

# **The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall Teacher's Guide**

Created by Kirstine Call

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Kirsti Call

Author, *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall*

Kirsti Call first told *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall* to her 5 kids when they were bored at Home Depot. *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall* is her first picture book. If you visit her house, you'll likely find her singing, reading, writing and homeschooling her kids.

Learn more about Kirsti at [www.kirsticall.com](http://www.kirsticall.com).

Lisa Griffin

Illustrator, *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall*

Often inspired by natural surroundings and childhood pastimes, Lisa's work is driven by a desire to create endearing art that evokes (mostly) happy, joyful "feels".

Her illustrations are created using traditional and digital techniques that are a blend of color, texture and pattern. She resides in New Hampshire with her husband, three children, and two lovable rescues (woof & meow).

Learn more about Lisa at <http://lisamgriffin.com/>.

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## **How To Use This Guide**

This classroom guide is designed for students in preschool through third grade. It offers activities to help teachers integrate The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall into English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, social studies, and art curricula. All activities were created in conjunction with relevant Massachusetts content standards in ELA, math, science, social studies, art, and drama.

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## English Language Arts

### **Reading Comprehension**

Before reading *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall*, look at the cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- Why do you think so?
- Can you find clues in the illustration or title?

Now read or listen to the book.

- Who is the main character(s)?
- Why do you think so?
- What do most little drops like to do?
- What is Plink's problem?
- Have you ever felt like Plink does?
- Have you ever worked really hard at something and still felt like you couldn't do it?
- What does Plink do when she gets discouraged?
- What do you do when you are discouraged?
- Plink realizes that she learns differently from the other raindrops. Does this help her?
- How does Plink realize that she can succeed?
- How can you know that you will be able to learn something that's hard for you?
- Plink needs the help of her Grandmother to finally fall to the ground. Can you think of people who can help you learn what you want to learn?

Talk about who made *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall*.

- Who is the author and what did she do to make this book?
- Who is the illustrator and what did she do to make this book?
- This is a story about something that is personified. That means the story is about something that wouldn't normally be alive. How does the illustrator help us feel like Plink, a little raindrop is a real live character?
- What details does the illustrator add to tell the story and show how Plink feels?

Read Spoon, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Scott Magoon.

- Why is Spoon frustrated?
- What do the other utensils think of Spoon?
- What does Spoon learn?
- How is this story similar to Plink's story in The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall?

## Onomatopoeia

"She sniffled, then cried, watching tears drift slowly to the ground. Drip...drip...drip...until PLOP!"

Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates a sound.

- Why would an author choose to use onomatopoeia instead of regular words in a story?
- Can you find the onomatopoeia in The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall?

Make a word or storm with onomatopoeia.

- Ask 3 volunteers to think a word that makes the sound of rain hitting the ground.
- For example: ping, patter, drip, drop
- Start out soft and build until you have a real storm (can put an umbrella up when the storm builds and take down when the storm quiets down again)

Sing a Song

- Use onomatopoeia that the kids think of for rain in this song. Have them say the words that make the sound of rain with you. Have them sing along with "WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY!"

## WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY (to the tune of What does the Fox say)

Pond goes hush, stream goes rush

Snow goes puff, and lakes go sluff.

Steam goes ssssss, puddles splash, and the waterfall goes crash.

Ice says crack, and hail goes clack, and the rivers flow ow ow.

But there's one sound that no one knows...

**WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY?**

ping ping ping pingeringeping!  
ping ping ping pingeringeping!  
ping ping ping pingeringeping!

**WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY?**

Drip Drip Drip Drop  
Drip Drip Drip Drop  
Drip Drip Drip Drop

**WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY?**

pitter pitter pitter patter  
pitter pitter pitter patter  
pitter pitter pitter patter

Transpire, condensate, precipitate, evaporate.  
Falling out of a cloud, suddenly you're feeling proud.  
You're iridescent, beautiful, like an angel in disguise.  
But if you meet a friendly ocean, will you leave without e moooootion  
moooootion mo oo otion?  
How will you show your devotion devoo o otion?

**WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY?**

falling falling falling now  
falling falling falling now  
falling falling falling now

**WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY?**

Plinka plinka plink ah!  
Plinka plinka plink ah!  
Plinka plinka plink ah!

**WHAT DOES THE RAIN SAY?**

**Writing**

**Write a story about what happened to Plink after she finally succeeded with the help of her Grandmother.**

- What do you think happened to Plink after the end of the book?
- Make sure you have a beginning, a middle and an end. Try using this formula:

Plink WANTED \_\_\_\_\_

But \_\_\_\_\_

Then \_\_\_\_\_

### **Draw a scene from The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall**

- Have each child choose their favorite scene from the book and draw themselves as part of the action.

### **Vocabulary**

- Go over the vocabulary in the back of The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall.
- How was each word used in the book?
- Can you put each word in a sentence?

## **Math**

### **Word problems**

1. If a raindrop falls 2 times in the morning and 3 times at night, how many times does it fall in one day?
2. If Plink practices falling 3 times a day, how many times does she practice in 2 days?
3. Plink's grandmother makes 10 ice crystals for raindrop training every Saturday. How many Saturdays will it take her to make 100 ice crystals?
4. Plink spins on her cloud once every hour. Plink gets dizzy after spinning 7 times. How many hours will it take her to get dizzy?
5. Plink has 3 friends, 2 cousins and 5 sisters. How many friends, cousins and sisters does she have in total?

## **Science**

### **Water Cycle**

- Read and discuss the water cycle by reviewing the side bars in the Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall.
- Play the water cycle game at the end of The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall.
- Sing states of matter song

### **States of Matter song (to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)**

States of Matter are such fun.

Let's all sing now everyone.

Ice cube, ice cube, feels so cold,

Keep it frozen in a mold.

Warm it up and you will get,

Melting water dripping wet.

Raindrops, Raindrops falling down,

Liquid flowing 'round the town.

Take that water, make it hot.

Turns to gas that's what you've got.

Boil water into gas.  
It's less dense but keeps its mass.  
Clouds of vapor floating by,  
Made of water in the sky.

States of Matter are such fun.  
Let's all sing now everyone!

### **Make a Rainbow**

- Go outside and face your shadow. Use a hose with a nozzle and spray water at a 40 degree angle to the right of your shadow.

### **Make a Cloud in a Bottle**

Materials Needed:

- 2-liter clear plastic soda bottle
- matches
- warm water

What to do:

- Fill the bottle one-third full of warm water.
- Carefully light a match and hold it near the opening of the bottle.
- Drop the match in the bottle and quickly put on the cap, trapping the smoke inside.
- Squeeze the bottle and release several times.
- Enjoy the cloud that appears!

## **Social Studies**

### **Map Making**

- Research the average annual rainfall in different areas of the world. Have each child make a map indicating areas of high rainfall and areas where there is very little rainfall
- Discuss how an abundance or lack of rain affects the culture of an area.
- Discuss how rain helps each child in their lives.

### **Make a Rainstick**

- Find instructions in the backmatter of *The Raindrop Who Couldn't Fall*
- What cultures use rainsticks?
- Why do they use rainsticks?
- See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainstick> for more information about rainsticks.

## **Bullying**

- Plink gets bullied by other raindrops who don't struggle with falling.
- Role play Plink's predicament. How could she have responded when the other raindrops ridiculed her?
- Discuss what to do when you are bullied.
- Discuss what to do when you see someone else being bullied.