A pine tale.

In one beautiful land on the edge of a thick forest, there was one big and strong tree. In one of its big cones lived a small Seed. One time when the Seed’s friends already slept in their cozy home-cone, a little Seed was sleepless. She dreamt of a journey to a far-away land.

– Oh, if only I would see the world! Clean rivers, endless meadows, wonderful flowers that birds sing about! – thought the Seed.

One time a little spider flew on his web beside a tree.

– Spidey! – Seed called for him.

– Where are you flying to?

– I am flying home, - answered a Spider.

– Take me with you! – A Seed asked.

– Alright, let’s go if you’re not afraid, - answered a Spider. A Seed flew over the green meadow. Sparkling with silvery lights over a high heel filled with forest there was a river. Never before has she seen such a beauty and thought what a wonderful place she lived in!

- Well, home sweet home, - said a Spider as they landed on the ground. – It is going to be raining soon. You better hide, - after saying goodbyes a Spider disappeared in the grass leaving the Seed alone.

– What is your name? – A Seed heard nearby.

– A Seed. And yours?

– I am a Drop, - a stranger said.

– Where did you come from? – said a Seed surprised.

- From the rain cloud. I am a rain Drop. I used to live in an ocean. One time the sun was very hot and I turned into a steam – I have become so small and light. I was going higher and higher and together with my drop friends became a rain cloud. We were so cold up high and when there was enough of us, we fell down as rain drops. I like travelling. That is why soon through the underground river I will get to a real river and then back to the ocean. And in winter I can turn into a snowflake!

– I am no ordinary Drop, I am made of clean water! Everyone needs water – people, animals, even the plants! Did you know that without water everything on Earth would be gone by now? See, it rained and everything around has grown. Even you have become bigger.

– You are so happy, Drop! You’ve been everywhere and seen a lot! I would so much like to set off on a journey!

– I can help you with that! My friend Windy will take you wherever you want.

– Hello! Who called for me?

– Hello, Windy! Meet, this is my friend Seed. Let’s help her see our beautiful land! – With pleasure! – answered Windy. A Drop and a Seed joined their hands and Windy smoothly took them up on a cloud.

– What’s that so shiny? – said a Seed surprised.

– Those are rivers and lakes, - smiled a Drop.

– We’ve got plenty of them in here! – Windy said.

– The biggest and most beautiful rivers in our lands are Volga, Kama, Vyatka and Sviyaga. My best friends are drops from clean Blue lake, lakes Kara-Kul, Kaban, Lebazhye and Raifa, - said a Drop proudly.

– There is a lot of water on the land, just look anywhere you like! But still there is not enough, - Windy exhaled.

– Can this be true - a lot but not enough? – said a Seed surprised.

– Not all water that exist in nature is safe to drink. Only clean freshwater can be used for drinking. Unfortunately there is a lack of it, - said a Drop.

– Nothing can replace water, - Windy agreed. – Water is the most valuable thing on Earth, we need to preserve it!

– You know, Seed, clean water is now more and more of lack, - Drop exhaled. – Dirty water makes no good to anything.

– Why? Can water be dirty? – Seed said surprised.

– Water in lakes and rivers is fresh, but not always clean. Pieces of land, tree branches, leafs get into it. Sometimes people pollute it. Their plants and factories use a lot of water and at the same time pollute it with waste. Some people don’t understand that they are part of nature. They break trees, tear down flowers, and leave garbage that poisons land and water. All that makes animals, birds and even other people feel sick, - said Drop sadly.

– Don’t be sad, Drop! I fly all around and see many people that truly love nature and take care of it, - Windy said.

– So good that there are people like that, - smiled Seed.

– Look! An Autumn Raincloud! My old friend! – said Windy happily.

– Lets go-o-o-o! – Whistled a Raincloud. – Autumn is coming. Lets go-o-o!

– True, time to fly away. I am a warm Wind after all.

– I too have to be on my way, - exhaled Drop.

Windy took a Seed and a Drop up and together they landed on a meadow.

– What a wonderful journey we just had! – Seed said excited.

– Seed, you need to accommodate for winter, - Drop said.

– You stay on this meadow and when spring comes, we will meet again.

– See you in spring, - Windy said and put a leaf on a Seed with care.

– Sweat dreams, - Drop said.

– See you later, my friends, - replied Seed and fell asleep.

Spring came. Windy and Drop came back to the meadow. There was still snow on the ground, but not everywhere.

– Where is Seed? – they looked around.

– I’m right here! Windy put some air in his cheeks and blew. Snow began to melt and friends saw that Seed and grown overwinter and turned into a green fluffy pine tree.

–Ah, look how beautiful you have become! – said Windy and Drop happily.

– I was asleep for so long! – Pine tree reached for the sun.

– Somehow, it was very difficult for me to breath.

– Perhaps, snow was the trouble? – Windy blew again but with more strength. He was a warm wind and all the snow on a meadow melted down.

Only now, everyone saw the meadow covered in garbage. That is why it was hard for the Pine tree to breathe!

– What happened? Where did all this garbage come from?

– It was left by people, - running through hard-working Spider said. – they were having a rest on our meadow. Some took their garbage; some did not, left it here. What do we do now? This meadow is our home. Grass, flowers, bugs and spiders – we can all die!

Suddenly bush branches have moved nearby, voices have been heard. It was coming from people. A family – father, mother, their children and friends have come on a meadow to collect the garbage.

– A kind person would never leave garbage after him, more so he would collect another’s, - smiled a Drop. – For he understands that garbage pollutes earth, air and water.

–It can be difficult even for me to breathe, especially when flying over a city, - Windy bent his brows. – So many cars! They puff dirty smoke into the air. Animals, plants and even people need clean air to breathe!

–Also, people build big factories and stations to make electricity and heat the water. They send electricity through cables and water through pipes so that their houses would be warm and bright, - Windy said. – But these stations also do harm to nature.

Meanwhile people have collected all the garbage on the meadow. It has again become clean and green.

– Now the next trip to the meadow would be pleasant, - little girl said that came with her brother and parents.

– How nice! – clapped her branch hands Pine tree. – Even the forest around the meadow has breathed easily! Even though people did not hear Pine tree, everyone around has become happy. First spring flowers have started appearing on a meadow.

All the living things on the meadow were happy for their home to become clean again.

– Look what wonderful flowers have shown up on this meadow, - father said. If it were not for us to clean in here, they could have died and nothing would have grown here.

– Why do some people leave garbage? – a boy asked.

– Those people believe that their home is just the place they live in. Truth is – our only home, a home for all of us is our earth, our native land.

– In order for our native land to become more beautiful and rich, - mother said, - we have to preserve and take care of it. When in nature we should not be loud or break tree branches, ne should not tear flower, scare animals and kill insects, we must not make fire or leave garbage. The entire meadow habitat nodded their heads – they were very happy and thankful.

Suddenly little girl noticed a Pine tree: - Oh, what a beauty! – She smiled. – Wouldn’t it be great to have such a beauty at home?

– Lets plant it in a big pot. We will have our own Christmas tree, - the girl’s brother thought.

– We will take care of it and decorate it for every holiday.

– Pine tree will be bored in the city, - the girl’s mother replied. – Her home and friends are here.

However, children did not listen to their mom and put a Pine tree into a big bag before she could do anything. When they got home children put a Pine tree into a big pot.

– You will be warmer and more comfortable in here, - the girl said with care. The Pine tree however did not feel happy about a big pot, nor about a girl pouring her with water and taking care of the earth in the pot. Pine tree missed her friends and her meadow. Her pines faded day by day and started becoming yellow.

–Poor Pine tree! – the girl got upset.

– Why are you sad? She misses her friends. You did not listen to me and took her away from the meadow she grew on. Now she can even die.

– We don’t want her to die, - cried children. – What do we do?

–She probably lacks sunlight, - father said.

– Let’s take her to the schoolyard and plant her with the other trees. Children got happy; they took the pot with the Pine tree and went to school.

Father has dug out a hole in the land and mother has planted a Pine tree. Then children have spread the Pine tree’s branches. She has become more beautiful and fluffy than ever.

– Pine tree, you are a real traveler! – her friends Drop and Windy said laughing.