

TEACHING NOTES

Wanda the Water Warrior



Wanda the Water Warrior is a captivating story that dives into the importance of water in Australia, the driest inhabited continent in the world.

Wanda is on a mission to educate and inspire young readers about the precious resource that sustains life, empowering young readers to appreciate the wonders of water and to join Wanda in her mission to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Through Wanda's adventures and storytelling, children are transported to pivotal moments in Australian history, such as the Millennium Drought, and Wanda introduces innovative solutions like desalination and water recycling, demystifying these concepts in a way that is both informative and engaging for young minds.

Wanda the Water Warrior not only entertains but also educates children about environmental stewardship and the interconnectedness of nature. As Wanda shares her wisdom, readers learn that every drop of water counts and that simple actions can make a big difference in safeguarding our most precious resource – as we can all be a water warrior!

Key Concepts: *Rhyming texts, Water, Conservation, Climate Change, Importance of water.*

BEFORE READING

- Brainstorm what students know about water. Strategies used could be a [Hot Potato](#) or a digital sticky notes app such as [Figjam](#). A creative way of doing this is to have water drop shapes for students to write their ideas, which could then become part of a classroom display.
- When all the ideas/suggestions are done, categorise them and create anchor charts e.g. all the words that relate to oceans, those that relate to uses of water etc. These can then go onto the class learning wall.
- Use the cover image to do a partial reveal and invite children to suggest why each smaller image is used. (PPS slides work well for this. Alternatively create a digital jigsaw or similar using a free online program.)



- What do students already know about conserving water e.g. turn the tap off while brushing teeth?
- What do students understand of the word 'warrior'? Have they heard it before? In what context? What might a water warrior do?
- Organise a bulk loan from the school library on related titles, both fiction and non-fiction.



DURING READING

- Read through the text. Children will notice the rhyming structure. Make note of rhyming words and add to the learning wall.
- Invite students to decide if this is a fiction or non-fiction text.



VOCABULARY

- Make word families of the rhyming words and brainstorm more to add.
- Note words that may be unfamiliar or new to students. Ask them to predict and check meanings.

Word	What I think it means	Definition
strife		
thrive		
Millennium		
restrictions		
decline		
sustainable		
innovation		
safeguarding		
generations		
consumption		

- Create word clouds for the learning wall of related vocabulary e.g. all the animals that live in water both marine and freshwater, water landforms such as atolls, estuary, bay, channel, uses of water e.g. industry, agriculture, home.



WRITING

- Watch this simple video of [How to Make a Solar Desalination Plant](#). Write an expository text that outlines the process.
- Look at various diagrams of the desalination process. Have students draw and caption their own.
- Choose one of the suggestions for being a Water Warrior and create a poster to promote this, either by hand or a program such as Canva.
- Choose a significant water body to research and write an information report on it e.g. oceans, lakes, great rivers.
- Use descriptive language to write about a scene or body of water known to the students, perhaps something local or somewhere they have visited.

- Create some poetry. Pattern poems lend themselves well to water as a topic. Try shape poems, haiku, cinquain or Dylan Thomas portraits. Examples:



Water is for all of us!
 Water is for me,
 Water is for you,
 Water is for animals,
 Water is for birds,
 Water is for plants,
 Water is for everyone,
 Water is for all of us



- **Onomatopoeia:** brainstorm onomatopoeic words that relate to water and write a poem using them. Use creative fonts for dramatic effect.



✓ **Tahquamenon Falls**
 Water rushing,
 gushing,
 pushing
 past the limits of the edge.
 Water barrels off the ledge,
 whipping up the bottom sludge,
 makes the water look like fudge,
 growling with a freight train's roar,
 wildly rushes out some more. ©Denise Rodgers



- Water is Life. There are multiple freely available colouring pages/templates with this sentiment. Use one as inspiration or create their own, have student colour and then write a justification of the words.
- Research climate change [NASA Climate Kids](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/) might be a good starting point and create a multimedia presentation to explain to others.

SCIENCE

- Floating and sinking
- Classifying
- Habitats, life cycles
- Test different materials for water absorption
- [Water quality educator resources](#)/teaching activities/lesson plans
- [Science Buddies water cycle lessons](#)
- [The Amazing Journey of Water Desalination](#) [YouTube: 4:07]
- [Ocean Water Desalination](#) teaching resources
- [My Mini Desalination Plant](#)



STEM

- [Make a water filter](#)
- [Just Add Water](#) (a collection of activities)
- [Make a Water Clock](#)
- [Explore the Water Cycle](#)
- [Make a Water Wheel](#)
- [Make a Water Cycle Model](#)
- Design a water-saving appliance or device e.g. a more efficient shower head
- Make a rain-gauge (many instructions available online)



MATHS

- Measurement: capacity etc.
- Data



ART/CRAFT

- [Art themed water activities](#)
- [20 Ocean crafts and art](#)
- Wall mural collage - use the water drops from the brainstorming activity and add or suspend from ceiling. This could be in themed sections e.g. Ocean, water cycle, freshwater, etc annotated with captions and fact boxes.
- Make water globes using recycled jars or commercially purchased kits.

AFTER READING

- Make a water themed lap book [example here](#) on aspect of choice.
- Survey other students, staff, family, neighbours to ascertain what they know about being a 'water warrior' and their water usage. Present the data in diagrams or water.
- Conduct an audit of the school to determine any water wastage e.g. leaking taps.
- Create a Kahoot quiz (or similar) to test students' knowledge.
- Use stop-motion animation to make a short film on an aspect of water usage or conservation using block figures or clay models.



- Make a water-themed board game this could be specific such as water-saving or more general.
- Make an 8-page folded mini-book [free templates online] and outline an aspect of water knowledge e.g. the water cycle.
- Undertake an excursion to a water treatment plant, dam, marine science centre or similar. Alternatively, invite an expert from your local water authority to visit for an informational presentation.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Wanda the Water Warrior

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zoe Walsh is a skilled storyteller and marketing professional passionate about crafting engaging, educational and entertaining narratives. As National Director of Marketing, Communications and Engagement at Sequana, she contributes to creating a sustainable water future for Australia. Inspired by her father's career in the water industry and her role as a mum to a curious two-year-old, Zoe wrote Wanda the Water Warrior to teach her daughter Stella about the importance of water. This is Zoe's first children's book, designed to help kids and schools build a strong foundation in water literacy.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Cat is a freelance illustrator in the Dandenong ranges of Melbourne. With an artist father and ceramicist mother, Cat was always going to be into art! She studied graphic design and fine art in Melbourne and South Korea. Her diverse range of clients runs across many industries including books, advertising, stationery and portraits (of people AND pets!). Her works are gentle and whimsical, with use of bright colours and polished vectors. When Cat is not working she likes hanging out with her family, thrifting, sticking googly eyes on things around the house, and squeezing her little dog, Fizzy. Learn more about Cat here:

<https://catmacinnes.com>



USEFUL RESOURCES

BOOKS

Non-fiction

Water Cycle Books for Kids: Penguin Books Australia. Barbara Shaw McKinney, Michael S. Maydak, John Paterson, Martha Sullivan

The Flow of Water – National Geographic

Desert Lake – Pamela Freeman

The Science of Weather – Ian Graham

All About Weather – Ian Whittaker

Fiction

Tiddalik the Frog Who Caused a Flood - Robert Roennfeldt

Big Rain Coming – Katrina Germein

Big Fella Rain – Beryl Webber

The Bill Dup – Zewlan Moor

Ella and the Ocean – Lian Tanner

Drought – Jackie French

Flood – Jackie French

The Turtle and the Flood – Jackie French

All I want for Christmas is Rain -Cori Brooke

Rain on the Rock – Jodi Toering

Up and Down on a Rainy Day – Kathryn Apel

When the Waterhole Dries up – Kaye Baillie

The Water Witcher -Jan Ormerod

[Picture books list](#)

[Water NSW book list](#)



WEBSITES/TEACHING RESOURCES

[Qld Government Waterwise educational resources for schools](#)

[Waterwise Qld](#)

[Water Corporation Au](#)

[Icon Water education resources](#)

[NSW government School Water Education Resources](#)

[Barwon Water Victoria](#)

[Water Safety](#)

[The Water Project](#)

[Drinking Water activities](#) US Environmental Protection Agency



GAMES AND OTHER

[Water Use it Wisely](#) -online games and activities

[The Water Project](#) – online games and activities collated

[Michigan Water Stewardship](#) – games and quizzes

[Water Battle](#) – learn to save water

[Alameda County Water Games and Activities](#)



Sample Curriculum Connections:

- Water in the World: Students learn about the quality and variability of Australia's water resources, and the economic, cultural, and spiritual values of water.
- How my water travels: Students learn how water moves across the landscape, from catchment or aquifer to tap.
- Students learn about the nature of water scarcity and ways of overcoming it.
- Students learn about the economic, cultural, and spiritual values of water for people.
- Students learn about the impact of their actions on the environment.
- People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things.
- Earth's resources are used in a variety of ways.

