

Water Workshop Common Read Questions

The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water, by Charles Fishman

Chapter 1: The Revenge of Water

If all water “was delivered here 4.4 billion years ago,” that “no water is being created or destroyed on Earth,” then why does water scarcity exist?

Chapter 2: The Secret Life of Water

What is the role of water in the mantle? How is deep water locked in the Earth different than water we find on the surface?

Chapter 3: Dolphins in the Desert

Sketch / envision an idealized view of the water cycle. Now consider the case study of Las Vegas. Using the examples described in the book, sketch or write about the multiple “entry points” where the natural cycle is disrupted.

Chapter 4: Water Under Water (*not required reading)

Chapter 5: The Money in the Pipes (*not required reading)

Chapter 6: The Yuck Factor

Toowoomba is situated at high elevation in Australia, near the mouth of the Murray River, and although it has a dry climate, North America only receives 20% more rainfall than Australia. How are aspects of the water cycle driving their drought conditions further?

Chapter 7: Who Stopped the Rain?

The Australian government is dealing with the complexities of how to allocate water based on historical patterns of water availability. Why is finding out what a “normal” year of rainfall is so complicated? Be sure to include the water cycle and climate change in your response.

Chapter 8: Where Water Is Worshipped, but Gets No Respect (*not required reading)

Chapter 9: It’s Water. Of Course. It’s Free (*not required reading)

Chapter 10: The Fate of Water – Begin the chapter on page 298.

What will be future impacts if our students leave our classrooms water illiterate? How can you design a unit to make your students water literate? Think of not only their content knowledge but practices, behaviors and attitudes.