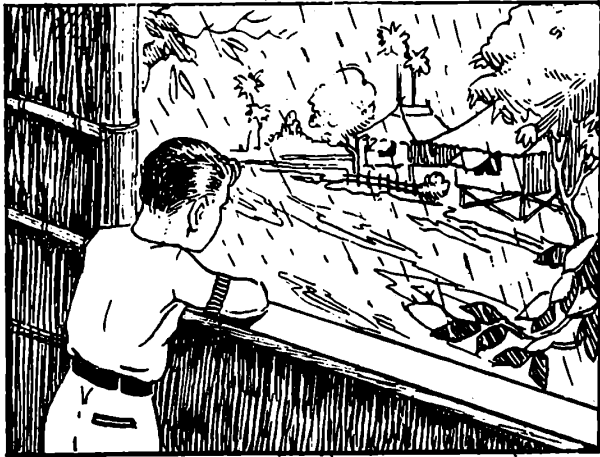


THE STORY OF THE RAINDROPS

A True and Imaginary Story



WHEN Serafin got out of bed and went to the window to look out, he was very much disappointed. He and his friends had planned to go on a picnic, and here was the rain falling in torrents. Besides, it looked like it was going to keep it up all day. He dressed slowly and went to his breakfast.

After breakfast, he found his uncle, who had come a few days before for a visit, sitting by the window reading a book. Serafin went to the window and watched the big raindrops falling on the pavement.

"Would you like to hear the story of the journey those raindrops have taken?" asked his uncle, laying aside his book.

"Why, Uncle Vicente," said Serafin, looking surprised, "I didn't know that raindrops ever went anywhere. I thought they only come down to spoil our picnics."

"No, that is not all they do," laughed his uncle.

Serafin sat down on a footstool near his uncle's chair. "Please tell me all about the raindrops and the trips they take," he said to his Uncle Vicente, who seemed to know about everything.

"Well, here is the story: Not long ago these little raindrops were flowing down the river. They had gone along for days through the beautiful green country. Often they slipped between tall coconut trees that grew on the banks; sometimes they passed towns, where boats came to ride on the water.

"One day the air was unusually warm. The little drops began to feel strangely light. The first thing they knew, they were floating up into the air. They went higher and higher, until it began to feel cooler and cooler. There they found many of their friends from the river and from other places. They played together high up in the air for a long time.

"Finally, it grew still cooler. The little drops began to shiver and to huddle close together. People down below on the land called them a cloud. At last they decided that it was too cool to stay up there. One by one they began to fall toward the earth. Faster and faster they came. The wind blew them and scattered them everywhere.

"That is how it happened that these little drops came to pay us a visit today. Some of the drops fell into rivers to carry the boats. Others watered the gardens and the rice fields. Some will go into cisterns and wells for people to drink or to wash their bodies."

"Oh, Uncle Vicente," exclaimed Serafin, "see how happy the raindrops look as they dance out in the street. That is because they are such useful little fellows. There! They are running away along the side of the street. I think I like the raindrops after all, and, anyway, we can go

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HAYDN

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him the degree of Doctor of Music (Mus. D.).

In London he was deeply impressed by hearing much of Handel's oratorio music (see the *Music Appreciation Section* of the February, 1940, issue of *The Young Citizen*), so he finally wrote an oratorio which has become very famous. This oratorio is called *The Creation* and tells the Bible story of the creation of the world.

The last ten years of Haydn's life were uneventful, and as his strength failed, he almost stopped writing music. He died in 1809.

Haydn had a very bright, sunny, lovable nature. He was simple-hearted, hard-working, religious, honorable, and manly. His music is as happy as was his life. It is pleasant to remember that children were always attracted by his gentle, cheerful nature, and that they liked to call him, as did grownups, too, their beloved "Papa Haydn."

TEST QUESTIONS

1. In what country was Joseph Hayden born? When?
2. Can you tell of Joseph's parents?
3. What early evidence

THE DUCK HOUSE

(Continued from page 99)

had been eaten. The ducks splashed here and there, every now and then uttering their funny language.

Rosa and Anita waved their hands to the ducks as the two girls and Mr. Santos rowed away.

Mr. Santos gave Rosa six eggs. She ran home and sat on the steps. She counted the eggs and murmured, "I will cook these eggs for Ma when she comes home."

did Joseph show of musical ability?

4. With what kind of people was the boy Joseph surrounded?

5. What did a relative offer to do?

RAINDROPS

(Continued from page 100)

on our picnic another day." —*Adopted.*

SOMETHING TO FIND OUT

1. What causes the drops of water to leave the river and go up above the earth? (Ask your teacher.)
2. In what form do the water drops go up above the earth? (Vapor)
3. What is vapor? (Ask your teacher.)
4. What is a raincloud?

THE BAROMETER

(Continued from page 117)

the barometer falls, the air pressure has been lessened, because a storm is approaching. Increasing pressure, which causes a rising barometer, is a sign of fair weather.

The height of the column of mercury in the barometer varies with the attitude. Thus when a barometer is carried to the top of a high tower or up a mountain, the mercury falls lower and lower, because the air pressure decreases with the altitude. By comparing the reading at sea-level with readings at other levels, the altitude of any place can be readily calculated.

REVIEW

1. Tell of the German scientist's early experiment with a barometer.
 2. What is a barometer? Describe it.
 3. Why does the barometer indicate weather conditions?
 4. How does the barometer measure altitudes?
 5. Have you studied the diagram on page 117?
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5. Why do the raindrops fall from the cloud?
 6. Into what places do the raindrops fall?