

THE JOURNEY

An Adventure in the Water Cycle

I'm **Sploosh!**
This is my story!



Water  Wise
RAND WATER


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The thunder rumbled in the distance as all the preparations were made for the big jump. Everyone was a bit nervous before a jump. They had done this many times before but they were worried where they would land up.



The thunder drew closer and closer. Everyone formed a line at the exit. Suddenly there was a flash of lightning. This was the signal to jump. They all fell from the sky in a spray towards the earth. It was a cool feeling for many



as they raced through the air meeting many of their friends on the way down.



The earth was getting closer and closer. There was not much they could do to reduce the impact. Time was getting short... Suddenly it was all over. The water droplets had landed!

Splooosh, one of the water droplets, looked around to see where he was. He was with a whole lot of friends in a river.



"Where am I?" asked Sploosh.

A willow tree that lived on the banks of the river answered him, "You are in the Klip River, near the little town of Memel. You are heading towards the Vaal River and the Vaal Dam." "Thank you", replied Sploosh, as he whizzed past the willow tree.

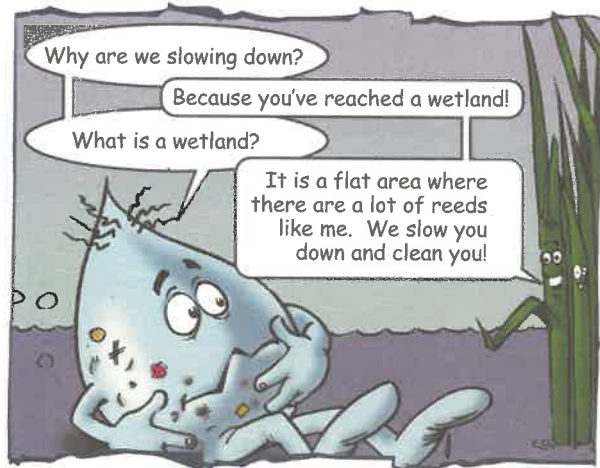
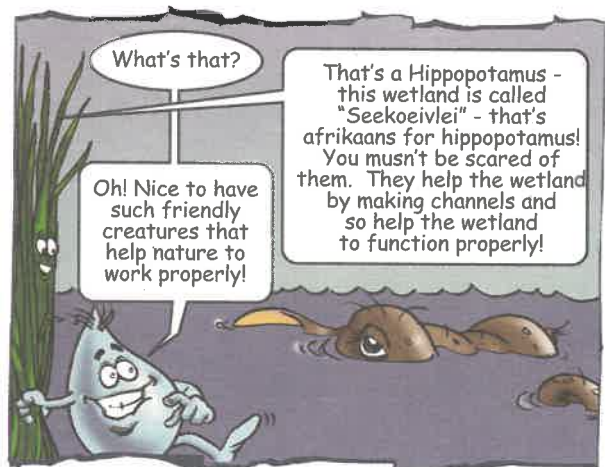
As Sploosh started his journey he began to get dirty with soil, from the land that had washed into the river. Some tiny germs also stuck to him. The river started to slow down. Sploosh saw a whole lot of reeds in front of him. "Why are we slowing

exclaimed Sploosh. "Thank you very much. It is great to be clean again."

Suddenly a huge shadow came over Sploosh and he was very scared. "What was that?" he shouted. The reed replied,



"That was a hippopotamus. This wetland is called the Seekoeivlei. Seekoei is afrikaans for hippopotamus. You mustn't be scared of them. The hippos here are very friendly and they help the wetland. They make channels in the wetland which help the wetland to function properly." "Oh!" replied Sploosh. "It is nice to have such friendly creatures that help nature to work properly."



down", exclaimed Sploosh. One of the reeds whispered, "You are slowing down because this is a wetland." "What is a wetland?" asked Sploosh. The reed replied, "A wetland is a flattish area where there are lots of reeds like me. We clean off all your dirt and germs. We also slow you down so that you flow in the river both in the rainy and the dry seasons. Just like a sponge! We are thus your cleaning stations and natural dams at the same time." "Oh!"

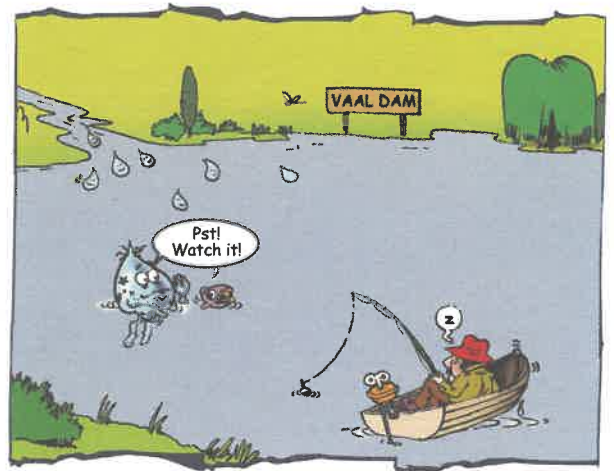
Once Sploosh had passed through the wetland the river continued on its journey. The river flowed very strongly as it passed many farms. From the river, Sploosh could see some cows and sheep grazing on the land. Now and then he could also see some small towns where people lived. Some of his friends were sucked up by a huge pipe to be used in the town, but he was lucky enough to stay in the river.



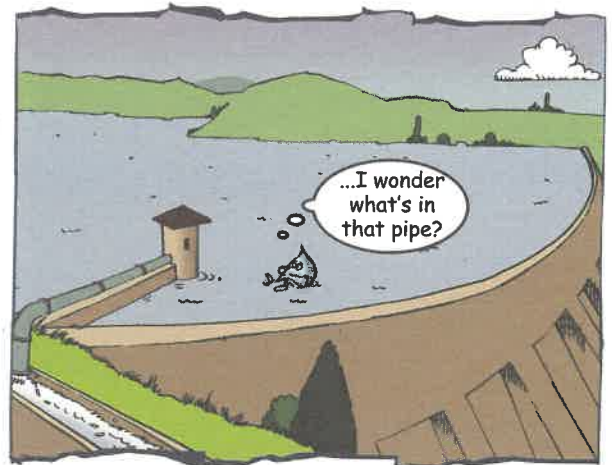
Just as the willow tree said, the river poured into a huge dam, the Vaal Dam. There were a lot of friends here and he had a great time chatting to each of them. On his journey since the wetland he had become dirty again. He was dirty with soil, and there were a few germs on him once again. He did not particularly like the dirt and germs but he was still sort of healthy. But one thing that did annoy him was all the litter that was making him dirty. "These chip packets and cold drink

bottles that humans have thrown into the dam are really irritating me!" shouted Sploosh.

As Sploosh was swimming around in the dam he could see fishermen in boats trying to catch fish. He warned the fish about the men. The fish thanked him and moved to another part of the dam. Sploosh continued with his swim.



One day he came across a huge concrete structure, which he was told was called a dam wall. It was this wall that held back the water in the dam. He then heard a sucking noise and went to investigate.





Suddenly he was sucked out of the dam and put into another river.

But was

this a river?

It did not have a riverbed like the other river.

This one was made of concrete. Sploosh found out that he was in a canal and he was on his way to a Rand Water cleaning station, which was run by humans.

Sploosh was very nervous when he heard this as he did not know what was going to happen to him. He really wanted to be clean again, but would this cleaning station hurt him?

Finally Sploosh arrived at the cleaning station. He waited in the waiting dam for awhile. Then a friendly nurse called him through. He was taken into the station where we went through a



painless process that cleaned the litter and dirt off him and killed all the germs. He came out of the station feeling great and ready to take on another journey.

After the cleaning station he was put back into a pipe and pumped into a big tank called a reservoir, which was very dark and a bit scary for him. But he was lucky enough to have some of his friends with him.



Not finding any ghosts Sploosh was sucked into another pipe and finally fell out of a shiny silver nose and into a basin. Here he met some strange creatures called dishes.

These dishes made him very dirty with their peas and gravy.



These dishes were real snobs. "It is our chance to be cleaned by humans!" said the dishes, in a very snobbish voice.



The humans were using some slimy liquid to clean the dishes. Sploosh was not very happy to be in this basin. Once all the dishes left the basin, a human hand pulled a black thing from the bottom of the basin. Suddenly Sploosh was sucked down a



black hole and back into a pipe. "These pipes were fun in the beginning but now it was getting too much!" exclaimed Sploosh. As it is, those dishes had made him dirty again and he was not happy.

On his way down the pipe he met up with a lot of his friends. They all were dirty, some very dirty.

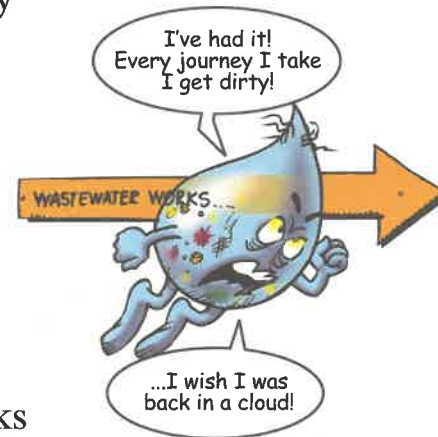
Sploosh was told that he was on his way to a wastewater treatment works where he would be cleaned again by humans.

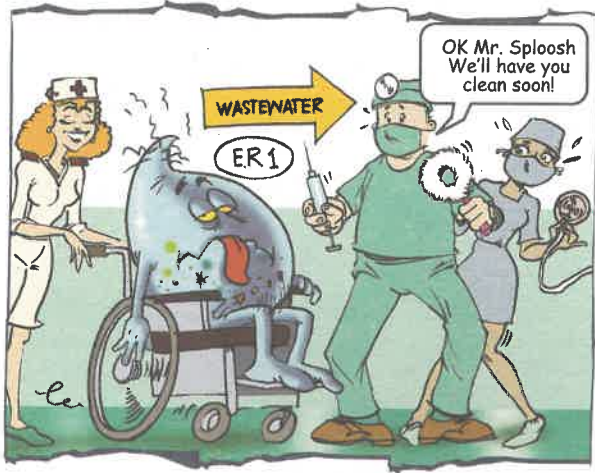
"I have had enough!" shouted Sploosh. "Every journey I take I get dirty and have to be cleaned again.

I wish I was back in a cloud!"

His moans fell on deaf ears as all the other water droplets were too nervous about what was going to happen next.

Finally Sploosh arrived at the wastewater treatment works. Here he met another nurse who asked him to wait in the waiting room. When his name was called he was taken through a process where all the dirt was taken





off him. This was very ticklish. Finally he was clean, and ready to go on another journey. Although Sploosh was getting a bit tired of being cleaned.

Sploosh left the works through a pipe and surfed one of the waves back into

a river once again. "At last, some peace and quite! After that journey, I much prefer the peace and quiet of a beautiful clean river", exclaimed Sploosh. He was overjoyed.

The day began to get very warm and the sun's rays started to warm him up. "Shoooh! It is getting very hot in this river!" exclaimed Sploosh. He then began to feel very light headed and he began to rise into the sky. Sploosh turned to his friends in the river and said, "Here we go again. I am off on another journey!"

