

Water Stories

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Junior School EVS Water Curriculum

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The Water Cycle

The Water Cycle and Water Sources

Chutki

An eight-year-old girl, who wants to know everything about the world we live in.

Mother: Chutki's mother.

Happy : The talking hand pump, a cheerful friend of Baadshah.

Baadshah: A doll. In Chutki's dream it turns into a magical old man, cheerful, full of energy and very wise, a good friend of Chutki.

Cloudy : The king of clouds. He has a cheerful, chubby, snowy white face.

Scene 1 Chutki's home

It is a rainy afternoon. Chutki is busy with her homework. Her mother enters her room carrying a shopping bag. She is looking for the umbrella.

Mother: Chutki, will you please get my umbrella, it is raining and I have to go buy some vegetables.

Chutki: Here Mother. (She gives the umbrella to her mother.)

Mother: Thank you, Chutki. Now don't forget to fill a bucket of water from the pump next door. Complete your homework and don't doze off as you do.

Chutki: Yes, Mother. Bye!

(The mother leaves. Chutki goes back to her homework. She then notices her favourite little toy that she has named Baadshah. Picking it up she begins to talk to it.)

Hello, Baadsha. I really wish I didn't have so much homework to do! Today in class we studied all about water. Of course, it was very interesting. But I do have so many questions to ask. You are smiling as though you know all the answers already.

(She stretches and yawns, as she gets very sleepy.)

Ooh... I wish .. I could .. ask you...

(She falls asleep)

(She begins to dream . In her dream, Baadshah, the toy comes alive. As he stands before her, he is much taller than herself and looks so good in his long white beard and colourful robe and, of course, with his very knowing smile.)

Baadshah : Chhutki, hello! How are you?

Chhutki : Very well, thank you ! Wow Baadshah, you do look so much nicer than your little toy figure.

Baadshah : You look nice too, but just a little sleepy.

Chhutki : Yes, Baadshah, it's all this homework that makes me tired ...!

Baadshah : Why ? Now, suppose I gave you a little help, would that make things better ?

Chhutki : (Excited)

Oh, yes! Most definitely.

Baadshah : You ask your questions and I'll use my magic to answer them. You can see things for yourself, so you can understand them better.

Chhutki: How?

Baadshah : You'll see.

Chhutki : Well then, as you know , it's raining outside. Where does all this water come from and how does it fall as rain?

Baadshah : To know the answer , why don't we go and ask the clouds?

*Just shut your eyes and count till three
And soon among the clouds we'll be!*

(Chhutki shuts her eyes and counts till three.)

Scene 2 Up in the clouds

She opens her eyes, and is amazed to find Baadshah and herself standing in the middle of such beautiful , huge, white and fluffy clouds as she could ever imagine. Suddenly, a big cheerful round face pops out of the clouds. It is Cloudy , the king of clouds. He wears a little golden crown.

Cloudy : Hello, Chhutki! I am Cloudy, the king of clouds. Welcome to cloud Country.

Chhutki : (She can hardly believe her eyes A talking cloud! What next...?) Er..hello! How do you know my name?

(Cloudy smiles broadly and nods his head as if to say, "Well, I know everything." He winks at Baadshah who winks back with a smile)

Baadshah : I think I'll take a little walk while you talk. (He moves off.)

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Chhutki: (To Baadshah) Come back soon !
(She turns to Cloudy) I'm so happy to meet you, Mr. Cloudy. There is so much I have to ask you...

Cloudy : Go on. What is it that you wish to know?

Chhutki : Well how is that during raining season, the clouds look so thick and dark from where I stand down on the ground? Up here, everything is so bright and white.

Cloudy : Good question! Let me explain . As you know, down on the ground when the sun shines brightly it becomes hot. Water from the rivers and lakes, or where ever it has collected, **evaporates**. That is, it turns into water vapour which is gas.

Chhutki: Ah, and so it rises up. Doesn't it ?

Cloudy : You are clever, Chhutki! Because vapour is very light in weight, even lighter than feather, it rises upwards, goes higher and higher till it reaches the sky. As it is much cooler up here, these vapours turn into tiny droplets of water or **condense** as clouds. When a huge number of droplets collect, clouds get thicker and heavier, much like a thick quilt. When the sun shines over the clouds, the rays cannot pass through their thickness easily. Therefore, they appear dark. But up here, on the upper side of the clouds, everything looks bright and white because the sun's rays are reflected towards you from the surface of the clouds.

Chhutki: Oh, I see! So that is it. Now tell me Cloudy, when is the time for rain to fall on the ground?

Cloudy : As you may have noticed, it is much cooler up here than on the ground. Because of this, the vapour condenses faster, till it becomes too heavy or reaches the point of **precipitation**. At this point the condensed droplets of water in the clouds, which become too heavy to stay up here, fall to the ground as rain. Rain falls on the Earth because of the force of gravity that pulls things down towards it.

(There is a sudden, bright flash of lightening followed by a very loud crash of thunder. Taken by surprise , Chhutki jumps into the arms of King Cloudy for safety and clings to him tightly. Just then, Baadshah comes running.)

Baadshah: Chhutki! Are you all right ?

Cloudy : *(chuckling)* Oh yes, she is fine, just a little shaken up.
(He gently puts her down)

Chhutki: Goodness! That was unbelievable. The light... the sound...ooh!

Baadshah: Yes, lighting and thunder, the music of the clouds...right Cloudy?

Chhutki : But, how does it happen ?

Cloudy : Good question again! You see, electricity which you use for lightening your homes and cities, and to listen to the raadio , is produced when negatively charged particles move in your electric wires. These particles are so tiny that you cannot see them with your eyes but you know that they are there by the way things happen. Like on the Earth, up here in the air, we have millions of such particles. They come together in large numbers when thick clouds cluster together. These positive and negative particles always have a strange way of attracting or finding

one another. When they do two things happen. One, a bright flash of light is formed and two, a loud sound we call thunder is heard.

Chhutki : It sounds just like what happens when my two neighbours quarrel with one another. I think I'll call them "thunder" and "lighting".

(All three have a hearty laugh).

Thank you , Cloudy! That was very interesting.

Cloudy : I am glad I could help.

Baadshah : Just as the lighting and thunder say it may be time to rain, I must say it is time for us to leave and continue our journey.

Cloudy : Why don't you go down with the rain, then you can see everything all the way to the ground.

Chhutki : Great idea! Could we, Baadshah?

Baadshah : Certainly! But first, we must put on our rain suits to protect us from getting wet, for there is going to be a lot of water down there.

(He gives her a rain suit to put on and puts one on himself. They bid Cloudy goodbye and leave.)

Scene 3 On the ground

They move through the clouds, downwards at great speed along with the rain drops. Using his magic, Baadshah makes them both land very gently, though with a splash, in a large puddle of water on the ground.

Chhutki : *(Quickly getting out of the puddle and helping Baadshah as well.)*
My goodness! That was some trip!

Baadshah : Yes, indeed! My beard is quite out of shape. *(He brushes his beard into place.)*
Tell me, Chhutki, do you know why we came down so fast?

Chhutki : Yes, I do. Cloudy told me. It is because of the gravity of the Earth which pulls things towards it .

Baadshah : Correct. It is what prevents things from flying off the ground.

Chhutki : That means, if the Earth did not have gravity we all would be floating in the air.

Baadshah : Yes, and without my magic, we would have landed down here much harder.

(They both have a good laugh.)

Chhutki : *(Looking at the puddle of water.)*
You know, it,s amazing to think that as it rains, this little puddle gets bigger and bigger, and soon joins nearby puddles to form a pool of water.

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Baadshah : These pools of water flow into drains or small canals in the cities, and into streams and lakes in the countryside. As more water collects, it flows from these drains and lakes into rivers. The rivers travel great distances before they finally flow into big oceans.

Chhutki : That's a lot of water!

Baadshah : Well, two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered with water
(The rain stops and the sun comes out.)

Chhutki : Baadshah, is that puddle of water going to evaporate now?

Baadshah : Yes, as it becomes hotter with the sun shining, most of it will evaporate.

Chhutki : My teacher told us about the water cycle today. Now I understand what it is all about.

Baadshah : Thus, putting it briefly, when it gets hot, water turns into vapour by the process of condensation. As these clouds get heavier they reach the point of precipitation, and fall as rain...

Chhutki :so then, what if it is not hot enough and very little evaporation takes place or very little rain falls?

Baadshah : Fortunately, there are other sources of water too. Underground water and water from melting glaciers in the mountains.

Chhutki : Underground water and glaciers? That sounds interesting! Can we go there, Baadshah?

Baadshah : Of course .Where shall we go first?

Chhutki : Let's see. We have just been up, so let's go down this time!

Baadshah : Right! But before that ...

*Shut your eyes, count ten in all.
And soon we'll both be very small.*

(Chhutki shuts her eyes and counts till ten. When she opens them she is amazed to find that both she and Baadshah have become very, very tiny.)

Chhutki : Gosh, Baadshah what has happened to us? Where are we ? Where have these huge rocks and this sea of water that is all around us come from ?

Baadshah : *(chuckles)* Heh -heh-heh, Chhutki. We have become very small indeed. These rocks are actually grains of sand and the sea you talk about is actually that little puddle of water.

Chhutki : Unbelievable! But...what's happening! Why are we moving so fast?

Baadshah : Hold my hand tightly and don't worry. We are being sucked down into the ground through one of the many holes in it, along with the water.

Scene 4 Journey through the ground

They both get drawn into a hole along with a swift stream of water and gently flow downwards, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, through holes and cracks and passages of all kinds, deeper and deeper into the ground.

Chhutki : *(Pointing at the walls of the tunnel through which they are floating.)*

Baadshah , look! The colour of the earth in these tunnels and passages keeps changing as we go deeper.

Baadshah : Yes, Chhutki. The Earth is made up of many layers of rocks, soil and other materials in all sizes from large rocks to fine dust. These act as a wonderful filter made by Nature.

Chhutki : Filter?

Baadshah : Yes. Rain water from the surface of the earth passes through the soil, just as we are doing now. As it passes through, all the dirt and impure particles are trapped by the layers of the soil, allowing only pure, clean water to pass down the underground layers to where it collects. And, we are about to reach that place any moment now. Hang on!

Scene 5 Underground

*In a moment they land in a huge pool of cool, clean water collected in a **cavern**. They get out of the water, take off their rain suits and shake them dry. Chhutki looks around in wonder . She licks her lips, tasting the water.*

Chhutki : This truly a beautiful place and the water is so clear, clean and tasty!

Baadshah : Tasty, yes. That is because along the way it also picks up some particles called **minerals** and salts which are good for health and give water a good taste . Now, can you tell me how people on the surface of the Earth get to use this water?

Chhutki : I know. Through wells and handpumps! We have one next to our house. We use it to pump out water for drinking, cooking and washing, and even for the plants.

Baadshah : Yes , also, depending upon how high or low it lies, this ground water makes its way through the soil, rocks and passages into streams , lakes and oceans. And, speaking of handpumps, would you like to see one? Meet one, perhaps?

Chhutki : Oh, I certainly would! Meet one, did you say?

Baadshah : Come with me.

(They walk a short distance till they come upon a huge column rising from under the water till the roof of the underground cave. This is actually the underground pipe of a handpump.)

We must stand near it. Now hold my hand and don't worry at all. Just keep your eyes shut till we reach the top, and don't be afraid.

Chhutki : As you say, Baadshah .

(She holds his hand. Together they enter the water and stand near the mouth of the pipe.)

Baadshah : Now we have to wait a few moments till someone up on the ground begins to pump the water out. *(They wait a few moments. Soon there is a loud booming and chugging sound,*

which comes from the pipe. She grips Baadshah's hand and tightly shuts her eyes. Then there is a loud swishing sound and they are sucked up into the pipe, along with a huge amount of water. Upward they keep going, when suddenly the pumping sound stops. They float up to the opening till they are thrown out of the pump through its mouth at the top.)

Scene 6
At the handpump

They land up in a big splash of wash just in time to see a woman carrying away a bucket of water she had filled from the hand pump.

Baadshah: Ooooh... that was close.

Chhutki : Yes, Baadshah. We almost got carried away in that bucket of water!

Baadshah: Yes, but think of the terrible fright that poor woman would have got had we turned back to our original size in the bucket itself.
(They laugh heartily. They also hear laughter behind them. This is Happy, the handpump.)

Happy : Ha-ha! That was funny indeed! Hello there, Chhutki, and Baadshah! How was your trip all the way up?

Chhutki : A talking handpump! I truly must be dreaming!

Happy : May be!

Chhutki : Baadshah please return us to our original size before we get into trouble.

Baadshah: Right you are!

Shut both your eyes , just as before,
And soon we'll both be small no more!

(When Chhutki opens her eyes, they are back to their normal size.)

Chhutki : That's much better, thanks. And yes, hello, Happy, pleased to meet you! The journey was short, but of great fun,

Baadshah: Nice to see you again I must say, Happy, though your joints do need oiling. It was very noisy down there.

(They enjoy a good laugh.)

Happy : Well, yes, I could do with a good oiling, but who would do it for me?

Chhutki : Why, I'll be glad to do it tomorrow. And, by the way , why is there so much water standing around here? It is quite dirty and smells awful...!

Happy : I'm sorry , Chhutki. But as you can see most of the bricks and plaster at my base are quite old and broken. The drain is also damaged. That is why water collects like this all around me. I hate it but I cannot do anything about it. Also, this water is always full of rubbish and smells

terrible. Mosquitoes and other germs **breed** here. These can cause serious illness and diseases to people. When this **infected** water seeps into the ground it is sucked through me even before it can be naturally filtered, because it is so close to me. This means that the water seeps into the ground it is sucked through me even before it can be naturally filtered, because it is so close to me. This means that the water that is pumped out could also be **contaminated** with germs, and people could be infected with diseases like cholera, typhoid and jaundice. I just wish someone would clean up the place fast.

Chhutki : Don't worry, Happy. I shall speak to my parents and get your broken base replastered and the drain repaired so that it will carry the dirty water far away from you to a safe place.

Happy : Thank you, Chhutki. That would make me very happy indeed.

Baadshah: True to your name, my friend. Now we must leave as we have to continue our journey.

Chhutki : Where are we going?

Baadshah: I'll give you a clue: to where the drinking water first begins to flow.

Chhutki : I know, the mountains!

Baadshah: (*Handing her a warm shawl and a woolen socks*)

Here , first put these on.

(*Chhutki puts on the socks and wraps the shawl around her. Then they both bid goodbye to Happy and get ready to leave.*)

Baadshah: (*To Chhutki*)
Now shut your eyes.

*Now we both travel , non-stop,
Straight up to the mountain top.*

Scene 7 On the mountain top

Chhutki shuts her eyes. When she opens them again after a few moments, she finds herself and Baadshah standing on a huge mountain of ice and snow.

Chhutki : Wonderful! I have never seen so much ice and snow in my life. And , it's so clear and white everywhere you look.

Baadshah: What we are standing on is a **glacier** . Be careful as you walk, for it is very slippery. This is a huge mountain of ice. When the sun shines here, some of this ice melts into...

Chhutki :water!

Baadshah: Right! This water collects at the bottom of this glacier and begins to flow down as a stream which gets bigger as it collects more water. It travels down the face of the mountains as

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waterfalls, like that one over there.
(*Pointing to a waterfall in the distance.*)

Chhutki : Oh, that looks beautiful!

Baadshah: It really does, and the water is very clean and pure. The water from the waterfall flows into rivers which begin up here in the mountains, then travels many miles down to the plains. When it rains, the rain water also mixes with this water from its mountains making the rivers full and wide...

Chhutki : ...and then, when the sun shines and it gets hot, water from the rivers evaporates into the air and condenses as clouds which precipitate and fall as rain and snow. Then on the mountains, where the temperature is much lower, the rain and snow harden to form ice and glaciers.... and it's the whole cycle all over again.

Baadshah: Yes, Chhutki, the water cycle! It is marvelous indeed. Now I think, you ought to get back home... you have work to do, don't you?

Chhutki : Oh yes, there's homework to be done, water to be filled, the handpump to be greased , the drain to be repaired . But truly Baadshah , I've had a wonderful time and I have understood so much. Thank you for everything!

Baadshah: I too enjoyed the trip and your company. We must plan another soon. For now, goodbye...

*Shut your eyes and count till three
And very soon at home you'll be!*

Chhutki : *(She shuts her eyes)* One, two, three...

Chhutki : Wonderful, mother!

Both: For a cause as important as this, all must do their bit. Only then things can and will get better.

Scene 8

Back at home

She opens her eyes to find herself back at home, seated at her table with her homework. It seems she had fallen asleep while studying. She still has the toy figure of the smiling Baadshah in her hand.

Chhutki: Was it real... or was it all a dream? It all happened so fast...Baadshah, Cloudy, and Happy...and all that water, water, water! That reminds me, I have to quickly fill a bucket of water before mother arrives. I'll also keep a pot of water ready for tea...I'm sure she would like that. And I think I'll have a wash and freshen up a bit. Water! What would we ever do without it?

Water Cycle Adventure

Sun (who is also the narrator)
Ocean water drop 1
Ocean water drop 2
Water vapor 1
Water vapor 2
Cloud/Snowflake 1
Snowflake 2
Glacier ice 1
Glacier ice 2
Stream water 1
Stream water 2
River water 1
River water 2
Reservoir water 1
Reservoir water 2
Tap water 1
Tap water 2
Water in drain pipe
Sewage processing plant

The Sun: Our story starts in the ocean. We are watching two drops of water.

Ocean water drop 1: It's getting hot here in the ocean - I don't think I can swim any more. I'm feeling light and airy! I think the Sun's doing it to me.

The Sun: I can't help it - I'm hot and full of energy. That's what I do, and I do it so well, don't I?

Ocean water drop 2: Yes, you do, but I think I'm getting dizzy and there isn't even a whirlpool here. I'm feeling so strange! I think I'll just float for a while - no more swimming for me.

Ocean water drop 1: Uh oh! You're not floating in the water anymore, you're floating in the air - you're not a drop of water either - you're water vapor now.

Water Vapor 1: What's water vapor?

Water Vapor 2: It's water, but it's a gas. You've evaporated and turned into a gas - and so have I. Let's fly up high!

Water Vapor 1: I feel like joining the others and forming a crowd.

Water Vapor 2: I think you mean a cloud, not a crowd. Okay, let's condense.

Water Vapor 1: What does that mean?

Water Vapor 2: Condensing means that we'll change back into a liquid (water, of course). Then we'll be part of a cloud.

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Cloud: Okay, now we're a beautiful, fluffy cloud. Let's fly over the land and watch the goats. Take a look at those beautiful mountains! But now I'm feeling heavy and cold. I think I'm going to snow!

Snowflake 1: Hey, what's got six arms and there's nothing exactly like it in the whole world?

Snowflake 2: Me - I'm so special. You, too, of course. We're both snowflakes. Hey, where are you going now?

Snowflake 1: I can't stop falling - you're falling too. But where are we going?

Snowflake 2: Down.

Snowflake 1: Thanks - I knew that. It looks like we're taking a trip to the mountains. I hope you know how to ski.

Snowflake 2: Well, it looks like we're stuck on a glacier - I wonder why they're called rivers of ice.

Glacier Ice 1: I'm getting crushed here. Now I'm ice - this is NOT my favorite part of the water cycle.

Glacier Ice 2: We're only moving at about one foot a year. This is going to be soooooo boring - it's a long way to the bottom.

Glacier Ice 1: You'd better get used to it, we're stuck on this glacier for a while.

The Sun: A long, long, long time later, two very bored drops of water emerge from the bottom of the glacier. I haven't been much help to them lately.

Stream water 1: Wow, I've finally melted!

Stream water 2: Me too - I'm free at last. What a change, we were practically standing still, and now we're shooting the rapids.

Stream water 1: Watch out for that rock! And that waterfall!

Stream water 2: Ouch! I've had enough of this. Can we go home now?

Stream water 1: We don't have a home. At least we're out of the mountains. The water's getting deeper. What's going on here?

River water 1: You can slow down now - we're in a river. And we're getting warmer.

River water 2: I like this. Not too fast and not too slow.

River water 1: Let's go down this side stream - it looks clear and clean.

Reservoir water 1: Okay. We're in a reservoir now - we'll be flowing through huge pipes soon - I've been here before.

Reservoir water 2: Here they are. It's dark and spooky in these pipes. How do we get out of here?

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Reservoir water 1: Just go with the flow.

Tapwater 1: There's a light at the end of the tap - we're in a sink. Eew - that kid is brushing her teeth!

Tapwater 2: I hope she doesn't drink us - it's really weird when that happens.

Tapwater 2: Whew, that was a close call. Looks like we're whirlpooling down the drain. Hold your nose!

Water in drain pipe: More dark pipes - but these pipes are really smelly. We must be in the sewer under the city. Boy do I need to take a bath.

Sewage processing plant: I heard that. I'm a sewage processing plant. You've come to the right place. I'm so amazing that I can even give bath water a bath! Now you're all filtered and clean - just take that pipe to the sea.

Ocean water drop 1: We're finally back in the ocean. You know, I've done this trip a million times, and every time it's different.

Ocean water drop 2: I was well water in Washington once.

Ocean water drop 1: I was in a typhoon in Thailand twice.

Ocean water drop 2: I was rain in Rwanda.

Ocean water drop 1: I was snow in Siberia.

Ocean water drop 2: We've all been snow in Siberia. But I was in a puddle in Pakistan.

Ocean water drop 1: I was in a lake in Louisiana.

Ocean water drop 2: I was in a swamp in Switzerland.

Ocean water drop 1: There are no swamps in Switzerland. But a long, long time ago, I was sleet that fell on the snout of a T. rex.

Ocean water drop 2: Showoff. I rained on a plain in Spain, and I seeped through the soil. and went into a cave, and was groundwater for 500 years.

Ocean water drop 1: Boooooorrrring.

Sun: Hi there! It's me again. Did you miss me? I know you did.

Ocean water drop 1: I feel so hot and dizzy!

Ocean water drop 2: Oh no, it's starting all over again!

Ocean water drop 1: I wonder where we'll go this time?

Water conservation

Where has all the water gone?

Chhutki

An eight-year-old girl, who wants to know everything about the world we live in.

Mother: Chhutki's mother.

Pia : A friendly helpful pigeon. A friend of Baadshah.

Baadshah: A doll. Inm Chutki's dream it turns into a magical old man, cheerful, full of energy and very wise. A good friend of Chhutki.

Riki : A cute, faithful rat. An old friend of Baadshah

Scene 1 Chutki's home

It is a very warm afternoon. Chhutki is studying . She looks out of the window at the pooted plants in her little garden. She gets up, fetches a bucket of water, goes outside, and splash water on the plants. Her mother enters the room, comes to the window and speaks to her.

Mother : Chhutki, if you water the plants in the evening, they would be able to soak up much more water than in the daytime when it is warm.

Chhutki : But mother, they look so hot and dry.

Mother: Well, do be careful not to waste water by spilling it all over the ground.

Chhutki : Oh, mother, we have plenty (she begins to wash her hands) and then we have the pump ...

Mother : Chhutki, I'm sure you do not need more than a mug of water to wash your hands, or little more than half bucketful for the plants. So why use more ... or waste it by spilling it all around ?

Chhutki : But , mother ...

Mother : All I'm trying to say is that water is **precious** than most of us **realize**. While we use so much of it , there are people and other creatures who don't even get enough to drink, let alone bathe or wash things with.

Chhutki : Is that so ?

Mother : Yes it is ! And, if we go using it the careless way we do, I'm afraid there may not remain enough for others. And, just imagine, what will they do if it gets over ?

Chhutki : Water ... gets over ? I find it hard to believe.

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Mother : Yes, but it's not too late to do something about it. Now you finish your work . I'm going down to the bazaar to buy another bucket for storing water. Make sure you fill up some water for drinking in the mean time.

Chhutki : Yes, mother .

(The mother leaves. Chhutki shuts the door and returns to her books. She spots the morning newspaper nearby, picks it up, and settles down to read. She then picks up 'Baadshah' from the table and placing it near her, speaks to it.)

Oh, Baadshah! Can you imagine that ? No water !

It's really quite hard to believe... especially when we have so much of it... . *(She yawns.)* Oh, I'm tired . *(She goes through a few headlines in the newspaper and is rather startled by them .)* Ooh., oh! What's this : 'Groundwater wells in the northern part of the city dries up ', Five seriously hurt in the clash over water ' and 'Villagers can't' This can't be true. *(She holds Baadshah close to her as she lies among her books and the newspaper on the bed.)* Oh... Baadshah ... what will happen ? *(She yawns again.)* I'm so sleepy... it was a very busy day at school today. But now I must keep my eyes open... oh well *(She falls asleep and dreams.*

(In her dream, Baadshah is standing near her and calling out to her.)

Baadshah : Chhutki , Chhutki, look at me !

Chhutki : *(Looking up)* Y-yes? Who ... is it ?

Baadshah : Yes, aren't you going to give me a glass of water to drink ? It is rather warm day, is it not?

Chhutki : Er... yes! Yes ! *(She runs to get a glass of water . She returns empty-handed.)* I don't believe this, there is not a drop of water left in the house!

Baadshah : But you seem to have watered all the plants outside and even the pavement...

Chhutki : Er... yes ... wait! I'll get some from the pump. *(She runs to the pump carrying an empty jug. She returns in a few moments, again with no water.)* I don't know what's happening ... There's no water flowing even in the pump and the neighbours say their pumps are also not working!

Baadshah : Don't panic, Chhutki. I think we need to go and find out what's wrong and where.

Chhutki : But the water ... my mother will be coming ... where are we going?

Baadshah : Don't worry, your mother will be at the bazaar for sometime. You need to relax for a while and then we can take a proper look at the problem.

Chhutki : Anything you say, Baadshah, my friend.

Baadshah : Let's go outside *(They move towards the door).* Shut the door properly, we'll be back in a very short while .

Scene 2
Outside

Baadshah : Now just stop worrying. We are going for a little ride ... and I'm sure you'll enjoy it very much... it's a ride which you've never even heard of before... But first,

*Just shut your eyes and count ten in all
Soon we'll both be very small*

(Chhutki shuts her eyes and counts till ten. When she opens them she is startled to find they both have become smaller than mice. She then hears a loud flapping sound which scares her and makes her run and hide behind Baadshah for safety.)

Chhutki : Baadshah, Baadshah! What is that loud flapping sound ?

Baadshah : (*Chuckling*) No, no, Chhutki ! Don't be afraid ... take a look , it's someone I want you to meet... a very good friend - Pia, the pigeon.

Chhutki : (*Peeping from behind Baadshah*) Gosh , she is so huge!

Baadshah : Wrong, it is we who have become very small, Chhutki. Pia, meet Chhutki, another very good friend.

Pia : Hello, Baadshah ! Good to see you again ! Hello Chhutki! Don't be afraid . Come, hop on to my back , I'll take you wherever you wish to go.

(Baadshah and Chhutki climb on to a nearby rock and then on to Pia's back where they sit, clinging tightly to her feathers .)

Ready? Now. where do we go to?

Baadshah : Let's go as high as you can take us.

Pia: Very well, hold on tight.

(She flaps her wings faster and faster, then rises into the air. Higher and higher she flies till they are almost as high as the clouds.)

Scene 3 Up in the sky

Chhutki : This is just wonderful. Flying and **gliding** so high, almost touching the clouds.

Baadshah : I'm glad you like it.

Chhutki : And from up here, you can see everything for miles around.

Baadshah : Yes , we certainly can.

Chhutki : (Suddenly pointing to the left .) Oh look, down on the ground, to the left...

Baadshah :(Looking carefully.) It looks like a lot of people ... they seem to be standing in a sort of ... line... a very long queue.

Chhutki : Can we go down a little lower for a closer look, Pia?

Pia : Certainly, Chhutki! Hold on...
(*They go lower down so that they can now see the people clearly.*)

Chhutki : They are holding buckets, bottles, vessels... standing near a tap...!

Baadshah : There seems to be no other supply in the area, so they are all trying to fill water here.

Chhutki : Oh , no! Could we not go down and see if we can help?

(*Suddenly, there is a lot of shouting and screaming from the crowd. They seem to be having a fierce quarrel.*)

Pia : I don't think that's a good idea right now..

Baadshah : Yes, it appears that a nasty fight has broken out among them . Let's go up higher ... and away from here.

Chhutki : A fight... it's so bad to see people fighting....

Baadshah :over water.

(*They fly higher and away from the noise . Soon they are over a huge and dry deaert-like area.*)

Chhutki : Look, everything down here seems so dry and lifeless

Baadshah :Yes, nothing seems to grow here anymore ... no crops..not even grass... and there doesn't seem to be any sign of water either.

Chhutki : And look, there's a poor little calf crying of thirst near that dry water hole.

Baadshah : Pia, let's go down and check the place. We'll land somewhere behind the bush, so no one can see us.

Scene 4
The parched field

Pia lands softly on the ground behind a dry bush. Baadshah and Chhutki quickly jump off her back.

Baadshah : Now, Pia, you fly off and look for anyone in trouble nearby. We'll then see how we can help. Meanwhile, we'll search for water. (*Pia flies off.*)

(*Baadshah then puts his hands to his lips and whistles, three times.*)

Chhutki : What are you doing, Baadshah ?

Baadshah : Another little surprise for you . I'm just calling our next little means of transport. Look!...

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*(Out of a hole in the **parched** earth nearby pops a furry little head with large eyes and a cute pink nose. Soon also come out four little legs and a long pink tail.)*

Meet another good old friend , Riki the rat.

Riki : Baadshah! How are you ? You still whistle like a young boy of 10! Ha, ha! *(They laugh.)*

Baadshah : Riki, meet Chhutki, another very dear friend.

Riki : Delighted to meet you, Chhutki.

Chhutki : Glad to meet you too, Riki. Baadshah, you do have the most amazing friends, truly!

Riki : Now tell me, what brings you both to this dry, deserted place ? There is not even a drop of water around to offer you.

Baadshah : That's exactly why we are here: to find the sources of water.

Chhutki : We must find some soon, or many people and other creatures will be in great trouble.

Riki : Oh yes, we must. But how can I help?

Baadshah : First, take us underground, as deep as one can go. Then , we will look for a place to dig further down. Maybe we can find the **water - table** ... we must try atleast.

Riki : Earlier, I had to dig only a couple of metres to reach the water-table, but now, even after 8 to 10 metres, I don't seem to find it. I haven't dug that deep for many years now, but dig I can, and there's no harm in trying. So hop on to my back, hang on tight, we'll travel downward as far as these deserted rat tunnels can take us.

(Chhutki and Baadshah quickly climb on to Riki's furry back and hang on tight. Riki then runs into the nearby rat hole and begins to travel through the underground tunnels, downwards.)

Scene 5 Underground

Chhutki :Gosh, Riki, there are so many tunnels all around us!

Riki : Well, they are all empty.

Chhutki : How do you know which one to take ?

Riki : Ha, Ha! All I can say is, it comes **naturally** when you're a rat!

(All chuckle . They keep moving till they come to a small underground cave where several white rocks seem to glow light up the place. Baadshah and Chhutki get off Riki's back, down on to the floor.)

Chhutki : Ooooh... it's so lovely and cool down here.

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Baadshah :Yes, cool, that's just what we are looking for. Riki, do you smell water anywhere close by?

Riki : (*Riki lifts his nose up and wiggles his whiskers left and right, then stops suddenly, facing the right corner of the cave.*) This side seems to smell wetter. In fact ,I can even hear a very faint sound coming from down below.

Baadshah : Dig Riki, dig - as fast as you can, down-wards, in this direction. We will keep removing the earth as you dig.

(*Work begins. Riki digs downwards at great speed, while Baadshah and Chhutki keep removing the earth he digs up. Suddenly they hear Riki calling from way down.*)

Riki : (*From somewhere underground*) Hellooo, Baadshah... Chhutki.... can you hear me?

Chhutki : Yeeeeesss , we caaann Rikiiii!

Riki : Hey, I've found water, but it is really very deep down.

Chhutki : Come back, Riki! It is now quite clear that if we have to find water, we will have to dig really deep. Think of all the effort we have to make now just because we were not careful about **conserving** water earlier.

Riki : Yes !!!! Now, Baadshah and Chhutki, grab my tail, we're going up!

(*They both hold on to Riki's tail, and move through the tunnels to the surface. Pia comes swooping to greet them in the sun for a while. Soon it is time to leave.*)

Baadshah : Well, it's time we moved on. Thank you, Pia and Riki, for the rides and all your help.

Chhutki : Yes, you were wonderful . I shall miss you. I have learnt such a lot today. I hope everyone realizes soon that if they are not careful, the water table, which has already gone down will soon be out of reach. I have learnt this lesson the hard way. And, I pray that everyone remembers it as well.

Pia : We shall miss you too, but you will come back sometime ?

Riki : You will, won't you?

Baadshah : Oh yes, we will.

(*They wave goodbye as Pia flies into the sky and Riki runs off into another hole nearby.*)

Chhutki : Baadshah, have you forgotten something?

Baadshah : Oh yes, I nearly did.

Just close your eyes and count till three.

Back to normal size we'll be.

Chhutki : This is much better now. My neck was beginning to hurt, looking up at everything all the time . (*Both chuckle.*)

Baadshah : Yes, Chhutki, now that we've seen how things are on one side, let's go and see how they are on the other side as well.

Chhutki : Other side ?

Baadshah : *Shut your eyes again, and count till three
On the other side we shall be.*

Scene 6
The town

When Chhutki opens her eyes, she finds herself and Baadshah standing in a street of a town rather like her own.

Chhutki : My ! This place looks quite nice, almost like where I live. I'd like to meet some of these people.

Baadshah : I'm not so sure you would.

Chhutki : Why ?

Baadshah : (*Pointing to a man drinking water from a tap which flows freely.*) Most of the water falls to the ground, in a big pool.

Chhutki : Oh dear, he is wasting so much water ! Why can't he use a mug to drink , or atleast not spill so much water on the ground ! (*The man leaves.*) Look , he has walked off without even turning the tap off!

(*She calls out to the man.*) Oh! Sir, wait, the tap... you've left it running ...! (*The man **ignores** her call and walks off.*) How odd, how rude, how **unconcerned!** (*She goes to the tap and turns it off.*)

Baadshah : Now , take a look across the street.

(*She looks across the street and sees two small small children bathing and two women washing clothes near another open tap.*)

Chhutki : (*Running across to them*) Oh ! please, you must not waste so much water like this . Use that bucket and a mug for bathing the children and also for washing clothes. Don't let so much water be wasted . (*There is no **response** from them , as they continue their activity. She returns to Baadshah.*) This is very sad indeed. They just don't seem to listen . They just don't seem to listen. They don't seem to care! (*She looks very upset .*)

Baadshah : Come, Chhutki! Let us walk on. (*As they walk on, they are almost **drenched** as water from a large overhead tank suddenly pours freely on to the street near them.*) The tank is overflowing.

Chhutki : Goodness! Just look at the water that is being wasted.... and there are people who don't even have enough to drink! (*She bangs on the door of the house to which the tank*

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belongs.) Please! Please! Your tank is overflowing! Water is being wasted! Do something! (*There is no response.*)

Baadshah : I don't think they will even listen to you. Let's go on.

Chhutki : This is a truly terrible situation.

Baadshah : Yes, indeed! But there is only one way of doing something about it.

Chhutki : What?

Baadshah : Begin by doing it yourself. Everything that you want others to do or not to do , begin it yourself. Others will notice and will follow you.

Chhutki : I'll do anything to be able to stop this **dreadful** waste of water. Don't people realize, water cannot be there always if they go on using it carelessly?

Baadshah : Sadly, it seems people may only realize its worth when they don't have it any more, or, will that be too late?

Chhutki : No, it must not be. I will do all I can and also ask my friends to help as well.

Baadshah : A good beginning. But first, you must get back home and fill up some water, right ?

Chhutki : But there is no water !

Baadshah : Try again.

Chhutki : All right, I will. Goodbye for now, Baadshah , and thanks for everything I have learnt on these wonderful trips with you.

Baadshah : You are most welcome, anytime . Goodbye for now, my little friend.

*Shut your eyes and count till three
Soon safe at home , you'll be.*

Scene 7 Back at home

Chhutki : (*Waking up from her nap.*) Gosh, I must have dozed off! (*She jumps off the bed.*) Oh yes, I have to fill some water. (*She takes a bucket and goes out to fill it. She returns in a moment with a bucket full of water.*) Thak goodness there is water flowing in the pump. (*She places the bucket in a corner and covers it with a cloth. She then rushes back to her work.*) And now, I have something very important to do. I must, right now, make list of all the ways in which I can save water myself

(She begins writing , speaking out aloud at the same time.)

1. Brushing teeth: only one mug of water.
2. Bathing : only one bucket of water.
3. Drinking : use a glass or a mug.

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4. Washing clothes and vessels: use bucket of water and a mug.
5. Plants: only half a bucket of water every evening.
6. Cleaning floors: use small bucket of water and a cloth.
7. No spilling of water.
8. No dirtying of clean water.
9. Turn off all taps when not in use.
10. Make sure taps or tanks do not leak.
11. Look out for leaking taps or tanks in the neighbourhood. Speak to owners to get them repaired.
12. Meet friends, give them a copy of this list for their own use, suggest that they pass it on to others as well.

(There is a knock at the door. Chhutki opens it for her mother who has returned from the bazaar with a new bucket.)

Mother : Chhutki... have you...

Chhutki : Don't worry, mother! Yes, I've filled a bucket of water. It's over there , covered , in the corner. And, I promise I will never ever waste water again.

Mother : Well, well, dear, what has come over you.... so suddenly?

Chhutki : (*Smiling .*)Nothing ...er...just...

Mother : (*Knowingly.*) Baadshah, again....?? Yes ?

(*Chhutki nods her head, smiling.*)

You know , Chhutki, he may be just a toy...sitting on your table... but, if he really does make such a difference in your life, I really do wish every little boy and girl to have a Baadshah of his or her own.

Oh yes, mother, I wish so too

Saving the river

Water Pollution

Chhutki : An eight-year-old girl, who wants to know everything about the world we live in.

Mother: Chhutki's mother.

Woody: A talking tree.

Turtle: A turtle in the river.

Baadshah: A doll. Inm Chutki's dream it turns into a magical old man, cheerful, full of energy and very wise. A good friend of Chhutki.

Fishy: A fish who lives with his family in the river

Scene 1

Chhutki's home

Chhutki has returned from school and just finished her lunch. Her mother is relaxing in an armchair, reading a magazine.

Chhutki : Mother! Dipu didn't come to school again today. I hear he is very ill. He was even in hospital for a few days.

Mother : Yes, Chhutki. We must visit him tommorrow. He has [jaundice](#), a bad liver infection, probably from drinking infected water somewhere . I hear one of our neighbours has [typhoid](#). So, we must be careful about these germs.

Chhutki :Yes, mother. Last weekend, Lata's family had gone for a picnic to the riverside. They had great fun playing in the water, but now , Lata has a [rash](#) all over her body and her sister, Usha, has an eye infection. They too did not come to school today.

Mother : Then something must be wrong with the water in the river.

Chhutki :You can be sure of that , mother. And, look at this article in today's paper (showing her mother the newspaper). It says that hundreds of poor fish and turtles were found dead on the river bank in a city nearby. They were poisoned by some chemicals in the water . That is so sad. Mother, why do these things happen?

Mother : Because, Chhutki, many of us don't seem to care any more about rivers and streams, forests and plants, animals and birds, and for other people too.

Mother : It is good that you are concerned. (Getting up and giving Chhutki a few books and magazines she had kept aside.) Here, look through these. I have kept them for you for your school project on water pollution. I am sure you will find the pictures and stories very interesting.

Chhutki : (Looking through the books .) My goodness! Can this be possible? This river is so beautiful but the other so dirty! All because of [pollution](#)? (Her mother goes off to another room to rest, leaving her to do her work. Chhutki picks up her doll Baadshah and begins talking to it.) Dear Baadshah, I wish you could see these pictures and read the stories- they are just

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unbelievable. If only I could do something to help...
(...she yawns, begins to fall asleep at the table where she sits.)
Scene 2

The hillside river

In her dream Chhutki finds Baadshah standing before her, smiling as usual.

Baadshah : Chhutki! Is something wrong? You seem rather upset .

Chhutki : I am , Baadshah! My friends are in trouble. Dipu is down with jaundice, Lata has a body rash, Usha has an eye infection, and a number of fish and turtles have also died in the river. All this caused by the water!

Baadshah : Water? Wait a moment, Chhutki. The water by itself can't be the cause of so much trouble. Maybe we could take a trip to the river and see things for ourselves, after all the river provides us with all the water we need.

Chhutki : That sounds good!

Baadshah : Just shut your eyes and on the dot , We'll soon be at a hillside spot.

(Chhutki shuts her eyes, then opens them again to find that they are standing beside a sparkling clean river, flowing through green hills with beautiful trees, flowers, insects, birds and small creatures, all living in harmony.)

Chhutki : This is the most beautiful place I have ever seen!

(A voice from behind startles her. It is Woody the tree, an old friend of Baadshah. She turns around in surprise.)

Woody : Hello Baadshah!

Baadshah: Nice to see you again, Woody. This is Chhutki, a very dear friend. Chhutki, this is Woody, a very old friend.

Woody : Nice to meet you, Chhutki.

Chhutki : Wow! I've never met a talking tree before. Pleased to meet you, Woody.

Woody : Well, we trees do whisper. But no one cares to listen to us most of the time.

Chhutki : Oh, it's lovely, clean and fresh up here.

Baadshah : Especially the air and water (pointing to the river nearby).

Woody : It is very sad that this beautiful river does not remain the same as it flows on. It gets dirtier. Many of my town-dwelling fellow trees who lived long ago the riverside have died. Others are very ill. All because of the polluted water.

Chhutki : We are really sorry to know that. Can we think of a way to stop it?.

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Woody : That is really kind of you. But you can certainly take a trip down the river with Fishy. I'll just call him.

(A large fish with big, brown eyes, smiling, brightly, swims towards them.)

Fishy :Hello, everyone!

Chhutki : Hello! Fishy, I'm Chhutki. You are beautiful! It's a pity that your home, the river , is in so much danger.

Fishy : Glad to meet you ! Woody just told me why you're here. I'll be very happy to take you and Baadshah down the river....if only... you weren't so big.

Baadshah : But of course, I can settle that. Right, Chhutki?

Chhutki : Right!

Baadshah : Just take a deep breath, shut your eyes,
And soon we'll both be small in size.

(When Chhutki opens her eyes, she sees that they both are now much smaller than Fishy.)

Woody : That's a very good trick, Baadshah!

Chhutki : Yes, and he can make us big again.

Fishy : Superb! Now you both can ride on my back. Hop on! (They climb on Fishy's back.)Hold on to my fins tightly. I'll swim close to the surface of the water so you won't get too wet.

Baadshah : That will be just fine, Fishy. Let's go!

Chhutki : Goodbye, Woody!

Woody : Goodbye, Chhutki and Baadshah! Fishy, hope to see you again sometime.

(They wave to one another. Fishy begins to swim down the riverwith his two passengers.)

Scene 3

Down the river

Chhutki : This is simply unbelievable! I am actually riding a fish!

Baadshah: The water upstream is so pure and fresh !

Fishy : True. But sadly , it won't be the same as we go further. But hold on tight. Enjoy the ride while the water is good.

(He speeds on in the water, bobbing up and down. They chatter and laugh along the way. Suddenly Chhutki hears a strange sound, like the rumbling of thunder, coming from way ahead.)

Chhutki : Can you hear that thunder -like sound coming from a distance ?

Baadshah: And look, the water beginning to look a bit green and brown.

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Fishy : Yes friends, that is because the water downstream becomes polluted. Fishes take oxygen from water . But as the water gets polluted, fishes do not have a choice and have to take in some polluted water and their gills get blocked with pollutants. They die because of this. This water is not safe for me.

Baadshah: Stop right here, Fishy. You must not risk your life. We will go ahead on our own. Chhutki grab that huge leaf floating nearby. I'll get a stick. We shall use them as a boat and an oar. They will get us to places we need to see.

(Chhutki grabs a huge leaf floating nearby. Baadshah finds a floating stick. Carefully he gets off Fishy's back and on to the leaf. He then helps Chhutki on to the boat.)

Chhutki : Well done, Fishy! Thank you for the most enjoyable ride I've ever had. Now you must go back to where it is safe. Goodbye!

Fishy : My pleasure !The place you need to see, lies just up ahead, where the river turns sharply to the left. Goodbye and good luck to you both ! *(He turns and swims off; they wave goodbye.)*

Scene 4

The deadly drainpipe

They float on in their leaf boat with Baadshah guiding it through the water using his stick.

Chhutki : Goodness, Baadshah! That sound is getting so loud and frightening .

Baadshah: Yes, the water too has become **murky** and awfully smelly. Don't touch it.

(The sound has now become almost deafening. Baadshah steers the leaf boat carefully near the left bank. They move very slowly towards the turning. They stop and slowly look around the bend. What they see is absolutely shocking! A little ahead, a huge drainpipe pours out gallons of dirty, foul smelling water, which falls into the river with a thundering sound.)

Chhutki : Oh my goodness, Baadshah! Think, just one pipe pouring in so much dirt and poison into the river! Now there must be many more such pipes. The poor fish, animals and plantswater is their home....they will all be sick and soon die. But Baadshah, where is all this filth coming from?

Baadshah:*Just shut your eyes and count till three, You'll soon be big and then can see.*

Scene 5

Saving a turtle

*Chhutki shut her eyes. When she opens them, they are both big once again. She is now able to see all around. The deadly drainpipe looks smaller, but the polluted water flowing out of it is **lethal**.*

Baadshah: *(Pointing at some factories in the distance)* Look, at those buildings. They pour all their waste ... poisonous waste into the river. All industries need water for various processes. The water can be recycled back but usually till date not many industries recycled the water. They just dump the water into the river water. Some of the industries are leather, textile, pulp and paper, petroleum, and chemical factories... all this dirty water is coming from there!

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Chhutki : Yes, I can see the factory signboards quite clearly. I must write down their names .
(She takes out a small pencil and notebook from her pocket and writes the names of a few factories.) This is really terrible. Now, the river has now reached the towns. Let us go up to that little hill.

Chhutki : (Suddenly spotting something in the water.) Oh look! There's a turtle in the water, he seems to be in great trouble!
(They rush down to the river bank to find a turtle struggling for his life. He is covered with thick black oil. They pull him out of the water and place him on a rock nearby. Then they wipe him clean with their handkerchiefs).

Turtle : (*Coughing, opening his eyes, and breathing deeply.*) Oh, I can breathe at last. Thank you, thank you friends, for saving me.

Chhutki : What's the matter, little friend?

Turtle : Well, while swimming about in search of food, I suddenly got covered in this huge patch of dirty, oily waste. It is so terrible, it **chokes** us, burns the eyes and throat, and smells awful. Thank you again for saving me. I shall walk back along the bank till I find cleaner water and will then go home. (*He smiles at them and then begins to walk back slowly along the river towards his home.*)

Baadshah: Oil in the water forms a coat on the gills of fish and turtles, thereby blocking any transfer of oxygen. Also, oil forms a layer on water and prevents sunlight and oxygen from air to enter into the water.

Chhutki : Goodbye, little friend. Take care! (They watch him go.) I'm so glad we saw him and wear able to help him in time. But think of so many other turtles, fish, birds, and other animals and plants who are not so lucky.

Baadshah: Yes, Chhutki. Even my magic cannot do enough to help them all. All this is caused by people ... careless people. But, there is still something we have, that can definitely help....

Chhutki : But how?

Baadshah: I am sure you will get some ideas as you learn more. Lets move on quickly.

Scene 6

Near the hill

They walk to the top of a small hill nearby from where they can see the entire stretch of river.

Chhutki : This is a good view. But, so many buildings?

Baadshah: That is because there are so many people living and working in towns and cities . They cook, clean, bathe,wash and all their dirty drainage and sewage water is brought through pipes and poured into the river.

Chhutki : This is worse than I had imagined! Can't we talk to the people and tell them that they must not spoil the river?

Baadshah: I'm afraid, most people take water and the rivers for granted ... as if these will always be there. They don't seem to realize that animals and plants live in the water. They are too busy all day.

Scene 7

In the town

*When Chhutki opens her eyes she finds they are standing in a narrow, dirty street of a very crowded, noisy town. There are houses, shops, people, animals and vehicles everywhere. To the left, is a water pipe where a group of people **clamour** as they collect water, bathe, wash clothes and utensils from a tap which is flowing onn-stop. Just nearby is a large sewer pipe which is leaking.*

Baadshah: Look, Chhutki, you mentioned that one of your friend is suffering from jaundice . Now, see. There is a horrible leaking sewer pipe near the water pipe. Infection from the leaking **sewage** can easily spread to the water line however small the leakage may be. This can also lead to intestinal infections and gastric problems.

Chhutki : Goodness! I must tell them. *(She rushes towards the people and tries to talk to them.)* Oh please, stop! Don't use this water, it could be infected. See, there is that leaking sewer line nearby. Have it properly repaired first. If you don't, you can get very ill. *(The people stare at her for a moment, then get busy with what they were doing, laughing and chatting as if she wasn't there. Chhutki returns, most annoyed.)* I don't believe it. They won't even listen!

Baadshah: *(Shaking his head knowingly.)* Come this way, Chhutki. *(He takes her towards the side, from where they can see a part of the river bank below. It is an awful sight. The water in the river is dirty and still. In it, all kinds of garbage-old tyres, wood, tin cans, bottles, rags, kitchen waste etc. are seen floating.)* Doesn't this look like those pictures in your books?

Chhutki : Should we not care for our rivers which provide us with water for drinking, bathing, and washing? Can we do without water.. clean water? We have to do something, soon!

Baadshah: Most definately! But what do you have in mind?

Chhutki : I will get all my friends together and tell them about all that I have seen. We will then plan how to spread the word to people so that they know what is happening and ask them for their help.

Baadshah:A good beginning, Chhutki. But now, it's time you got back home and completed your project.

Chhutki : You know about that?

Baadshah: Well, I do sit on your table most of the time .
Heh, heh! *(He chuckles.)*

Chhutki :What? Oh, the Baadshah doll! Well, yes, you do. Let's go home now and goodbye to you for now. I'll tell you all about what we should do to keep our rivers claeen when I see you next. Right now, I have lots to get done.

Baadshah: Well then, goodbye, good luck....

*Just shut your eyes and count till three
And soon all safe, at home, you'll be.*

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Scene 7

Back at home

Chhutki awakes, almost falls off her chair. She is still holding in her hand the Baadshah doll.

Chhutki : Was it all a dream? But it seemed so real!

Mother: (*Entering*) Chhutki, have you found anything useful in those books? Did you fall asleep again?

Chhutki :Actually, both, mother. Yes, I think I now know exactly what to do.

Mother : Meaning...?

Chhutki :My project on water pollution. Tomorrow I have a very important meeting with my friends. Can I hold it here, Mother?

Mother : Meeting? Certainly, Chhutki, but about what?

Chhutki : Mother, I have decided that we must work out a plan to let people in our school and [neighbourhood](#) know about how water and **aquatic life** are being destroyed by pollution and why?

Mother : And what is your plan?

Chhutki : We can start by making a list of factories that are polluting the river. We could write letters requesting them to stop this. If they don't listen, we could write to the newspapers asking them to write about it so that everyone becomes **wary**. We could make posters illustrating water pollution and its prevention. We can put these up in our colonies and schools. We can we make greeting cards asking people to help stop water pollution.

Mother : Chhutki, that is truly a wonderful plan. What made you think of all these things?

Chhutki : A dream, mother. Will you help us?

Mother : I'll be more than happy to help you. I'll also get some of my friends over for your meeting. Wouldn't that be good?

Chhutki : Wonderful, mother!

Both : For a cause as important as this, all must do their bit. Only then things can and will get better.