


## Highlighted Quest Response

...written by a middle school student in New South Wales, Australia

The image shows a screenshot of a quest interface. At the top, there is a decorative banner with a blue background and a character in a blue hat and tunic looking through a telescope. The text 'CLOSE [X]' is visible in the banner. Below the banner, the title 'I Am a Drop of Water' is centered in a yellow box. Underneath the title, the text 'Your goal(s) are to:' is followed by a list of four bullet points: 'Use the listed websites to help you learn about what happens to water after it falls to the ground.', 'Write a first person story that describes the journey of a drop of water from the time it leaves a garden hose until it reaches the ocean.', 'You might want to begin the story with, "I am a drop of water ...."', and 'Submit your story to the Council through the OTAK.'

I am a drop of water.

Hi! My name is Hydro (short for Hydrological). I am very versatile - at the moment, I'm light and misty, and riding on a white cloud with other droplets. We are speeding through the air.

Sometimes we bump into other clouds and sometimes we drift along. It's sunny and warm in the daytime and cooler when the sun sets, that doesn't bother me. It's the wind that pushes the cloud that worries me. We've been pushed for a number of days now, over a vast ocean and over some land, and up a huge range of hills. It's much higher up and much cooler. My friends and I stick close to each other, we are feeling uncomfortable, and heavy. One or two of my friends have already slipped through the cloud. We are on top of a mountain.

Our cloud has bumped into more clouds and it's very, very cold - I feel myself crystallizing. Some of my friends are white snowflakes, others are grey, and we are all slipping through the cloud and falling. Thankfully the pushy wind is not here so we are floating down. We tumbled down and gently land. Soon after the cloud lets all my friends tumble out as snowflakes. We rush down and settle on the ground. The next day the sun is out and shining brightly on us on the mountain. We warm up and change into liquid - water. Each of us slide down the mountain. We slide down and down joining up with other droplets; we don't know when we will stop, for we can't see the bottom. It's a rush, we keep sliding and then PLOP! We splash one by one into a creek. The creek is quite cold, but all my friends have joined me and we rush down over pebbles and rocks. Soon we are joined by another creek and I am now part of a river. I drift along now with my friends, it's a slow ride a couple of days. One morning, we end up in a massive lake. I swirl around and explore the lake. The lake is blue, and there are green algae floating about. There are reeds at the edges and little fishes swimming.

The following morning I hear farmers say that they will be using the water in the lake, for their vegetables. Without warning the thing I know, I'm being scooped and pulled into a narrow tube and lifted onto a carrot patch. My friends and I are poured onto carrots. Somehow I land on a

carrot leaf but all my friends have soaked into the ground to where the carrot roots are. I bounce on the carrot leaf and hope that I can fall on the ground, but it's a big green leaf and I just roll around. The day in the country is very long, boring and hot. A ladybug crawls around the carrot leaf and nibbles the leaf at the edge. But the day gets hotter and the bug flies away and I feel myself getting hotter and hotter. I transform into vapour and begin to rise, just like that bug. I'm being lifted into the air, I'm evaporating. I look up, it's seems a long way up, but I can see a group of clouds. My Home! I'm all light and misty and versatile again. I lie back in the cloud and look at the sky. I think to myself "Cloudy, with the chance of a storm, but that's another story! "

## Reviewer Comments and Feedback

Feedback from **3/9/2010**

Status: **Accept**

Dear quester,

This is FANTASTIC! One of the best quests of this kind I have ever seen. OTAK will just love it; you see, he is a child and loves to learn through stories.

You manage to cover so much in such a short time! So impressed!

*Maq*

Dear Hannah,

Like Maq I am so very, very impressed. This is awesome! So clear and so wonderfully personified. Yes, it is hard to have unstructured tasks but sometimes it is important to break free of boxes and such and be able to let your creativity soar as yours has. I am nominating this as a highlighted response, which means that other questers all over the world will be able to read this.

(Mr C)