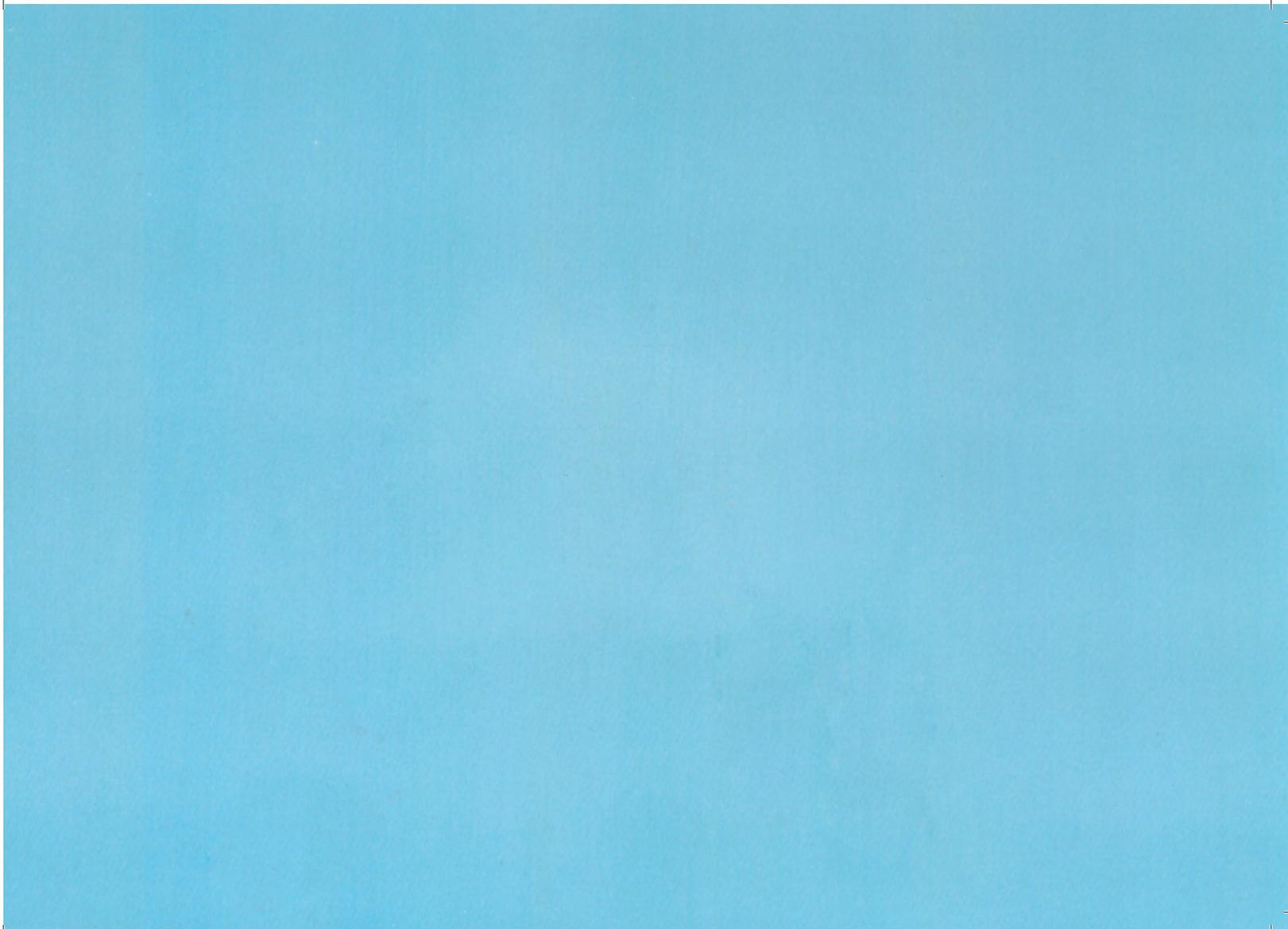
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Advice



www.smartwateradvice.org





Join Florence the raindrop on her journey from the land to the sky and back again.

You'll meet Florence's friends like Sparky the sun and Lily the plant as she takes us on an adventure through the natural water cycle.

Written by Bridget Cull and illustrated by Digital Media Design students at Swinburne University of Technology.

