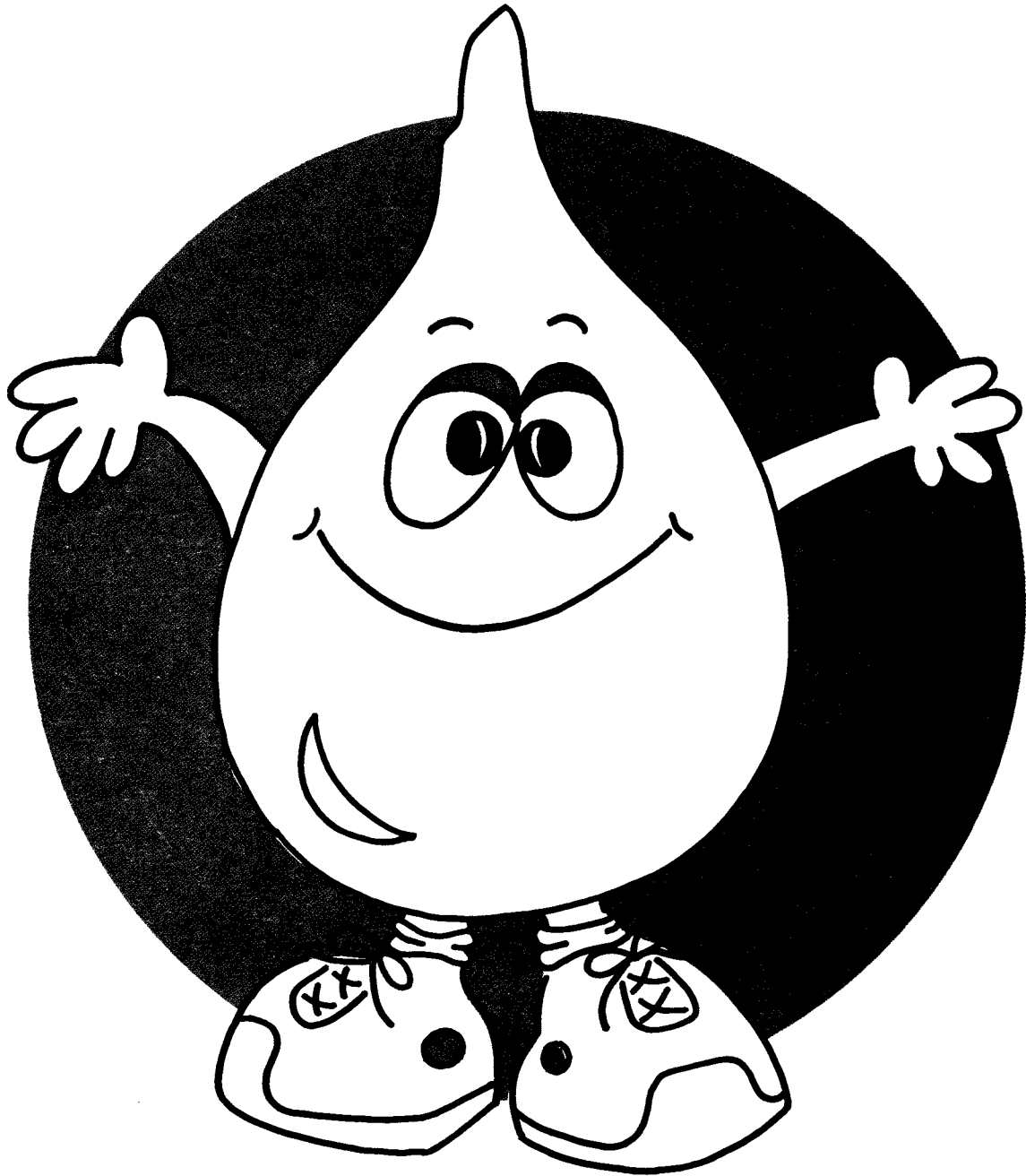


Water Is Peter's Best Friend A Flannel Board Story



Grade Level K-2
A supplement to Water Is Your Best Friend

This Flannel Board Story was
adapted from the California Department
of Water Resources' teacher's guide,
Water Is Your Best Friend.

**State of California
The Resources Agency**

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A supplement to Water Is Your Best Friend

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Department of Water Resources
Office of Water Education



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Governor
State of California

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INTRODUCTION

Water Is Peter's Best Friend. A Flannel Board Story is designed to aid teachers in explaining the basic concepts of water to K-2 grade students. It teaches children about the importance of water, where it comes from, and why we should use it wisely.

The flannel board story includes a script for teachers to follow (page 1), a vocabulary list of commonly used water-related words (page 5), and directions for making the flannel board and characters (page 7). Note that the vocabulary words are underlined in the script.

The teacher reads the script to the children and, thus, plays all of the roles. He or she, while reading, places the characters on the flannel board to illustrate the story about Willy the Water Droplet and his friend Peter as they explore the nature and uses of water. The teacher may want to have the characters already placed on the board and simply point to them.

Note that the numbers on the left side of the script correspond to the characters starting on page 9 that are to be "on stage" during the scene.

Children listen to the teacher read the story. They are quite attentive during this type of presentation — it makes learning about the wise use of water interesting and easy for them to understand at the lower grade levels. The children usually sit in a semicircle on the floor very close to the board.

Concepts for this story are taken from the California Department of Water Resources' publication Water Is Your Best Friend teacher's guide. Teachers can use the flannel board story in conjunction with this teacher's guide, which explains the importance of water, the water cycle, and how to use water wisely.

Special credit is given to Diana Laney who wrote and illustrated the flannel board story; to Lydann Lord who created the concept; and to Western Municipal Water District which sponsored the unit.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| Introduction | iii |
| Water Is Peter's Best Friend —The Script..... | 1 |
| Vocabulary List..... | 5 |
| Directions for Making the Flannel Board and Characters | 7 |
| Flannel Board Characters | 9 |

Water Is Peter's Best Friend — The Script

(20 minutes)

(1) a-d Little Peter loved water! He saw it everywhere—in lakes and streams and oceans, in the rain and in the snow and ice and steam. But he really didn't know just how important water really is. Do you know how important water really is? Water helps to grow the plants you eat, and water also keeps you from getting thirsty. Without water, you couldn't live! Peter wanted to learn a lot more about water, so one day he set out to find his best friend, Willy the Water Droplet, who could tell him all about water. He looked high and low, and one day found Willy in a puddle on the school playground!

PETER: "Hi Willy!" said Peter. "Will you tell me why water is my best friend?"

(2)

WILLY: "Sure!" said Willy. "Did you know that you have water in your body? Your body gets water from the food you eat, like apples. Apples have water in them, so when you eat an apple, you are also eating water! Foods like milk, vegetables, and bread contain water. And, of course, when you drink water, your body is storing this water! You know you have water in your body when you have been running or playing hard because your body sweats. This is water that comes out of your body through your skin to cool you off. This is your natural air conditioner!"

(3)

(4)

(5)

PETER: "Boy, on a hot day like this, I'm really glad I have water inside me!" said Peter.

WILLY: "I bet you are!" laughed Willy. "Water is helpful too, because we can use water to clean things. We use water to clean our bodies by taking showers or baths and by brushing our teeth. We also clean our windows and floors, the car, the dishes, and clothes, all by using water. So you see, water is very important to all of us!"

PETER: "I use water to wash my dog, too!" Peter added.

WILLY: "Water is not only important, but it is fun to play with too! Floating on an innertube in a pond or river is lots of fun. Fishing is fun too, and you need water to do these activities, don't you?" asked Willy. "So you see, water is your best friend!"

(6)

"Did you know that water wears three costumes? I'm a water droplet, so my water costume is a liquid. I'm called a liquid because you can pour me, drink me, use me to wash things, swim in, or fish in. But, what are the other water costumes? Here comes another one of them right now!"

(7) Peter blinked, and suddenly an ice cube was standing next to Willy!

IKE: “Hi! I’m Ike the Ice Cube! My water costume is solid water. You can make solid water like me by freezing liquid water. When water becomes very cold, all the tiny molecules in water move very, very slowly and the water becomes harder and harder, and more and more solid. The water molecules crowd very close together. In ice like me, the molecules are really close together!”

PETER: “Brrrrrrrrrr!” said Peter. “That sounds too cold for me! But where is the other water costume?”

(8) Suddenly a little steam puff appeared next to Ike the Ice Cube and Willy the Water Droplet.

WESLEY: “Howdy!” said the little steam puff. I’m Wesley, and my water costume is water vapor. Water becomes vapor when it becomes very hot. If you heated water in a steam kettle, the tiny water molecules in the water would move faster and faster, and would soon begin to jump into the air. This is called evaporation. Those water molecules in the air move far away from each other. When the molecules move close together again, the steam turns into solid water again. This is called condensation. If you’ve ever heated up water in a steam kettle and watched the steam come out, that steam is water vapor, just like me!”

WILLY: “Thank you, Ike and Wesley,” said Willy. “Now Peter, would you like to see how all three water costumes—solid, liquid and vapor, play an important part in the water cycle?”

PETER: “Oh yes!” Peter said happily.

WILLY: “Without the water cycle,” said Willy, “we would quickly run out of water. But in the water cycle, water changes from water vapor to liquid to ice and back to liquid around and around in a never-ending cycle.”

PETER: “How does the water cycle work?” asked Peter.

WILLY: “Hang on and let’s find out!” Willy said. The four companions held hands and suddenly flew up in the sky, high over the land!

(10) “Look down,” said Willy. “You can see the oceans and meadows and mountains and streams. The water cycle begins when water in the oceans
(11) and lakes and rivers is heated by the hot sun.

WESLEY: “That is me!” said Wesley the water vapor. “The ocean water evaporates and rises very high above the ocean.”

WILLY: “That is right,” said Willy. “And then if those water vapor molecules rise high enough where it is cooler, they condense to form a cloud. Every time you see a cloud, you are looking at water vapor that has cooled and condensed.”

- PETER:** "What happens then?" asked Peter.
- WILLY:**
(13) "Than the wind blows the clouds over the land," answered Willy. "If the cloud becomes even cooler, all the tiny water molecules move even closer together, and join together to make big heavy drops. These fall as rain."
- IKE:**
(14) "Oh, I see!" said Ike the ice cube. "And if the cloud blew over a mountain where it was very, very cold, the tiny water molecules in the cloud would freeze and fall as snow!"
- WILLY:** "Yes, that is right," smiled Willy. "The snow will stay frozen on the ground as long as it is very cold outside. But soon the spring will come and warm the air. The snow, or frozen water, will melt and become liquid water once again. This liquid water may soak into the ground or run into streams and rivers to be carried back to the ocean, where the whole cycle starts all over again!
- So you can see, Peter, how the water cycle uses all forms of water!" said Wesley the Water Vapor. "Liquid water heats up and evaporates. As water vapor cools it condenses to make clouds, and as the water in these clouds condenses more it turns to rain or snow."
- IKE:** Ike the Ice Cube piped up, "And this is why we never run out of water!"
- WILLY:**
(15) "Yes," said Willy. "But instead of constantly moving somewhere, water is often stored. Water is stored in the ground after a rain. Plants use water that is stored in the ground—they drink it through their roots. People use stored
(16) water too. People store water behind dams. They store it to drink and to water their crops. But people must be very careful with their stored water. If the water becomes polluted with trash or wastes, then the water cannot be used. People must keep their water clean."
- PETER:** "Could we still run out of water?" asked Peter, as the four companions drifted back down to the playground.
- WILLY:** Willy the Water Droplet thought carefully, and then said, "We probably won't run out of water because there is so much water in the world now. But every day there are more and more people in the world, and every one of them needs water just like you. If we don't start using water wisely, someday there might not be enough for everyone.
- IKE:**
(17) "I know how to use water wisely!" said Ike the Ice Cube. "When you take a shower, you could make it a short shower instead of a long, hot steamy shower that wastes lots of water!"
- WESLEY:**
(18) "And when you brush your teeth," added Wesley the Water Vapor, "you should use water only to wet the brush and for rinsing, instead of leaving it on the whole time you brush your teeth."

WILLY: “Very good!” grinned Willy. “There are many other ways to use water wisely. If
(19) you see a leaky faucet, tell an adult to fix it. All those little water drops add up
(20) to a lot of wasted water. Or when you help wash a car, use a bucket and a
(21) sponge, and use the hose only to rinse, since the hose wastes lots of water.
Plants use a lot of our water, so only give them enough to keep them healthy.”

“Try to think of some other ways to use water wisely Peter, because water is your best friend!”

PETER: “I will,” promised Peter. He said goodbye to his friends and walked towards
(22) home, thinking about all the things he had learned about water.

“Water really is my best friend,” he thought. “It keeps me alive by letting plants grow for my food, and it keeps me from getting thirsty. I put water on the inside of my body when I eat and drink. I also use water to clean the outside of my body when I take baths and showers. Water is lots of fun to play with! Water changes into three costumes—from a liquid to a solid to a water vapor. Because water goes around and around in a cycle, changing forms many times, we do not run out of water. We can store water for drinking. But water must be kept clean and not wasted, because water is my very best friend! I’m going to use water very wisely!”

THE END

VOCABULARY LIST

(Grades K-2)

CLOUD - visible collection of water vapor in the air

CONDENSATION - liquid that has been vapor

CONDENSE - changing vapor to a liquid or solid form

CONSTANTLY - always

COSTUME - a type of clothing

DAMS - a barrier which stops the flow of water

DROPLET - a little drop of water

ELECTRICITY - energy which produces light and heat

ENERGY - ability to do work

EVAPORATION - the process in which heat warms water and changes it into a vapor

FAUCET - a device used to control the flow of water

FREEZE - to change liquid to a solid state by very cold temperatures

HOSE - a flexible pipe made out of plastic or rubber and used to water the garden

ICE - solid form of water

JOIN - bringing objects together

LAKE - body of water surrounded by land

LEAKY - the process of water dripping from something like a faucet or pipe

LIQUID - something that flows like water

MEADOW - open grassland area

MOLECULES - smallest part of a substance without changing it

MOUNTAINS - a very tall mass of earth and rock that is larger than a hill

OCEAN - a large body of salt water

PERSPIRATION - water that comes out of your body through your skin

POLLUTION - water which has become dirty

POND - a body of standing water smaller than a lake, often artificially formed

RAIN - water which has changed from a vapor to a liquid and falls from the sky

RINSING - final cleaning with fresh water

RIVER - a natural stream of water emptying into an ocean or lake

SALIVA - watery fluid in your mouth

SNOW - water which has changed from a vapor to ice and falls from the sky

SOLID WATER - frozen water

STEAM - the vapor that comes from boiling water

STEAM KETTLE - container used to boil water

STORING - keeping water for future use

STREAM - a steady flow of water; like a river but smaller

SWEAT - salty liquid that comes out of pores in the skin

TRASH - anything that has no use

VAPOR - the state of water when it has been heated to form a mist

WASTE - anything useless or worthless

WATER CYCLE - the steps water goes through in nature: evaporating from lakes and oceans, forming clouds, condensing as rain and snow, and falling back to earth.

WATER DROP - small amount of water

WISELY - in a smart or intelligent manner

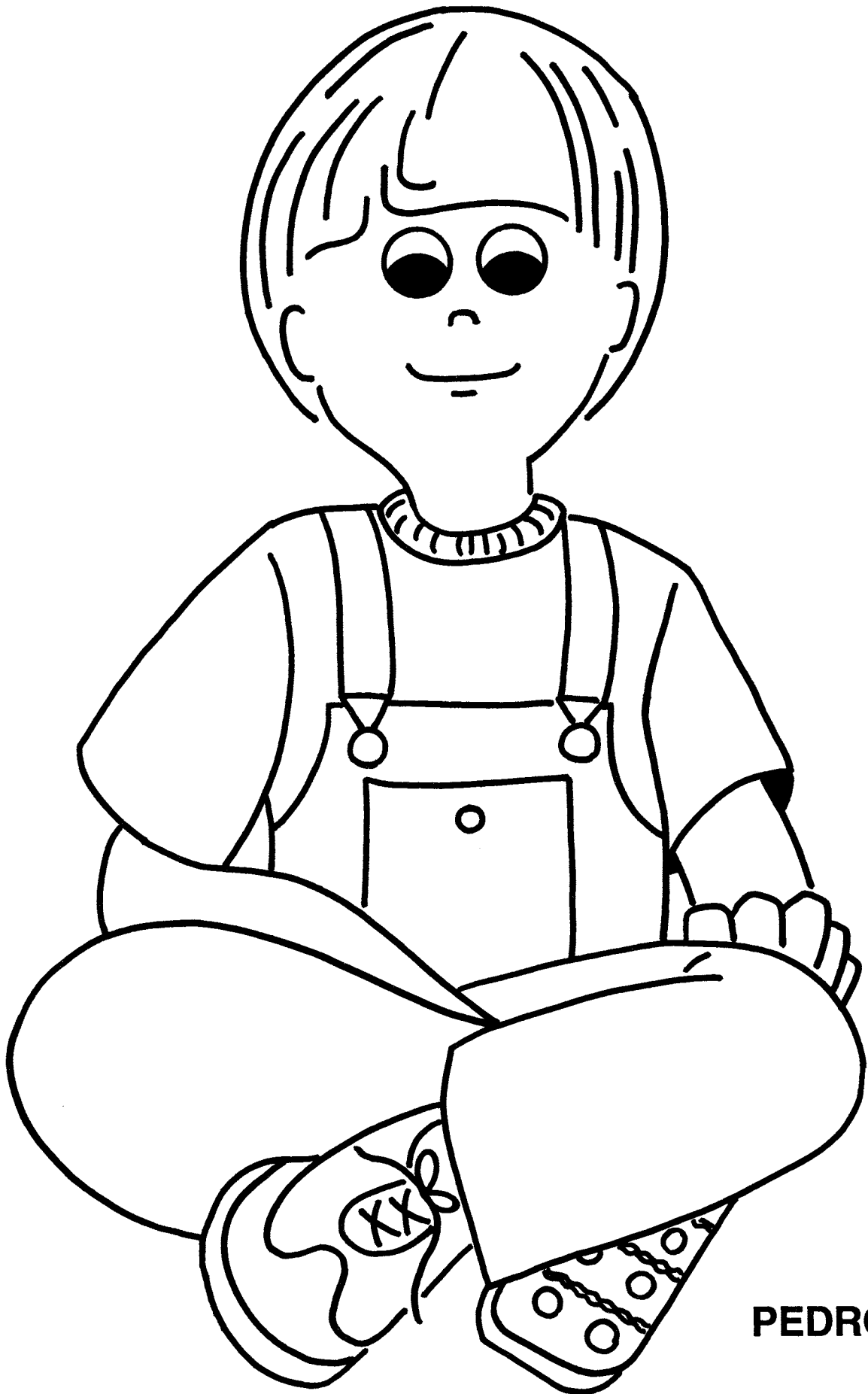
DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING THE FLANNEL BOARD AND CHARACTERS

1. Make the flannel board by gluing¹⁾ or stapling white flannel or other light colored flannel to a 3-foot-wide by 2-foot-high poster or foam board.
2. Trace characters onto medium weight interfacing (not the iron-on type).
(Use on overhead projector to enlarge scenery).
3. Number characters on reverse side to match them to the correct scene in the story.
4. Color characters with felt pens or liquid embroidery pens, or have students color the characters.
5. Spray the colored characters with a spray coating to keep the colors from fading or smudging.
6. Cut out the characters.

¹⁾*Spray mount can be purchased at art/graphic store for this purpose.*



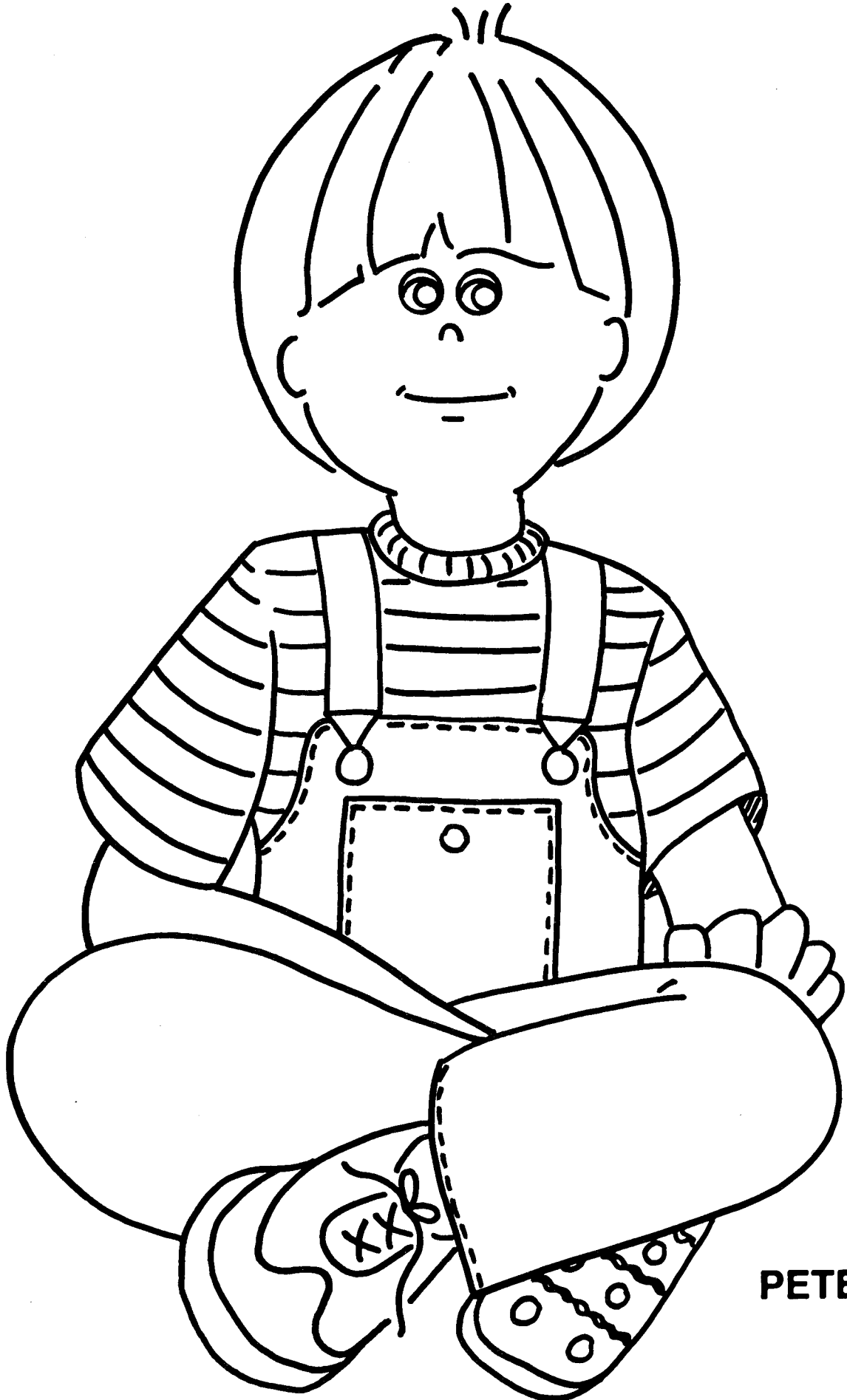
PETER



PEDRO

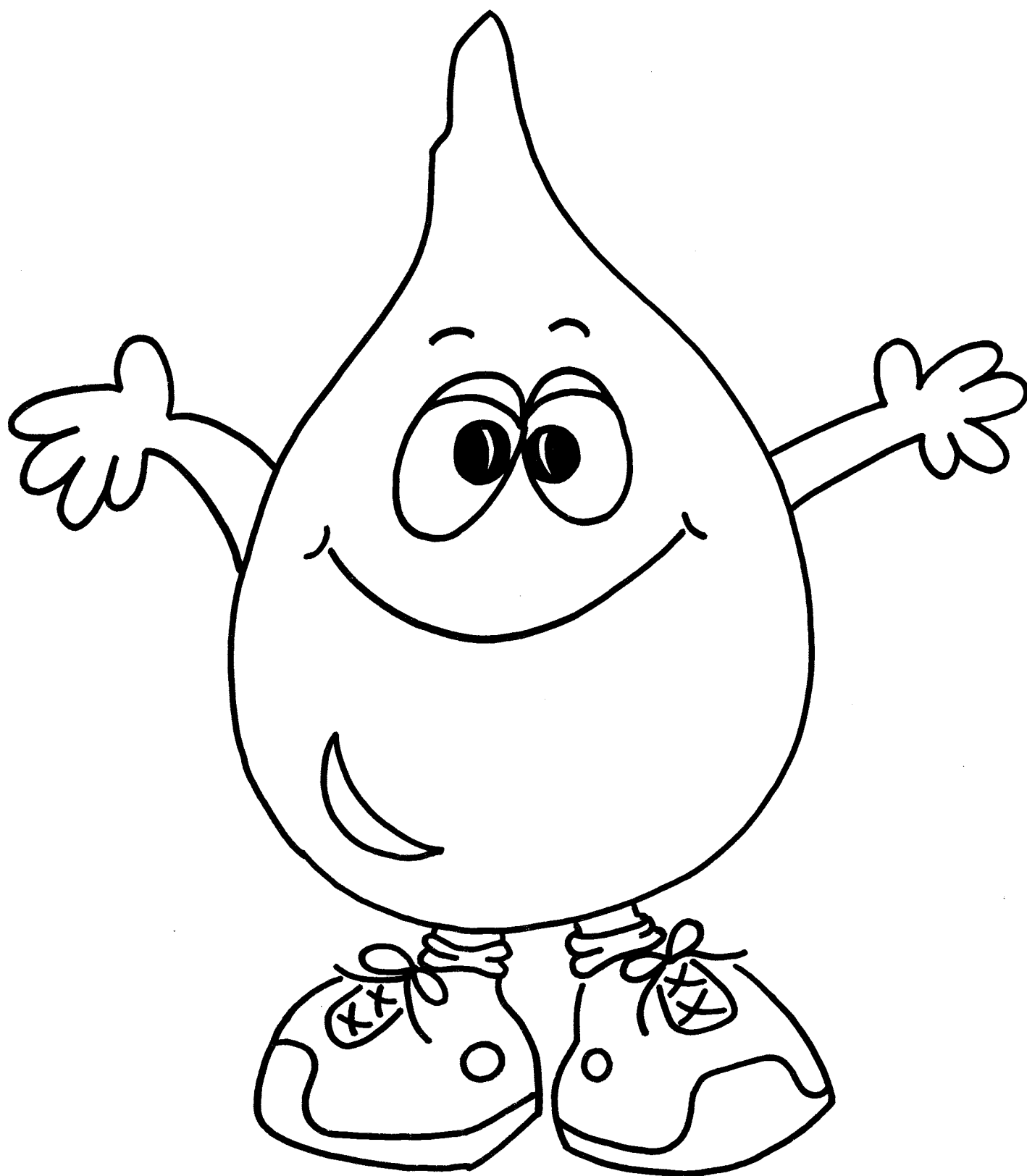


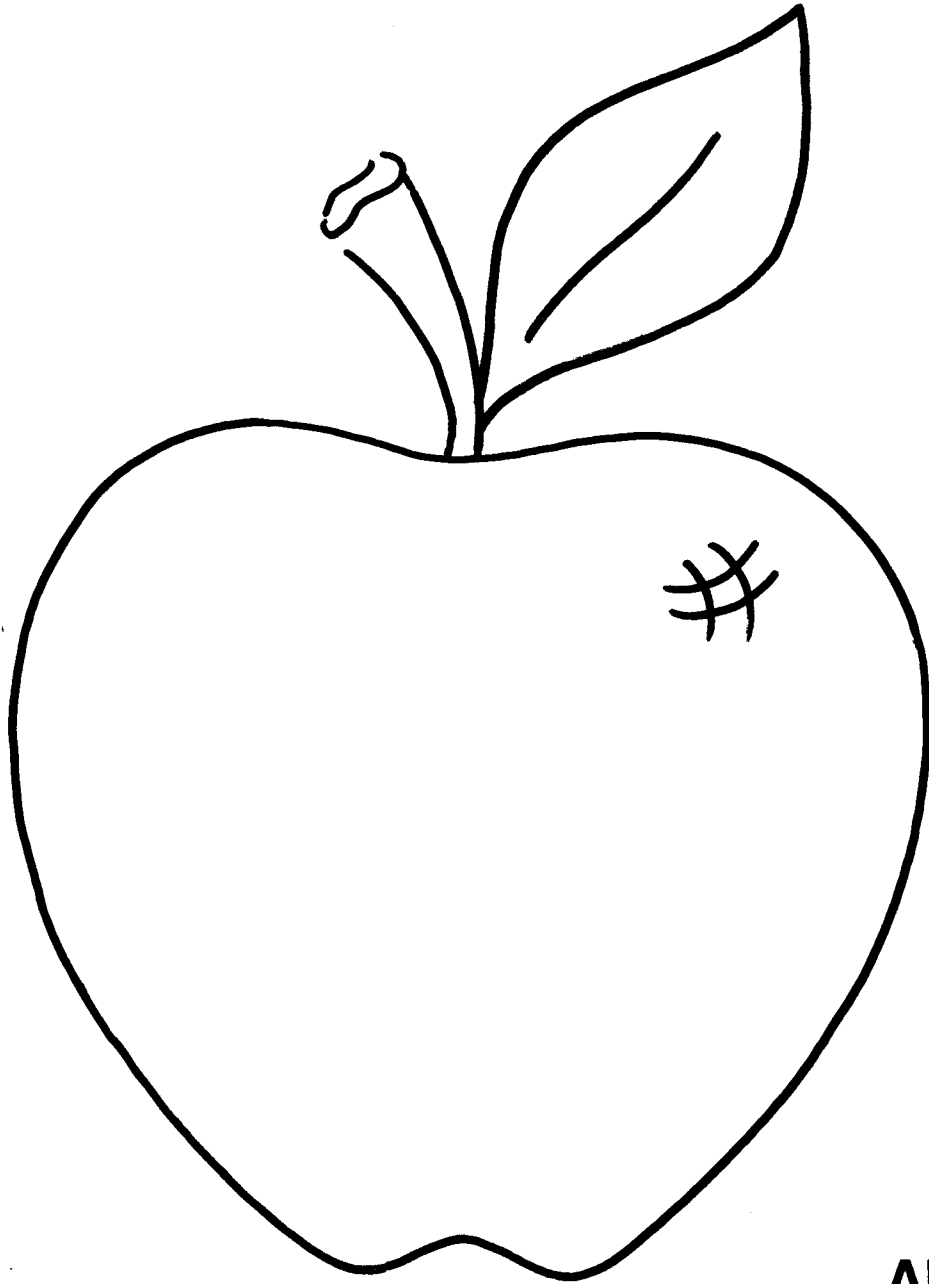
PETER



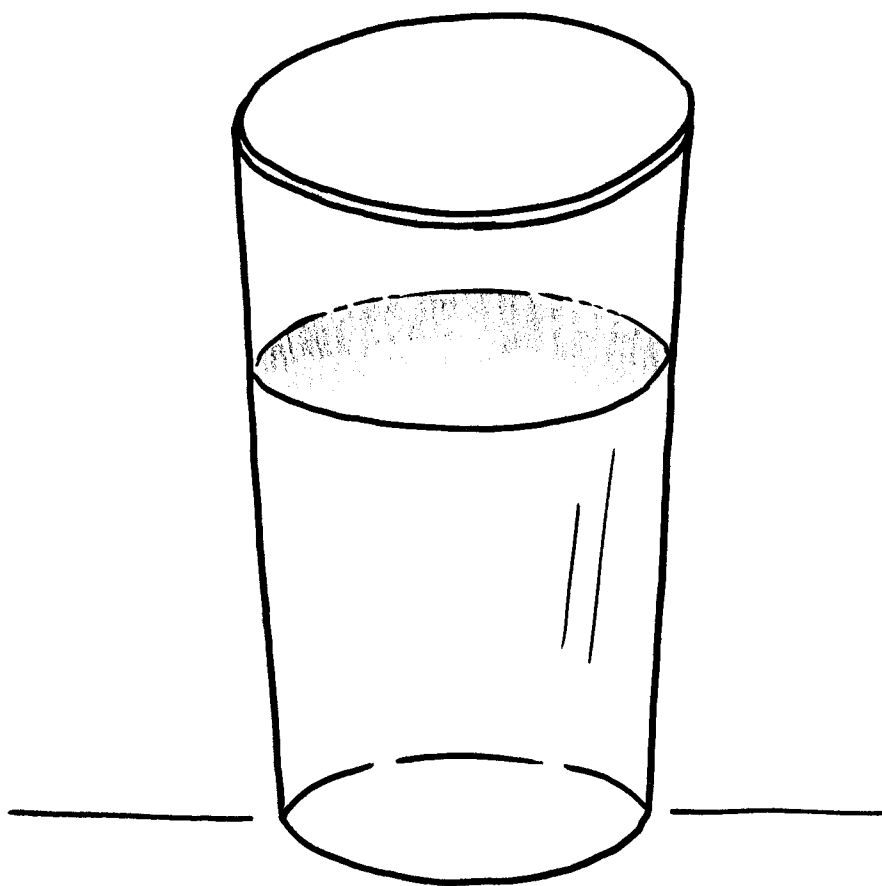
PETER

WILLY THE WATER DROPLET



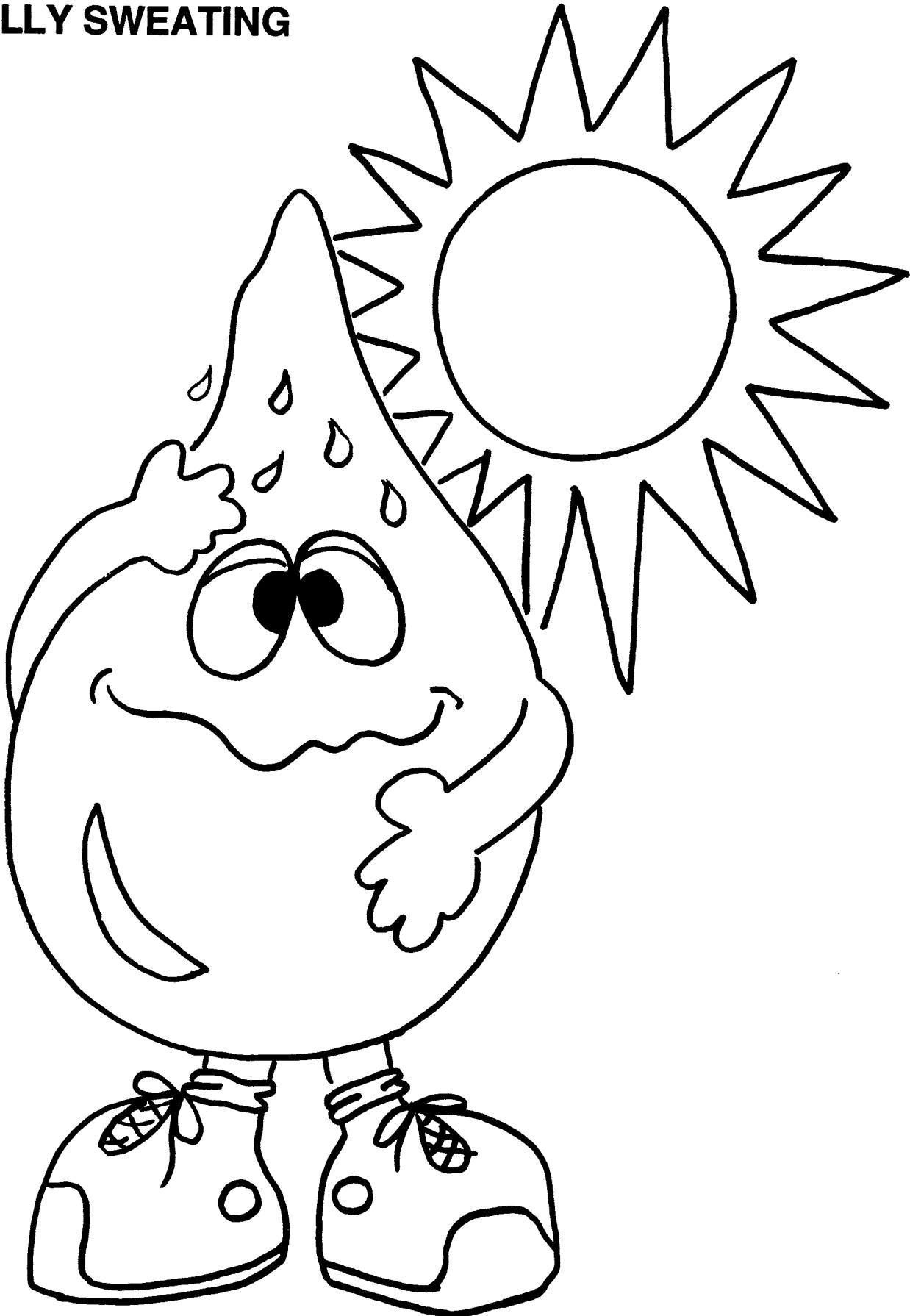


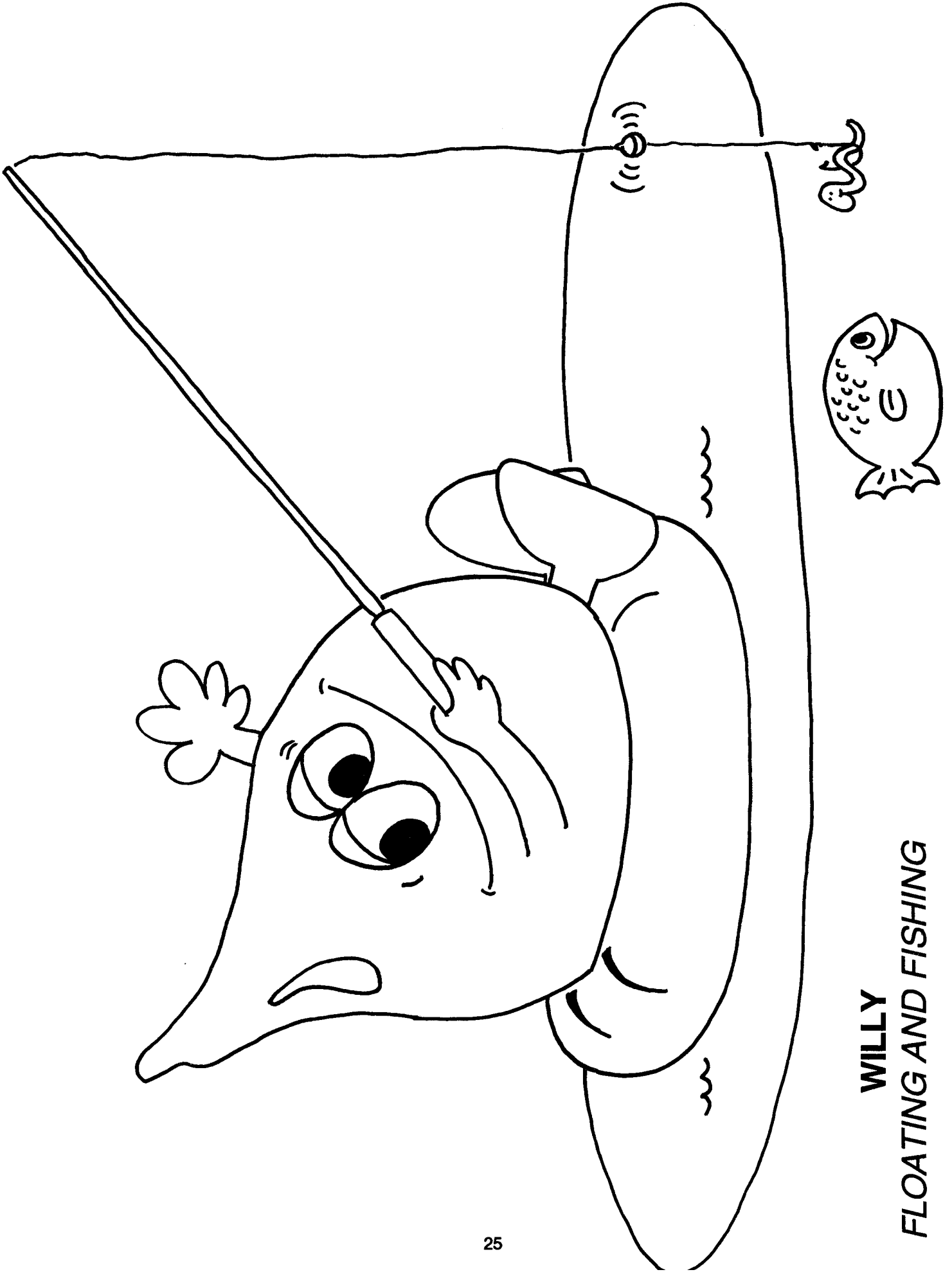
APPLE



GLASS OF WATER

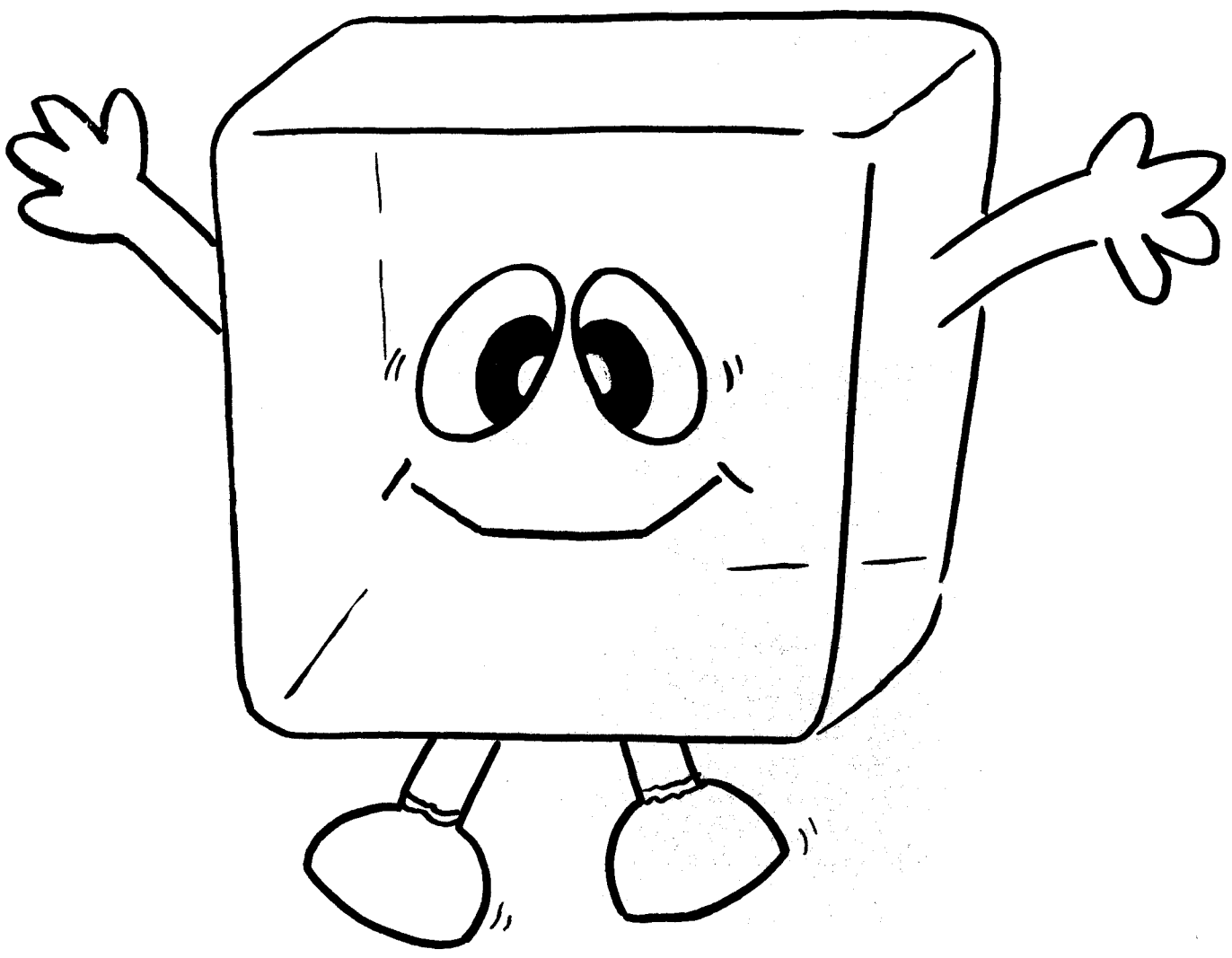
WILLY SWEATING



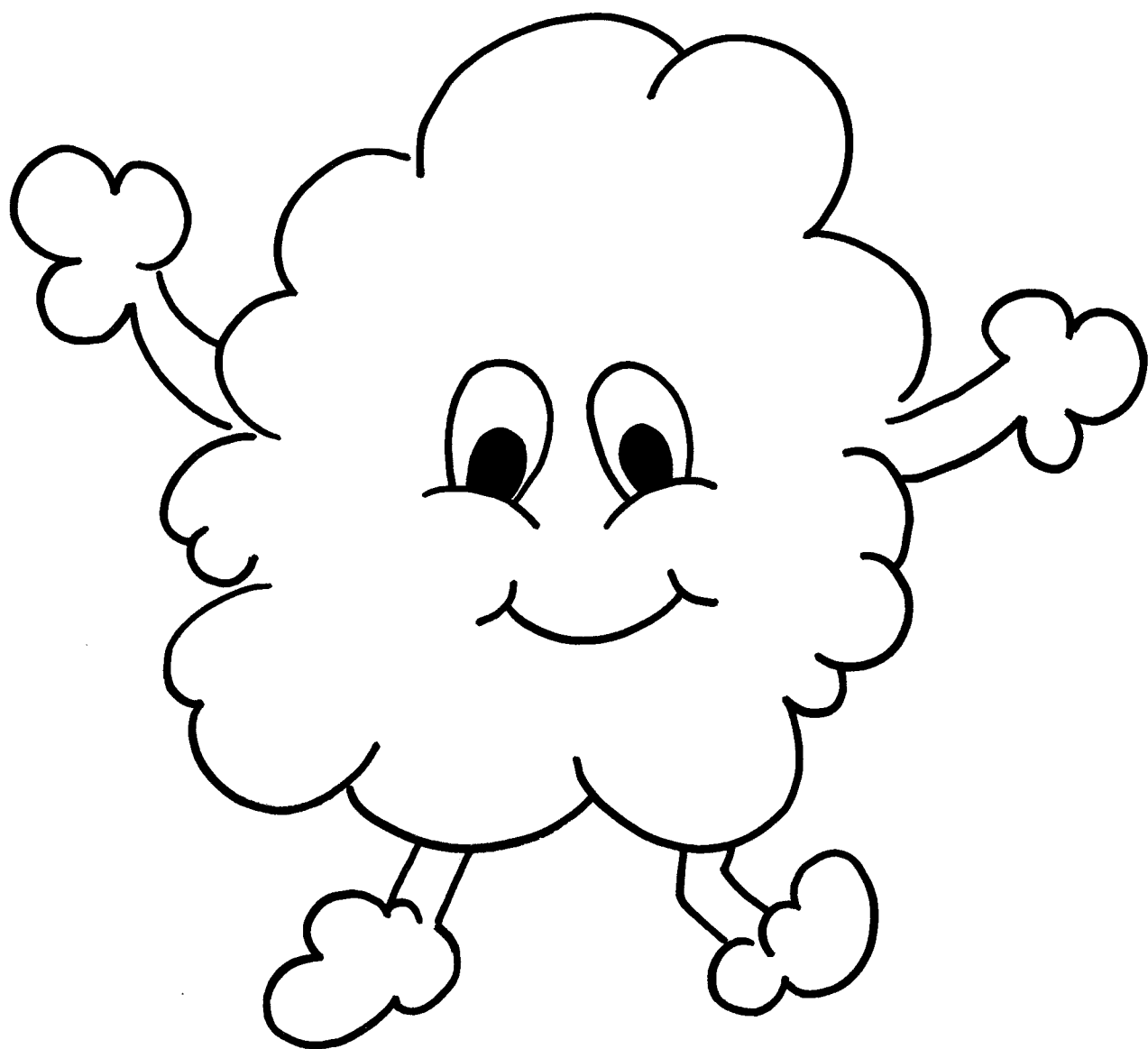


**WILLY
FLOATING AND FISHING**

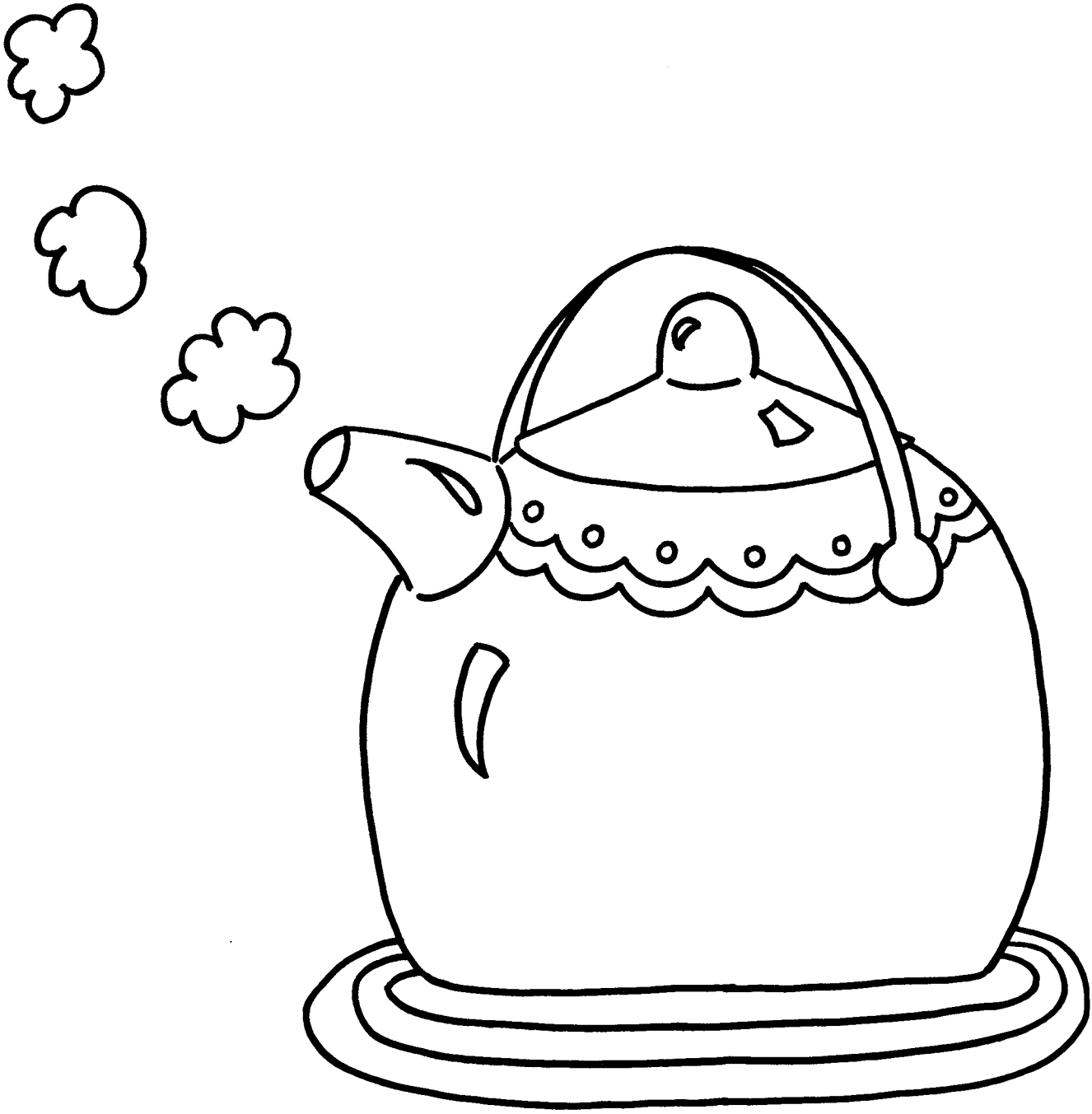
IKE THE ICE CUBE

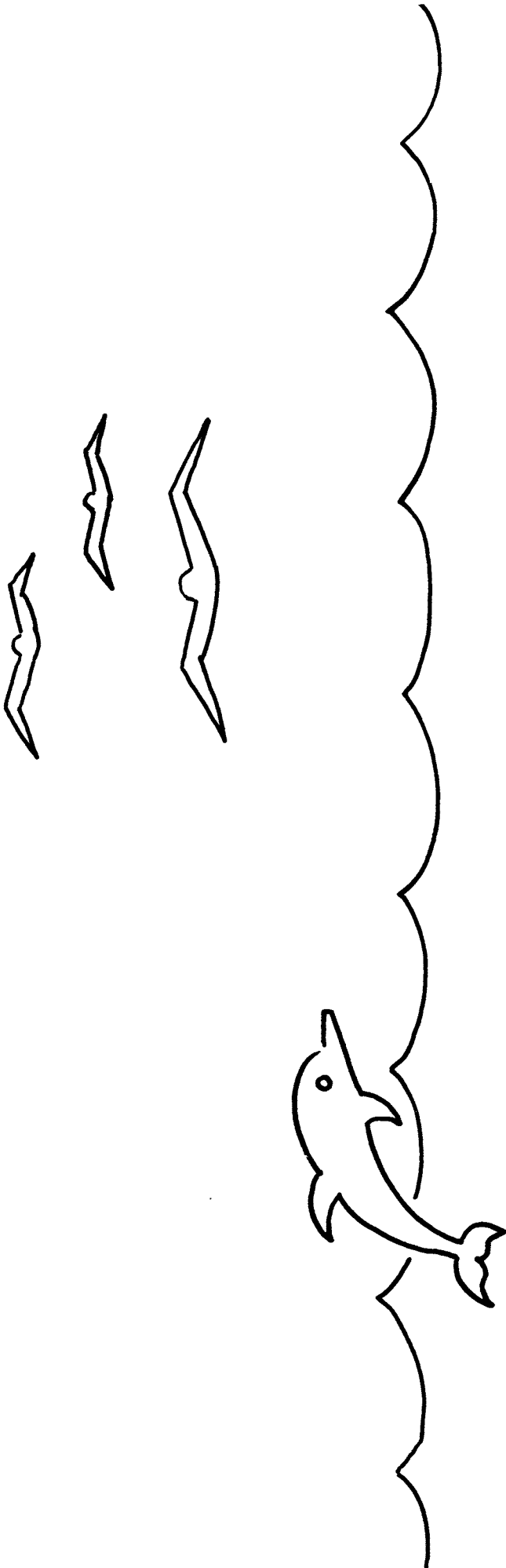


WESLEY THE WATER VAPOR

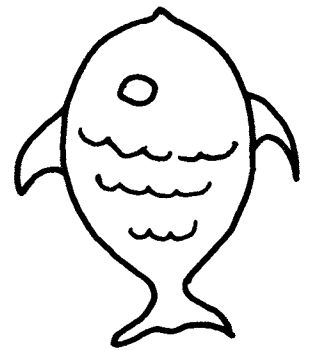


WESLEY'S KETTLE

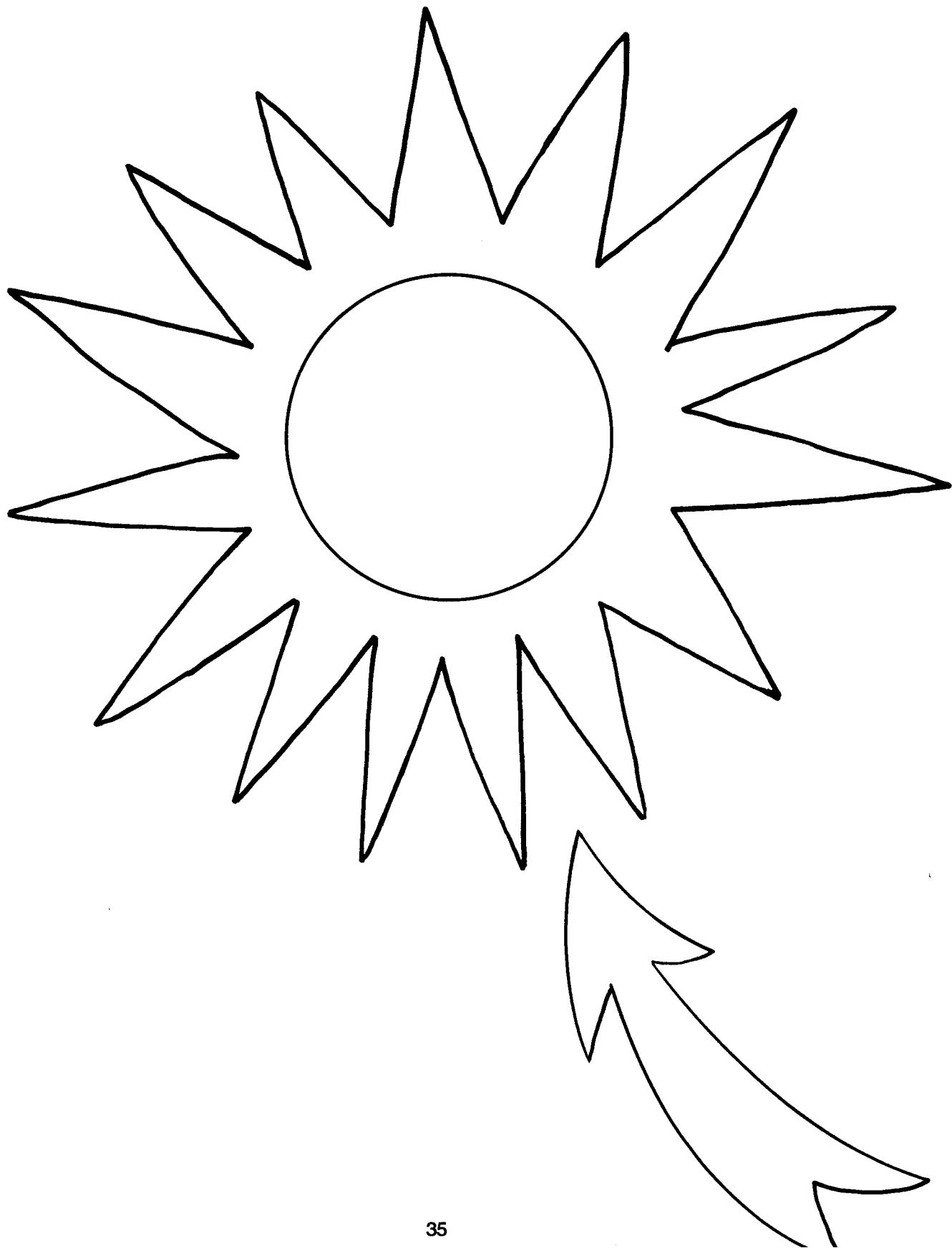




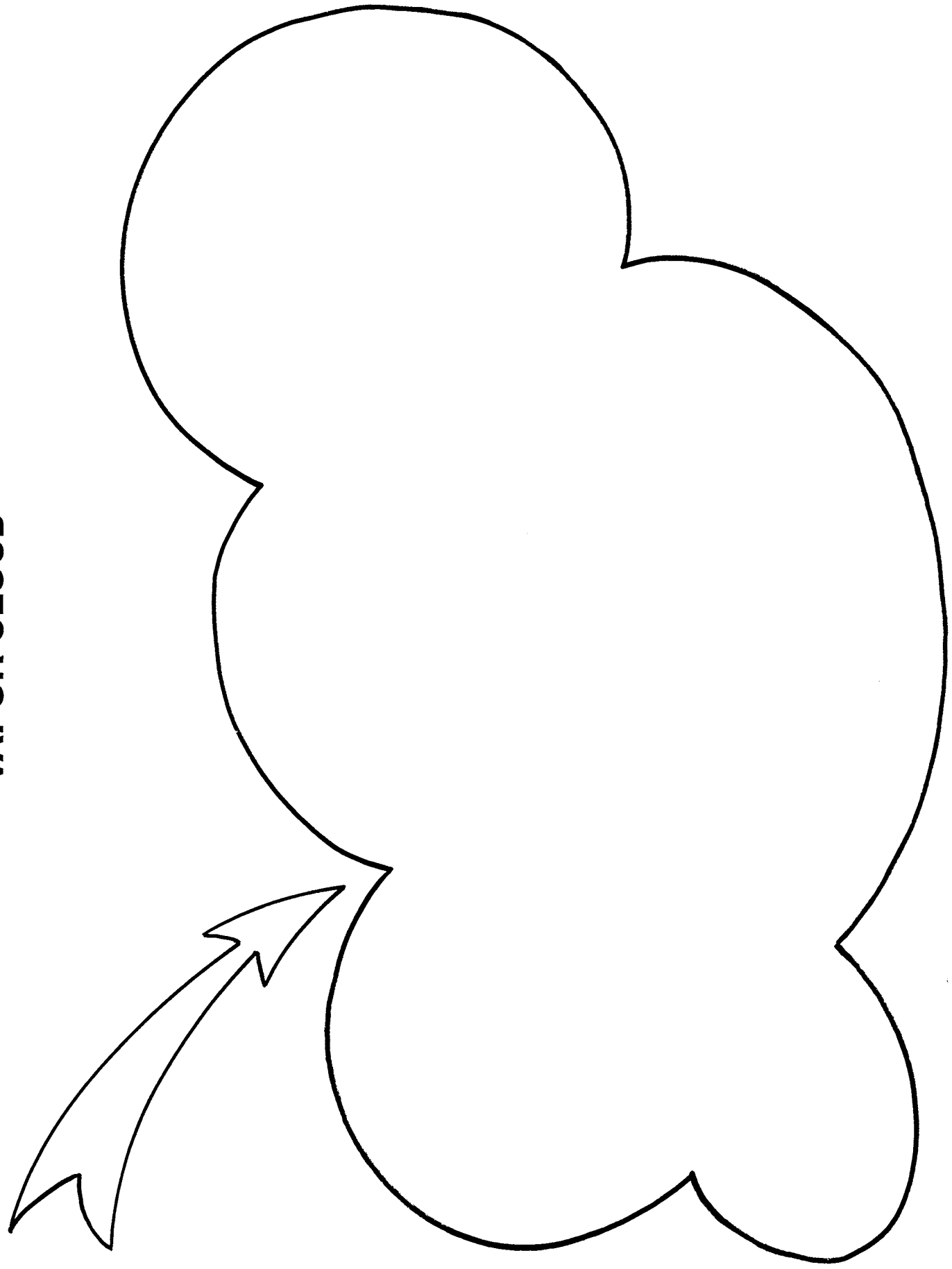
OCEAN

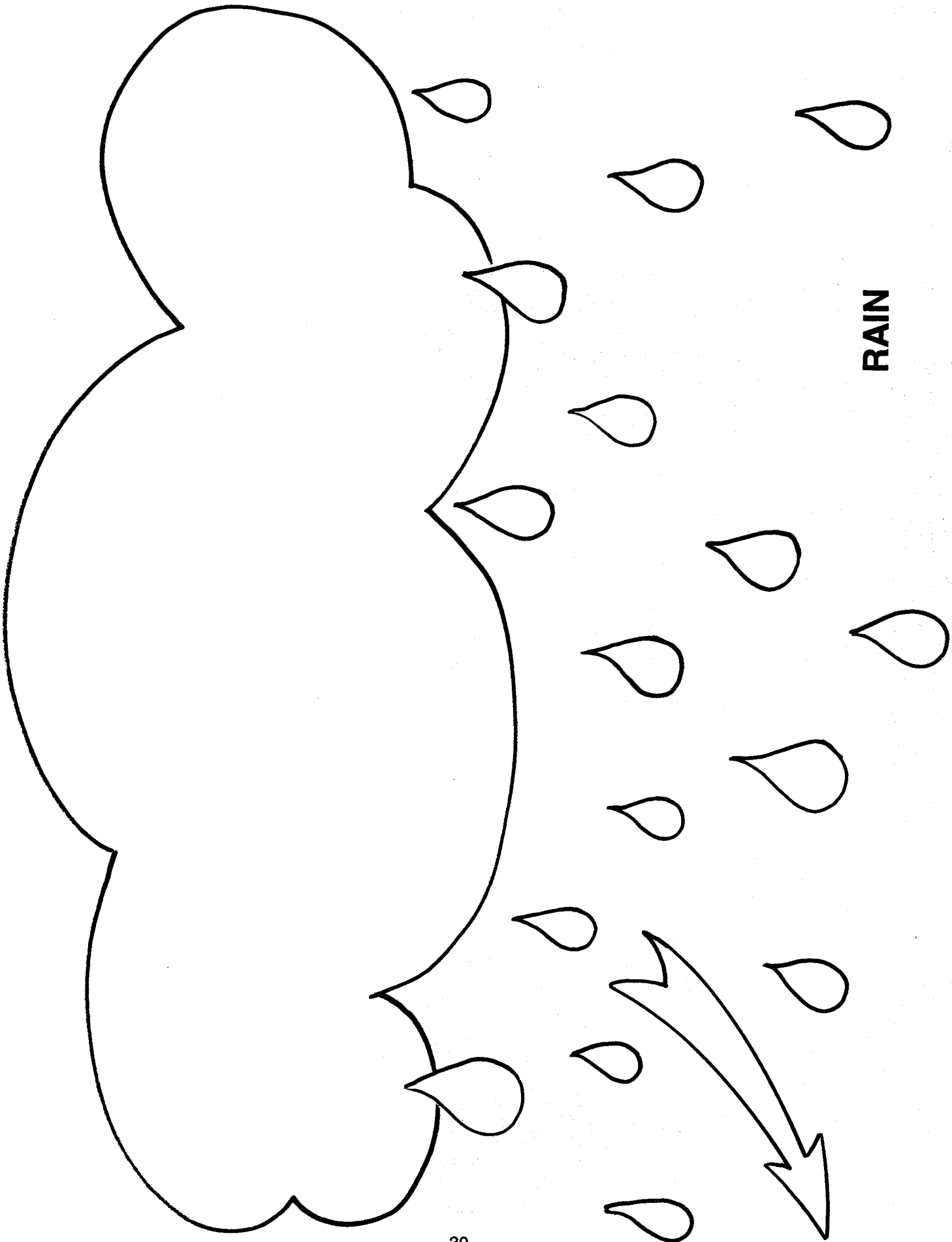


SUN



VAPOR CLOUD



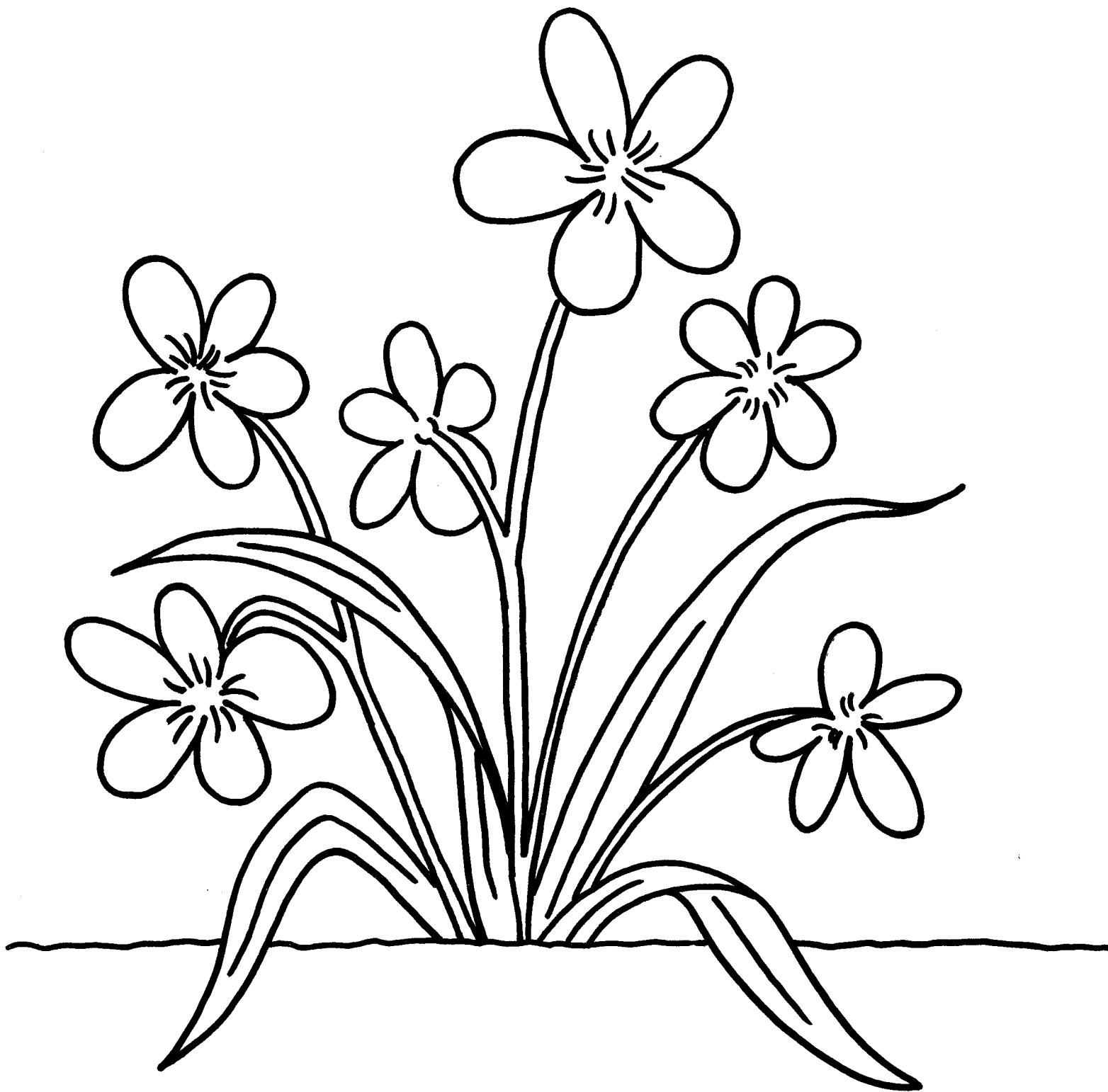


RAIN

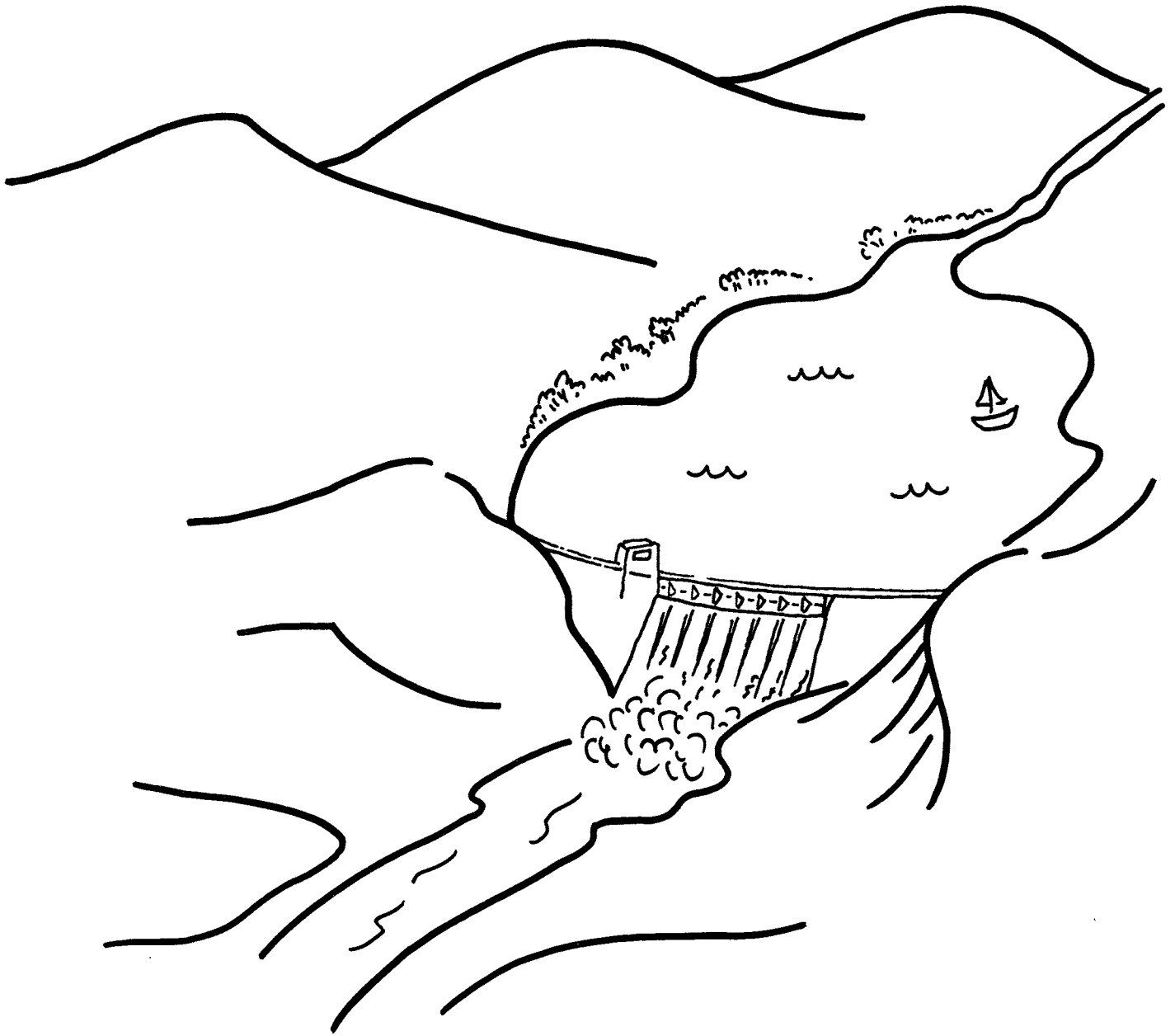
SNOW



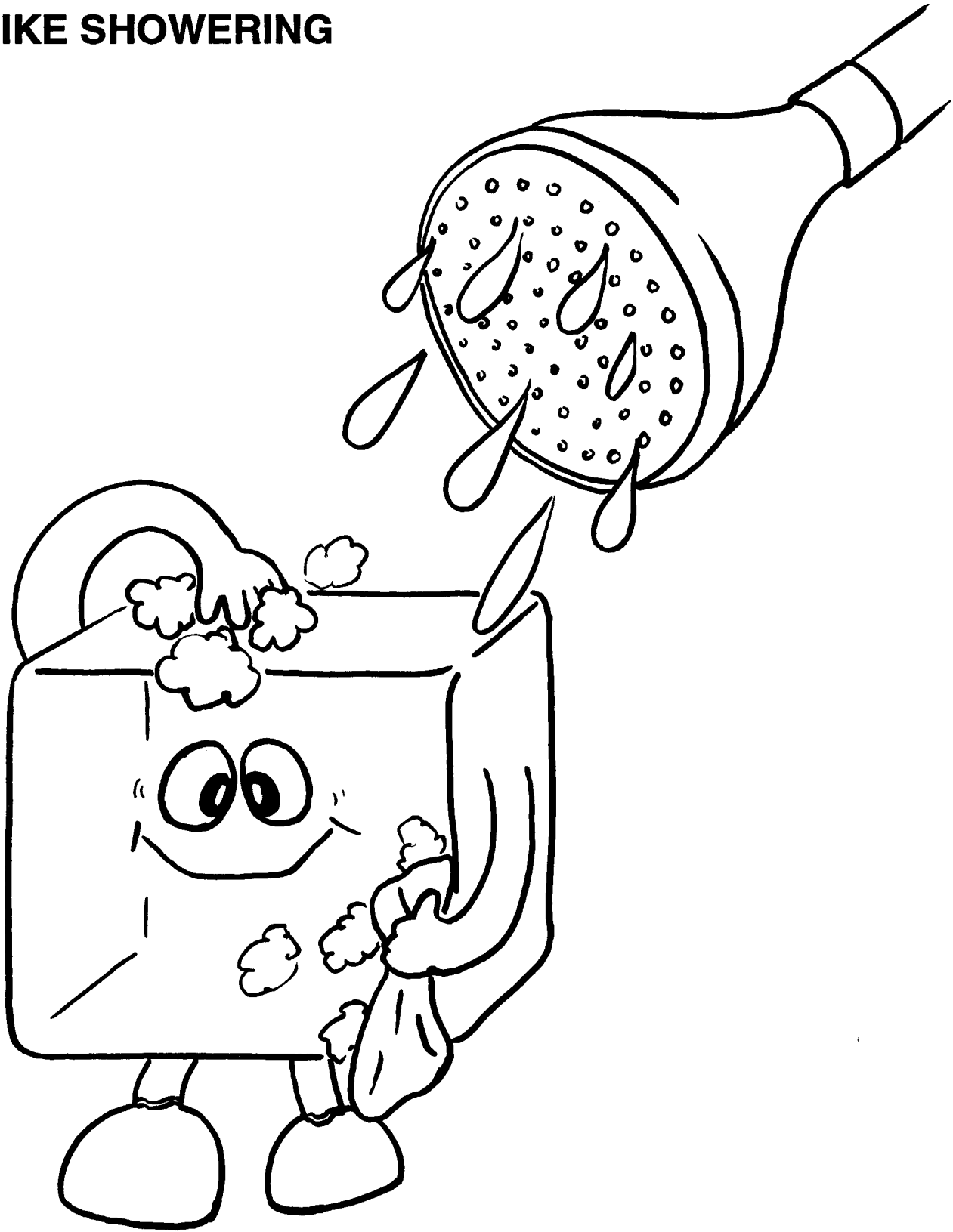
PLANT



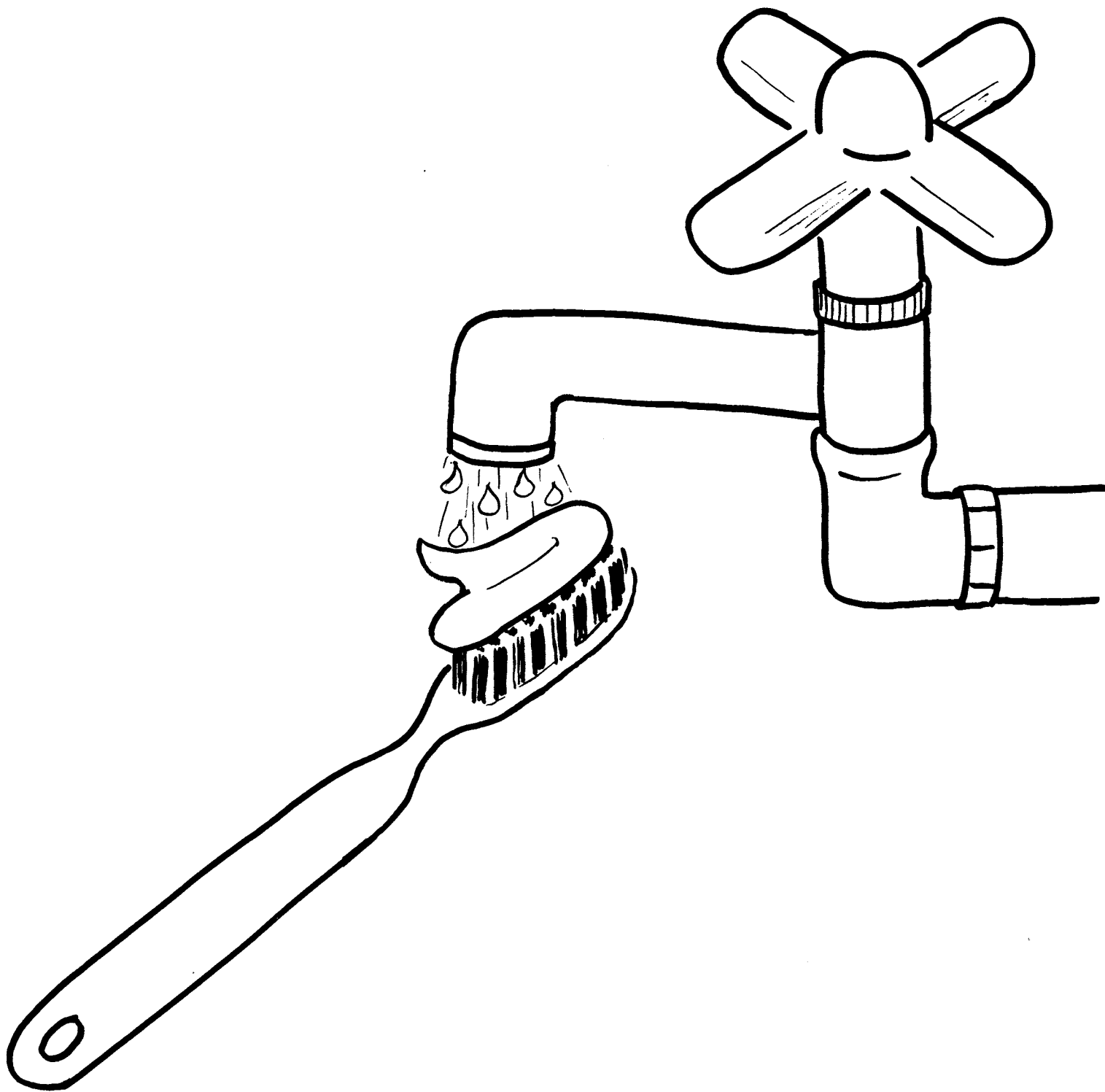
DAM



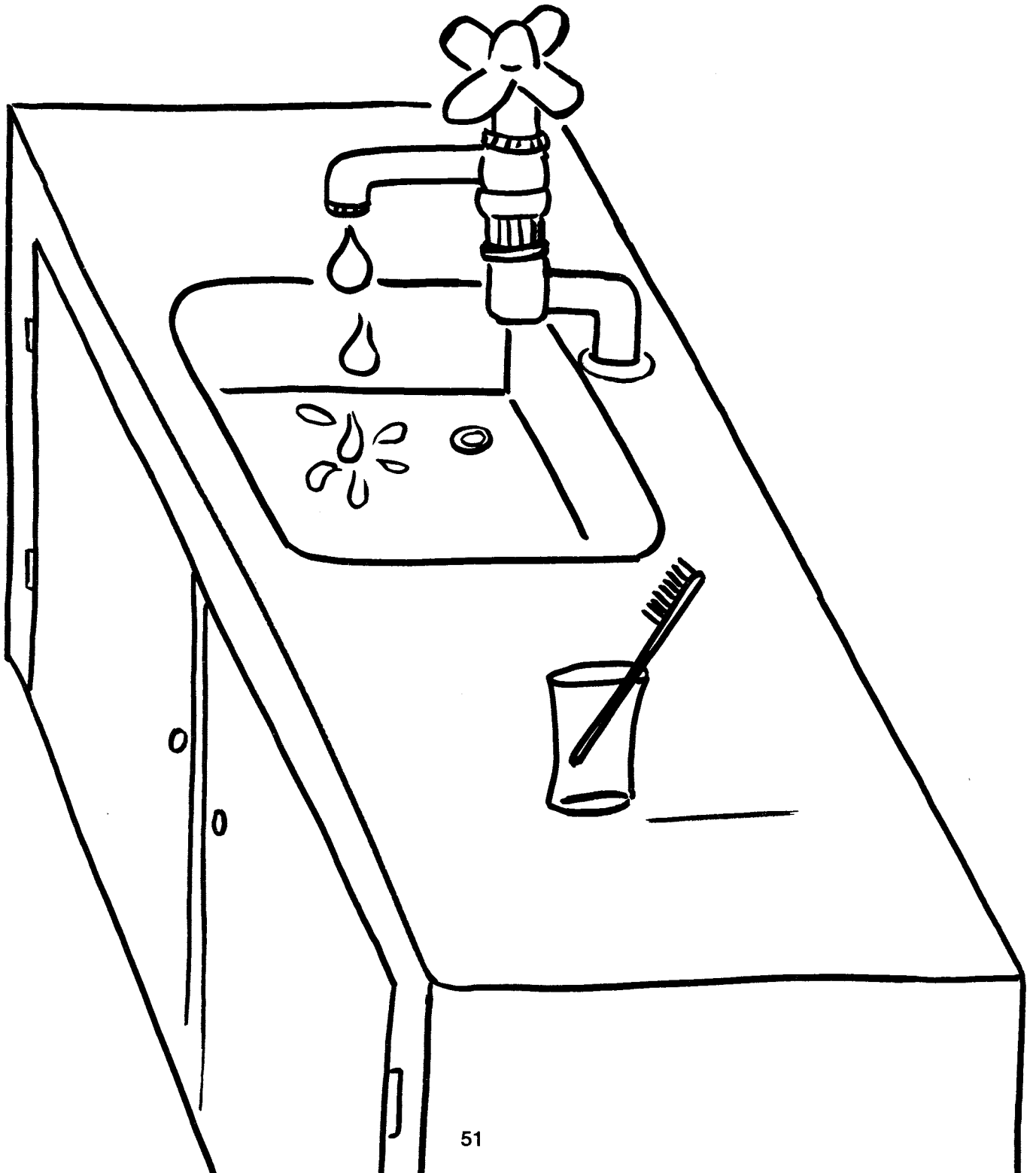
IKE SHOWERING



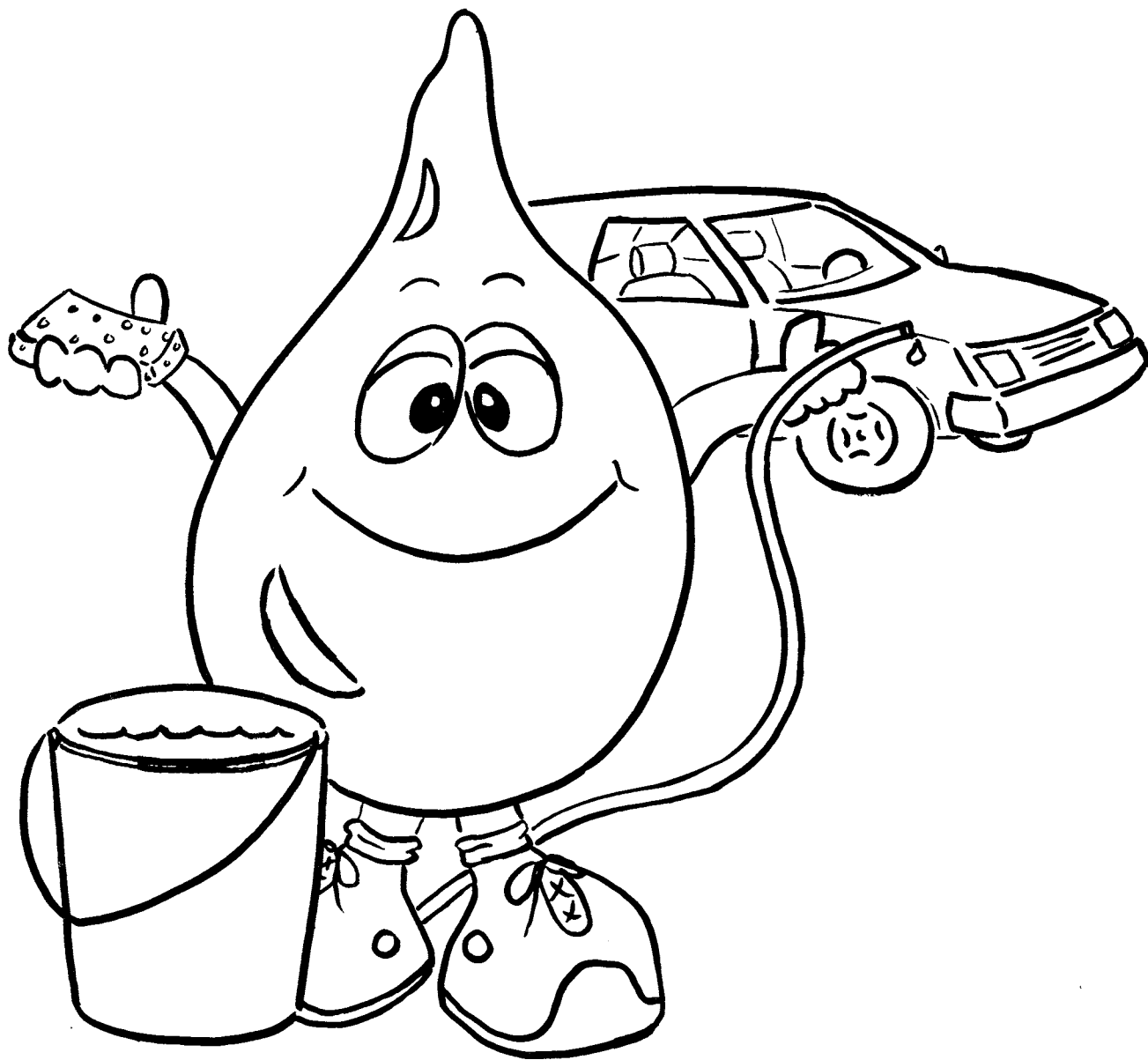
BRUSHING TEETH



LEAKY FAUCET



WASHING THE CAR



WATERING PLANTS



PETER WALKING HOME

