



1

This is the story of Danny the Drip,
a drop of water, and his journey down a very
special river, the Torrens River, all the way to
the ocean.

Along the way Danny sees many things which
pollute the river and it makes him angry.

Will you remember all the things that happen?



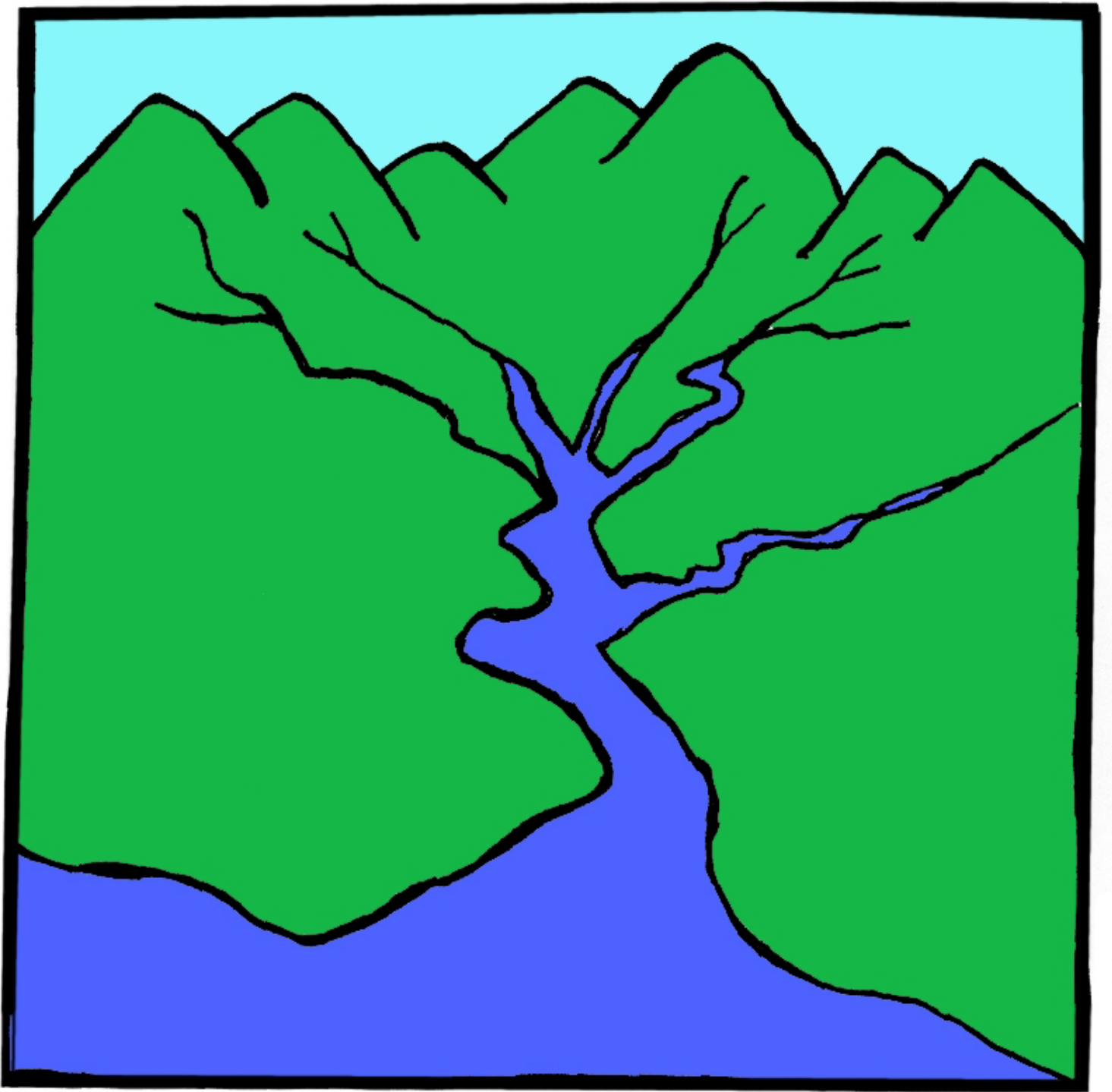
2

Danny the Drip journey starts his journey as a tiny drop of water that falls from the sky when it rains.

Yipee!

As Danny lands with a thud, he realises that he has reached the land.

Danny falls in a small town way up in the hills where the rain runs off the slopes and hills and into the river.



3

Up here, the river is small, like a creek, and the water is clean and clear. Danny is having a great time going around bends, past trees and over rocks.



4

Then he starts going past farms where there are lots of cows.

The cows are walking around, in the river, drinking the river water and eating the river plants.

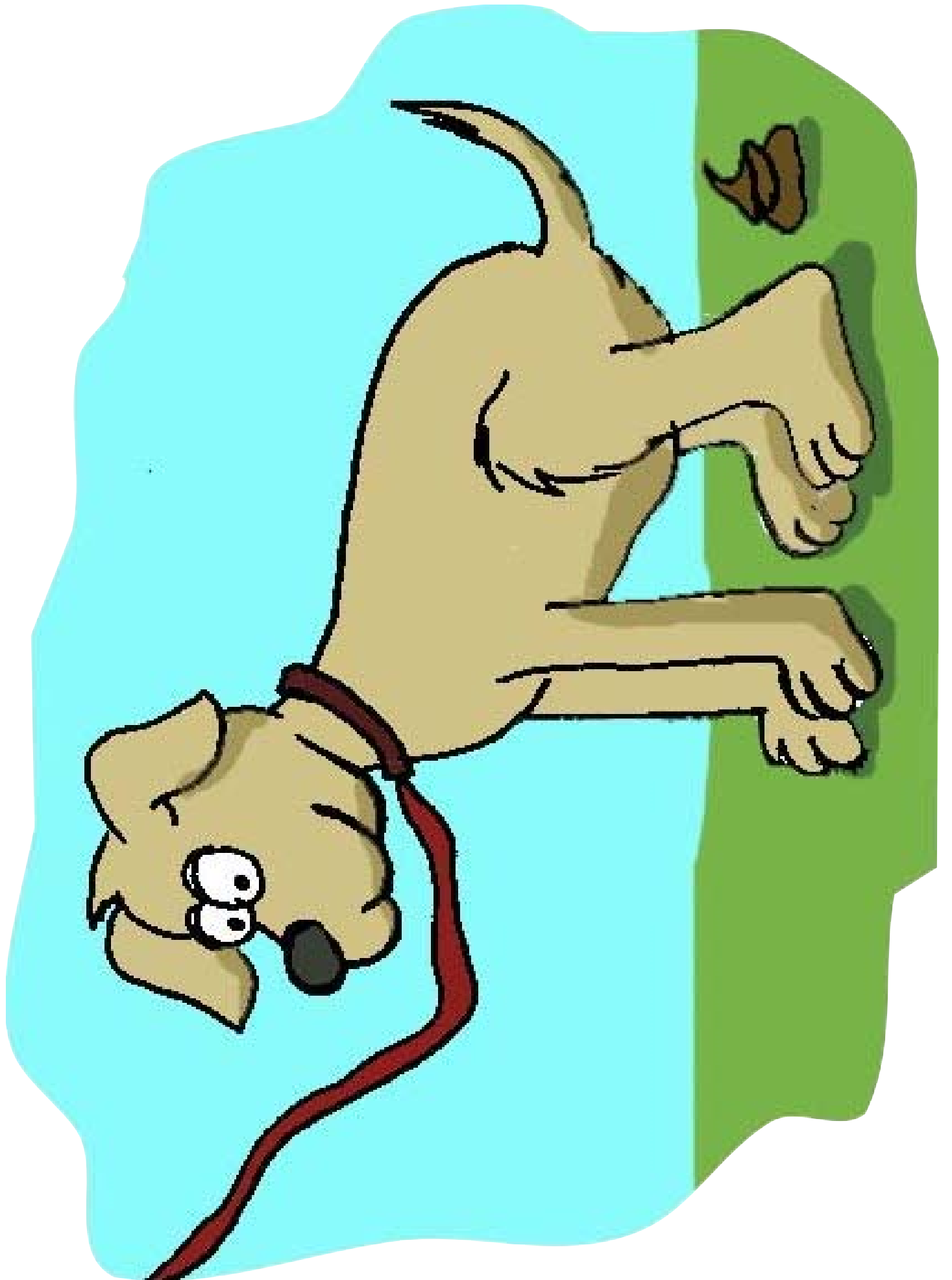
While they are eating & drinking, the cows are pooing straight into the water!



5

The farmers have also been fertilising the pasture to help it grow for the cows to eat.

After the rain, a lot of the **fertiliser** got washed down into the river.



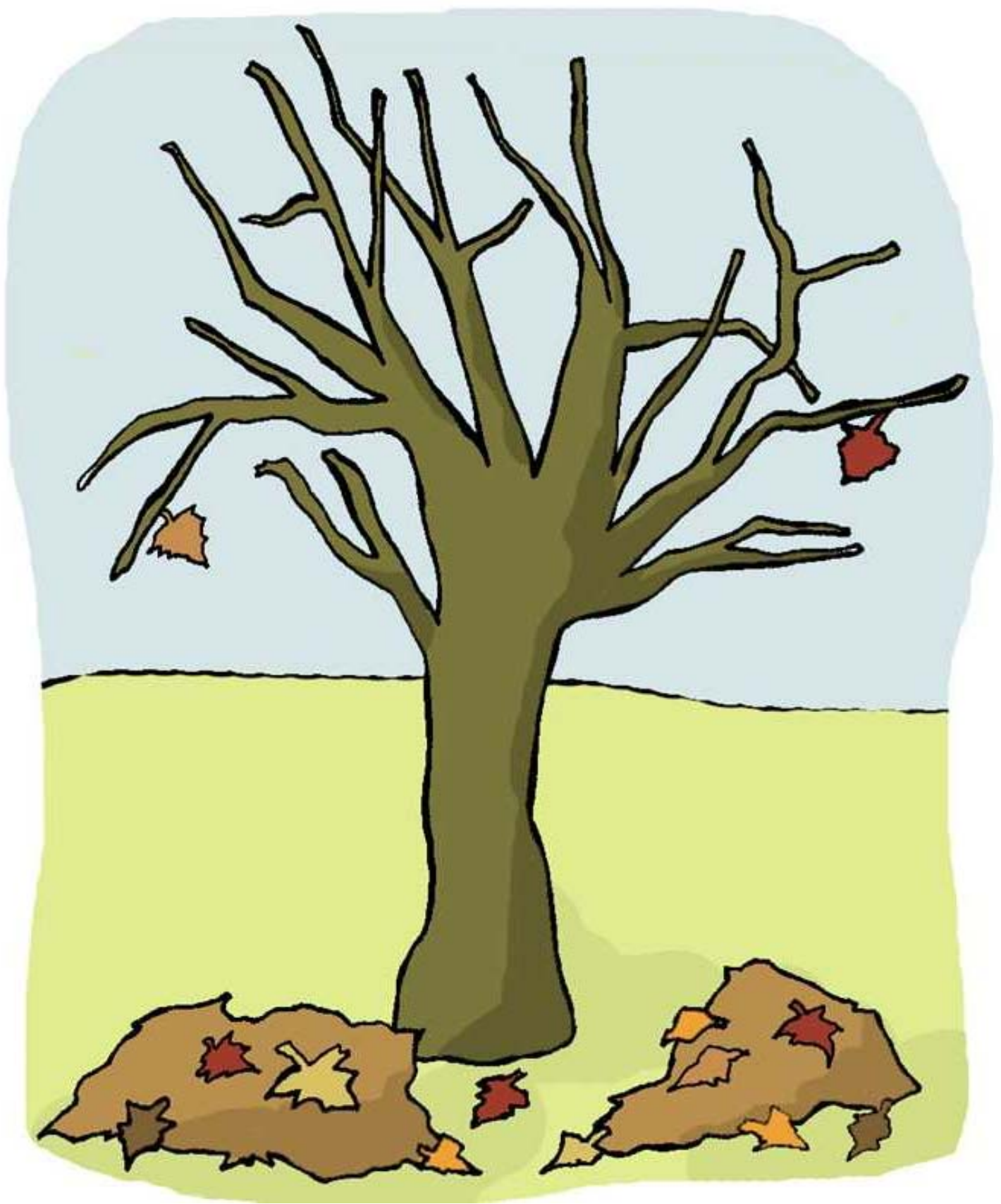
6

One of the farm dogs has also done a big **poo**, which has been washed by the rain into the river.

Yuck!

All that fertiliser and poo is food for **algae** which grows and grows and grows.

Poor Danny the Drip, his water is now green and smelly!!

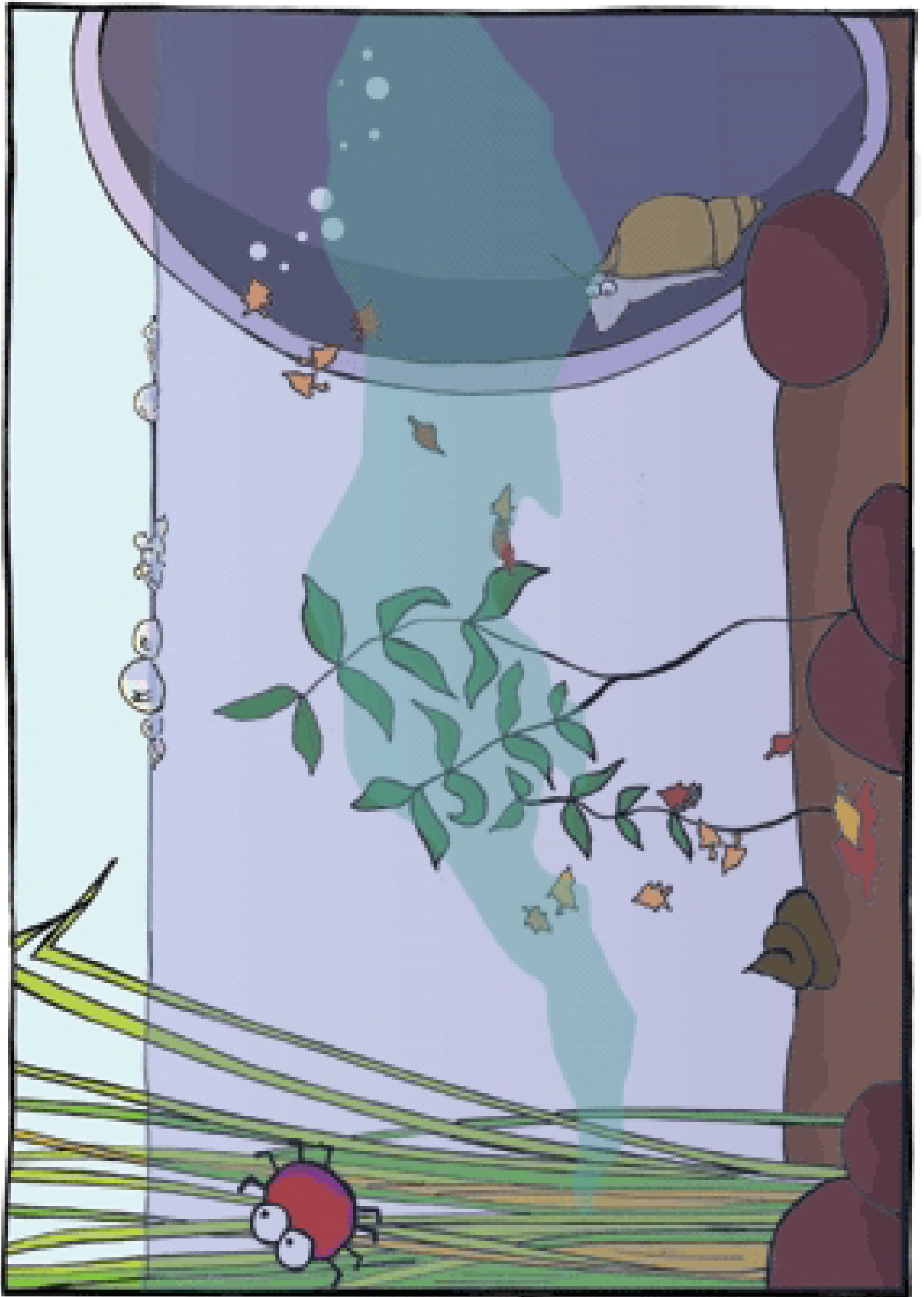


7

After lots of bends, past lots of hills, Danny the Drip finally reaches the edge of the city of Adelaide.

There are many street trees and, instead of raking up the **leaves** and putting them into a compost bin, people are letting the rain water wash them straight down the drain. This water goes underground in the stormwater pipes and comes out into the river.

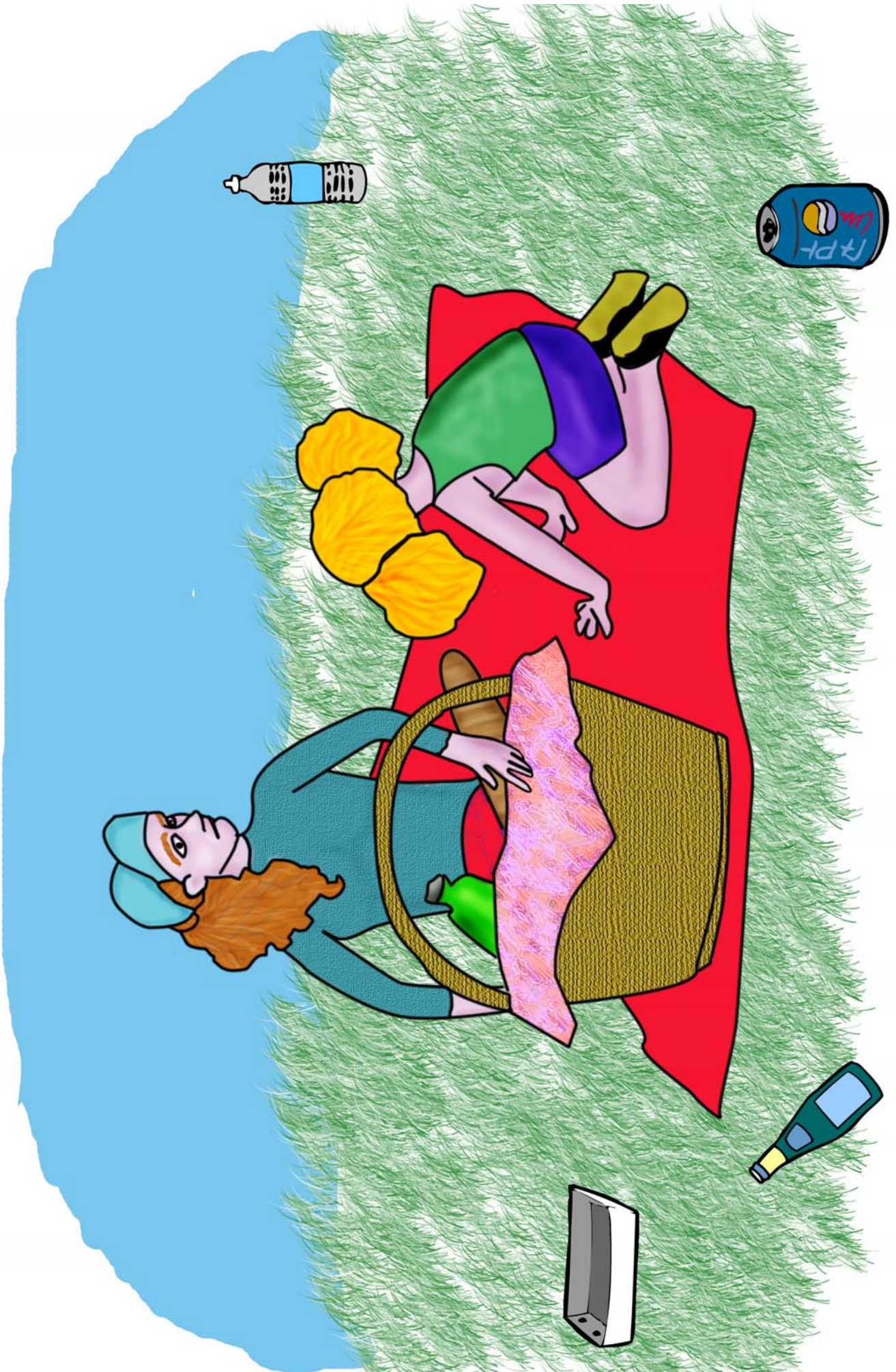
All the leaves are making the water brown and Danny's friends, the fish, are finding their gills are getting clogged up with little bits of leaf.



Danny the Drip notices one of the factories near the river has a pipe coming from it that leads straight into the river.

When he takes a closer look he sees that there are all sorts of **toxic chemicals** coming out the pipe.

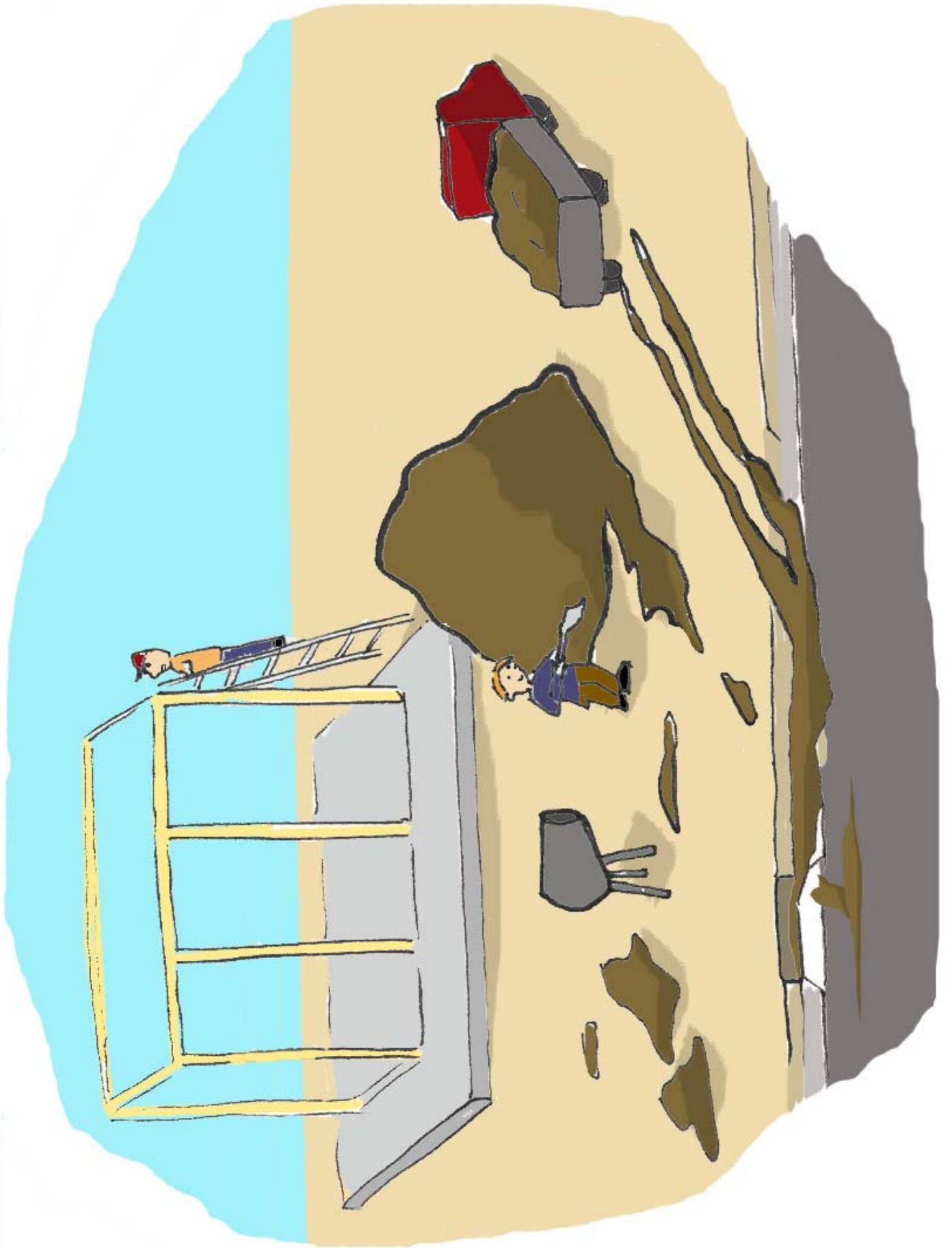
“This is just terrible,” thinks Danny “don’t people realise what they are doing to my home?”



As he continues his journey to the sea, Danny the Drip sees a group of people enjoying a picnic at a park on the edge of the river.

The people have not been bothered to put their rubbish in the bin so the next gust of wind blows some of the **rubbish** down into the river.

Danny is really sad now. He can't believe how careless some people can be; it would have been much better for the people to put the rubbish into a bin.

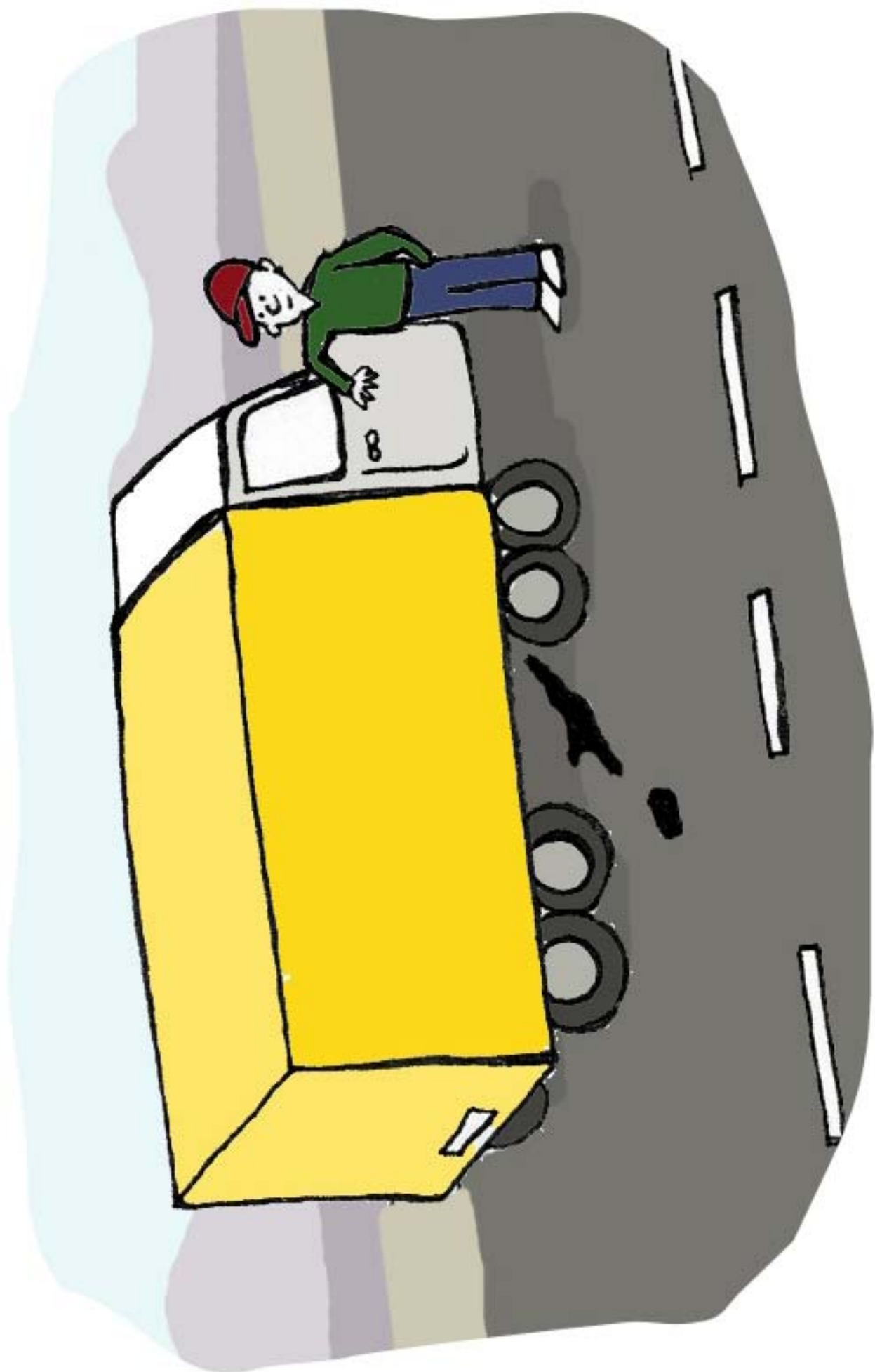


As Danny the Drip passes through the suburbs on the other side of the city he notices some new houses being built.

The shrubs and grass have been scraped away and when it rains, the top layer of **soil** washes straight into the river, making it dirty and muddy.

Danny also spots someone emptying their saltwater swimming pool straight down the stormwater drain.

With all this mud and **salt** Danny the Drip can't see where he is going anymore. He bumps his head on rocks and gets tangled up in the leaves and branches. This is very scary for Danny and he wishes people were more careful.



11

Further downstream Danny the Drip spots a truck.

The truck needs a service because the engine is leaking **oil** down the drain and into the river.

“Oh dear”, thinks Danny the Drip, the ducks & other birds are going to be in trouble when that smelly, black oil sticks to their feathers.

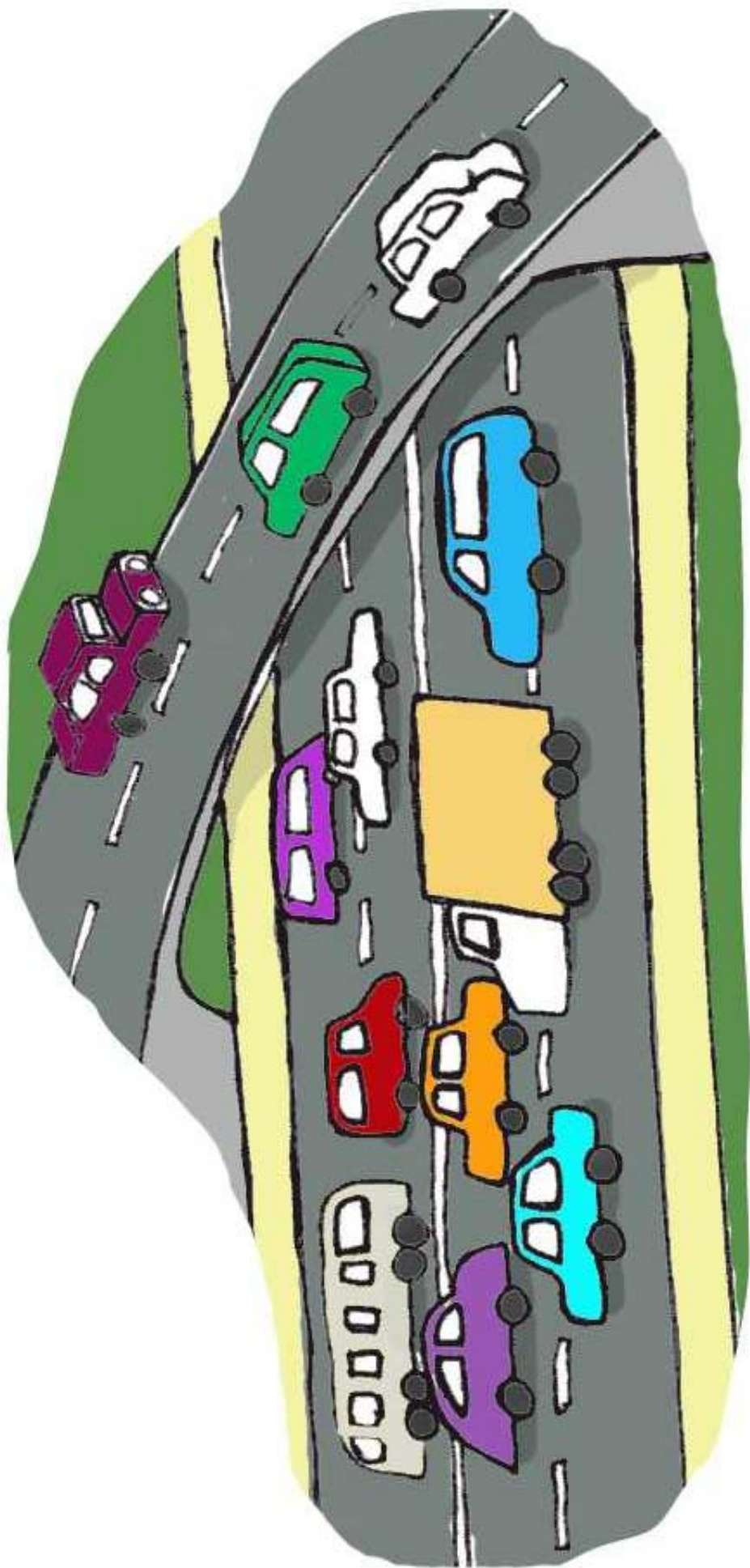


12

Further along, there are houses right next to
the river.

Danny can see a person mowing their lawn,
but they are not putting their **grass**
clippings into a bag, instead they are shaking
the clippings all over the fence and they are
washing straight into the river!

Oh no! Thinks Danny, when grass sits in
water, it breaks down and uses up all of the
oxygen and many of my plant and animal
friends will die.



People who have spent the day at work are
now starting to drive home.

The roads are full of traffic. **Petrol** drips out
of the cars and if they brake in a hurry, their
tyres screech and leave black **rubber** behind
on the road.

Everytime it rains the petrol and rubber are
washed off the road down the stormwater
drains and straight into the river.



14

Danny the Drip is feeling very sick from all the pollution coming into the river but he still continues his trip.

He notices someone washing their car in the driveway. All the **detergent** they are using is getting hosed straight into the gutter and running into the river.

The detergent has chemicals in it that hurt Danny's friends and is poisonous for the tadpoles.

Why couldn't they wash their car on the lawn?



15

After one last bend in the river Danny the Drip finally arrives at the sea.

Look at the water that flows out to sea with him. It is full of smelly, disgusting, poisonous pollution. The pollution is going to hurt all the animals and plants that live in the ocean.

What can we do to help make our rivers cleaner? Danny needs your help.

Waterwatch Central Adelaide

DANNY THE DRIP

An exciting journey through the catchment

Danny the Drip takes students on a journey from the top to the bottom of a water catchment area, describing different land uses and the potential water pollution they produce. During the story students are invited to place imitation 'pollution' into an aquarium of water at the front of the class.



Telling the story of *Danny the Drip* requires the preparation of small amounts of imitation water pollution. We suggest that you use small jars or film canisters to hold the pollution and emphasize the importance of **not** collecting the actual pollutants in certain cases such as; petrol, poo and toxic chemicals.

Below is a list of the different types of pollution mentioned in the story and how to prepare them. You may like to give each student a type of pollution to prepare for homework or ask students to bring in the materials and then prepare them in class.

MAKING IMITATION POLLUTION

Pollution	Ingredients	Preparation
GRASS	Lawn clippings	Collect
LEAVES	Fallen leaves (preferably non-native)	Collect
ALGAE	Lettuce	Soak in hot water
ANIMAL POO	Play dough, mud or chocolate topping	Not the real thing please
SALT	Table salt	
SOIL	Dirt or fine sand	Collect
RUBBISH	Litter – plastic chip packets, paper etc	Collect
FERTILISER	Tea leaves and sugar or sago	Mix together
DETERGENT	Dishwashing or laundry liquid	
CHEMICALS	Mustard	Mix with water
OIL	Soy sauce and/or cooking oil	Mix
PETROL	Vinegar	
RUBBER	Rubber bands	
TOXIC CHEMICALS	Tomato sauce	Mix with water

DANNY THE DRIP

Dear Parent / Caregiver,

We are learning the story of *Danny the Drip*, which is about catchments and water pollution. We would like your help in preparing small amounts of imitation pollution for this interactive story.



_____ 's pollution is _____

Materials needed to make it are _____

Please return imitation pollution in a labelled jar or film canister by: _____

Thank you for your help.