

District Grand Prize Winner
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Cobb County

A Fable for the Future

A girl named Jewel was born to a Qual woman in a faraway land. The Quans and the Qualls were separate civilizations that controlled water. As she grew up, she discovered that there was much more to water quality and quantity than meets the eye.

The Qualls had perfect water quality, with beautiful streams and no problems with runoff. Stormwater was clean and streets were pollution free. The only problem was that reservoirs were almost empty and aquifers were all depleted. There simply wasn't enough water to go around.

Jema, Jewel's Quan friend, spoke one day about her lifestyle, "We have plenty of water for everyone. All our reservoirs are full and aquifers haven't even been used yet. The only difficulty is the water's quality. The rivers are polluted, and materials hard to filter out, like fertilizers and oil, are picked up by stormwater. We have to be careful with what we drink, and we often end up getting sick either way."

Jewel saw that each civilization could not survive without the other's knowledge and resources. She knew that the Qualls would not survive because of low water quantity and the Quans because of the poor water quality.

Later that day, she spoke to her friend, "Jema, why don't we try to make life better for our communities? If we got people to understand that water quality and quantity are equally important..."

"Water quality and quantity would greatly improve! If we could only get individuals to help... You could speak at the annual convention next week! Many people come. They could spread your idea!" Jema replied.

At the convention, Jewel addressed the crowd, "All humans need water to survive. We need clean water and a lot of it. How much water we have is equally important as how clean the water is. Reservoirs are a major source of drinking water and are being depleted rapidly. This severely lowers the quantity of water. There are several ways to remedy this. First, use less or conserve water. This ensures that we will have water in the future. Second, recycle water. This applies to industry when drinking water is used repeatedly although it can be recycled. Finally, support measures to increase our water quantity."

"Water treatment plants drastically improve water quality, but they can't do it all. To make sure our water has the best quality possible, follow these simple measures: reduce fertilizer use, keep stormwater drains free of leaves and debris, and reduce water runoff by turning

downspouts onto the lawn. All these things will increase our water quality so we can have safe drinking water. When all is said and done, water quality is just as important as water quantity.”

Just as Jewel took a stand to improve here community, you can help yours by taking measures to improve water quality and quantity and by helping others to understand that water quality and water quantity are equally important.