

Springboard^{into} Comprehension 5

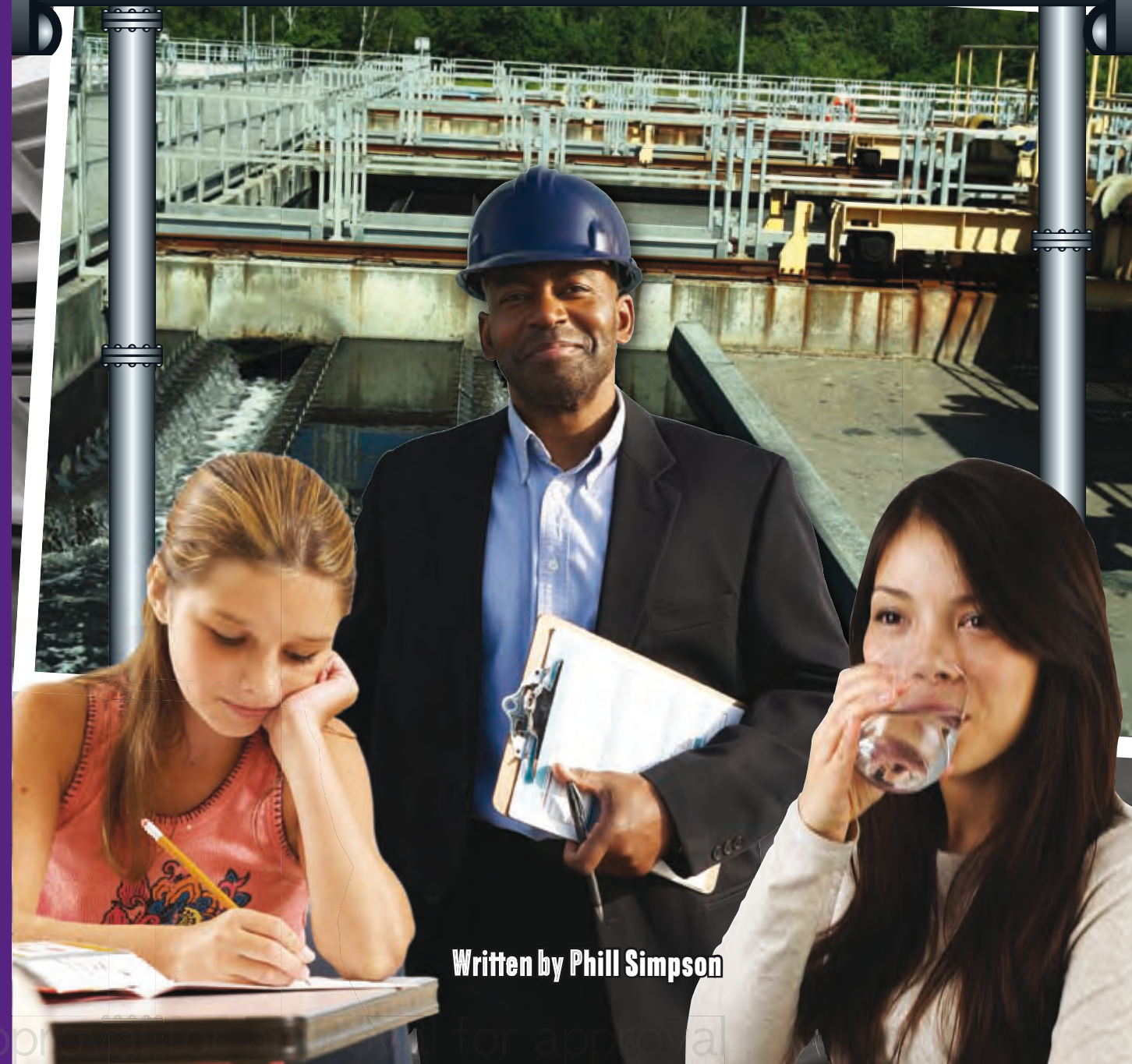
Main Idea	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve The Nelson Mandela Story
Compare and Contrast	Animals under Threat Soccer v Ballet
Fact and Opinion	The Great Rainbow Hill Council Debate
	The Smith Family Diaries
Cause and Effect	It's Just Not Right Save Our Planet!
Bias and Prejudice	What's Up? Changing Times
Figurative Language	Sports Mad Magazine The Highwayman

RA 10.5–11.5



Argument

THE GREAT RAINBOW HILL COUNCIL DEBATE



Written by Phill Simpson

The Great Rainbow Hill Council Debate

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SHOCKING NEWSFLASH

AUTHORITIES OFFER TOILET WATER TO SOLVE WATER SHORTAGE!

January 4

The people of Rainbow Hill are reeling today after the local government body, the **council**, announced a plan to recycle water that has been used in people's homes, or **wastewater**, and pump it back into houses for drinking.

Yuck! What are they thinking? Everybody knows that water is important. We drink it and cook our food in it. We use it to wash our bodies, clothes, and dishes. We swim in it and water our gardens with it. We simply cannot live without it!

However, each year there is less rain in Australia. Our city does not have enough water to meet the demands of our rapidly growing population. Therefore, we must face the fact that our city has a huge problem – water shortage! Surely, though, the council's water-recycling plan is not the solution!

For years, the council has encouraged the public to view each drop of water as a precious resource. They have asked people to follow **simple** water-saving tips. They have put restrictions in place to limit how much water people can use each day. Methods like these, designed to reduce the amount of water that is wasted, are known as **water conservation**.

Obviously, these methods have not worked, because the council is now calling for drastic measures to tackle the city's water shortage. Their plan involves taking wastewater to a recycling plant and using filters to remove harmful **materials** and germs, or **contaminants**. They call this giving it **treatment**. Then, they

will return it to the dam so it can be piped back to people's homes and businesses!

The most shocking part of this plan is that the wastewater will come from people's toilets, showers, and kitchens! This disgusting idea is sure to spark controversial debate in our city.





Subject: **The Proposal**

To: Members of the Rainbow Hill City Council

From: William Davis, Department of Water Resource Management

NEW MAIL

INBOX

SENT MAIL

Yesterday, the local newspaper published an article. It presented an extremely narrow-minded view about our plan to recycle wastewater for drinking. It is important that everyone is brought up to date about the facts before we move forward. The council is to begin talking to the public tomorrow. Our strategy will be as follows:

Step 1

We will post a small booklet containing information, or **brochure**, to every household. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the brochure.

Step 2

We will set up a website. People will be able to post feedback on the website and view frequently asked questions.

Step 3

We will set up a call centre that people can call to get information, or **hotline**. People can phone if they have questions about the plan. However, it is not likely many people will call the hotline.

Step 4

We will hold a community meeting on January 15. Everybody will be welcome to attend to discuss the plan. I'm sure everyone will be open-minded and will listen to both sides of the argument.

Finally, the council will make a decision. It is likely most people will be for the plan, so I am confident it will go ahead.

Thanks, William



Wastewater Recycling Plan

Dear Homeowner,

It is time to take action and solve our city's water shortage problem. This is the best plan –

- We will build a new wastewater recycling plant on the east side of the city. As a matter of fact, this is an unattractive part of town already, so people are unlikely to worry about the large new structure.
- We will pipe wastewater from the Western Sewerage Treatment Plant to the new wastewater recycling plant.
- Workers at the plant will give the wastewater treatment by using high pressure to force it through a special layer of material with holes of a specific size, or **membrane**. The membrane will allow the small water molecules through. However, it will not allow large salt molecules or other contaminants through.
- We will then pump extremely pure, clean water from the plant to the dam. We will mix the water with the city water supply. Then, it will come through the pipeline to people's homes.



For more information –

- Come to the community meeting at 7 p.m. on January 15.
- Visit our website – www.waterforthefuture.org.au
- Call our hotline – 1800 444 4955

Minutes from the Meeting

January 15

1. The meeting opened with a statement from Mayor Stacey Taylor

Thank you very much for attending the meeting today. Your attendance shows that you are good citizens and are concerned about our city's water issues.

Our water supply currently comes from a dam filled by rainwater. However, our population is growing rapidly. Every year, there is less rainfall. The people of our city are using more and more water. There is not enough water in the dam for everyone. I believe it is time to look at other ways of providing fresh water.

The council will look at all water-saving options, such as building another dam and water-conservation programs. Nevertheless, I will prove to you that water recycling is the best plan.

The level of the city's dam is less than 20 per cent. We rely on emergency water supplies. It is ridiculous. It would take a lot of rain to fill the dam – far more than we are likely to see in the next few years.

Recycling wastewater is by far our best option. It would provide this city with more than enough water for the next three decades. You can be assured that we will do numerous tests on the recycled wastewater. It will be very safe to drink.

This should be enough to convince you that this is our best option. I hope you will vote "yes" for this plan. Then, we can go ahead and make sure we have enough water for the future.

The recycling plant will store water in giant tanks like the one shown here.

