



NEW ENGLAND WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWWEA

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Town of Danvers

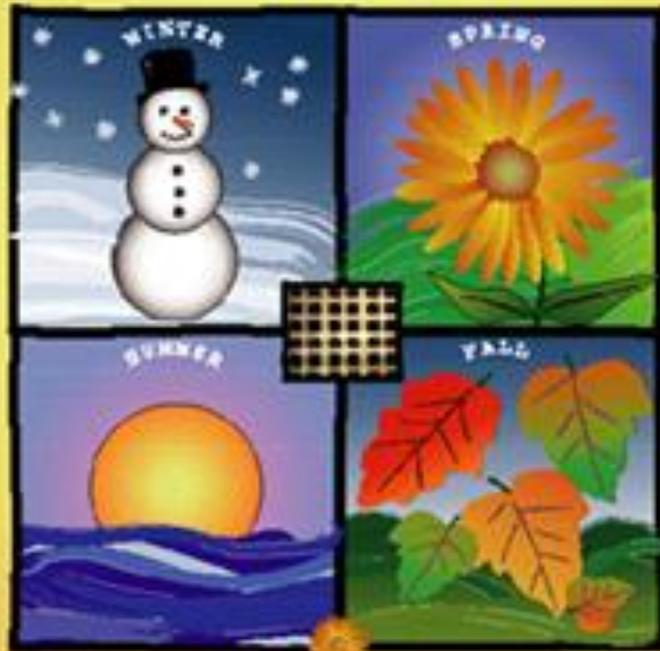


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DWAYNE

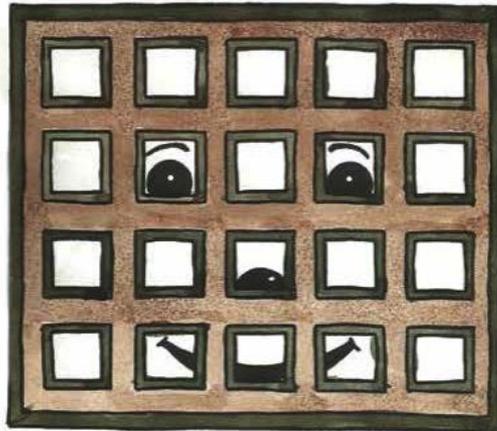
the
storm drain



a drain for
all seasons

DWAYNE

the Storm Drain



a drain for all seasons

written by Donna Papapietro
illustrated and designed by Rita Berkeley
for the MWRA School Education Program

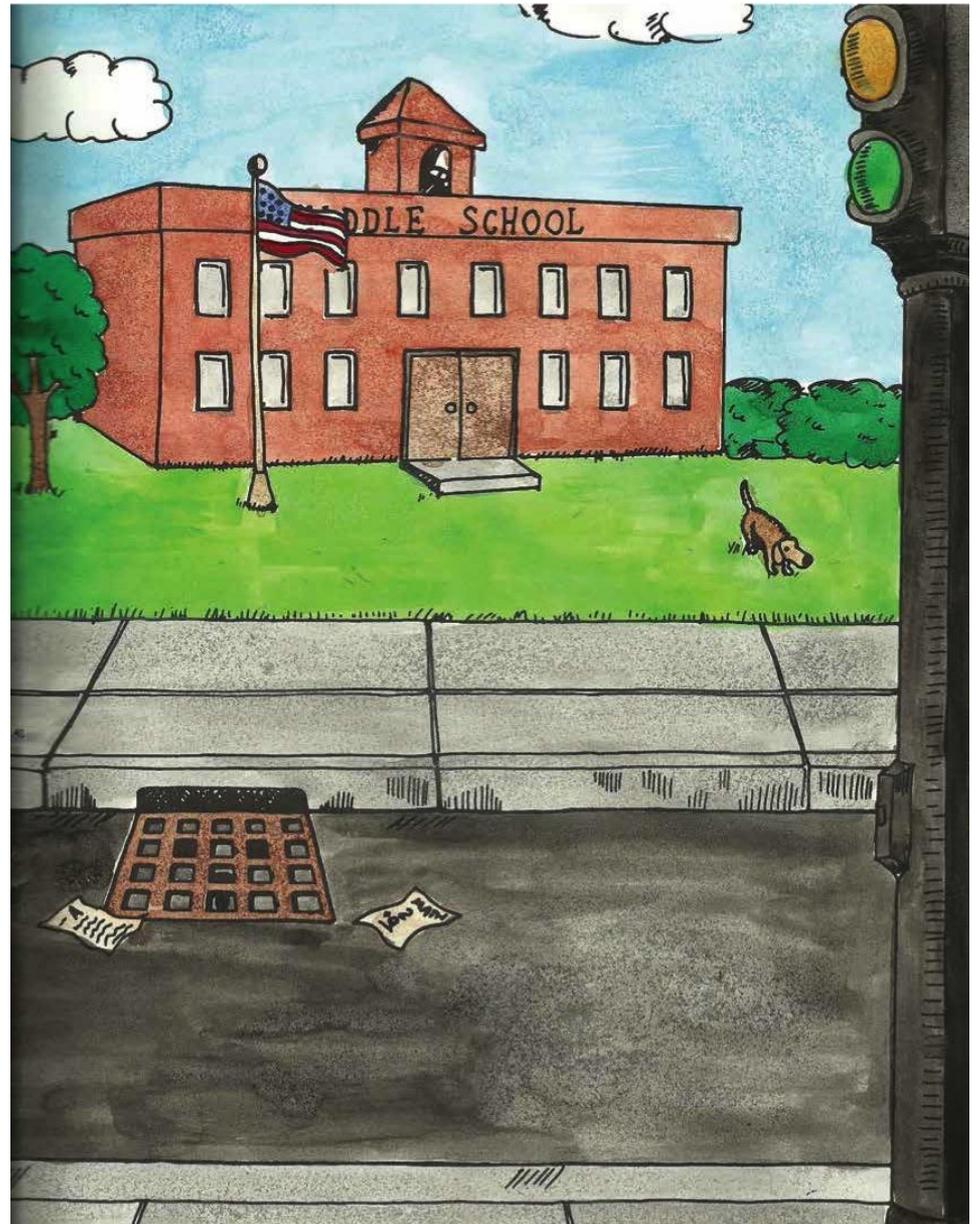
This afternoon as you
are walking home,
Think back to right now
and remember this
poem.

Stay near to the curb
keeping safe from the
street.

Look down by the road
and just follow your feet.

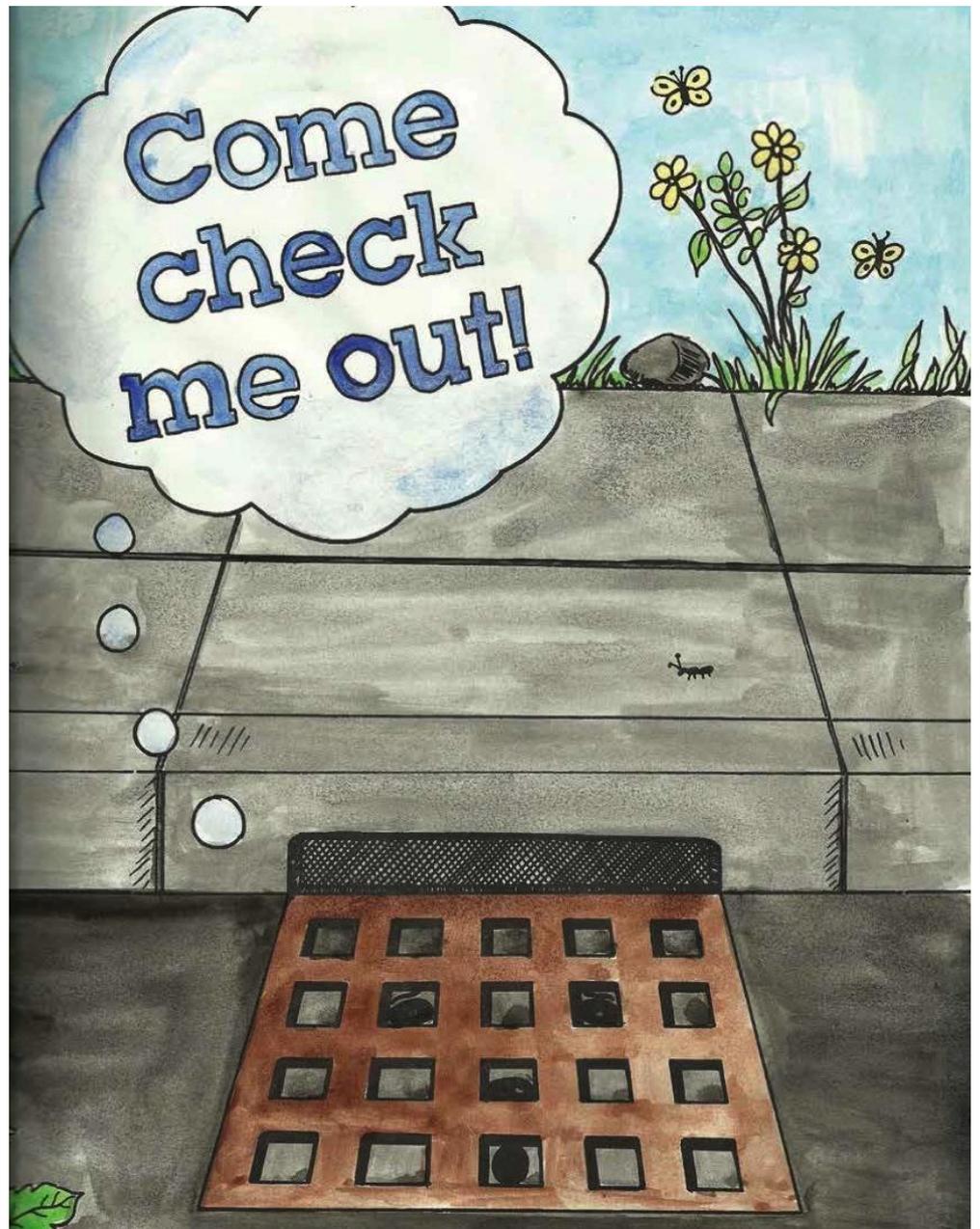


Maybe you'll see me
if you carefully search.
Maybe you'll find me
near a temple or church.
I am nothing quite fancy
and my color is dark,
"psst, i'm over here near
the school by the park."



Here I am! I'm hanging
out in this gutter,
Watching people go by
and not a word do I
utter.

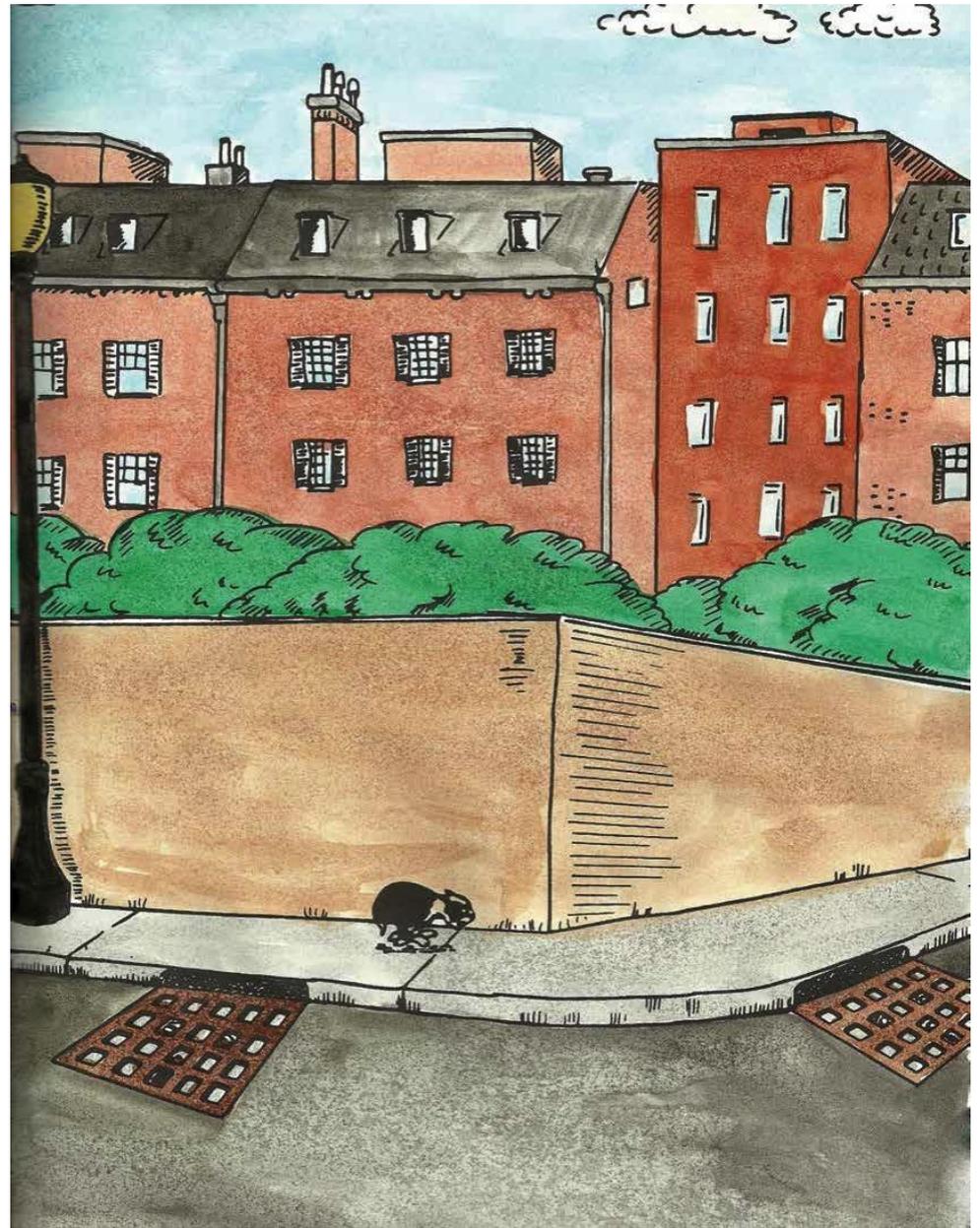
But, if I could speak I'd
look up and shout,
"I'm Dwayne the Storm
Drain come check me
out!"



I'm made of cast iron
and resemble a grate,
If you walk a few blocks
you'll meet another fine
mate.

I'm shaped like a square
and have bars that are
crossed,

I keep objects from
drain pipes that are
littered or lost.

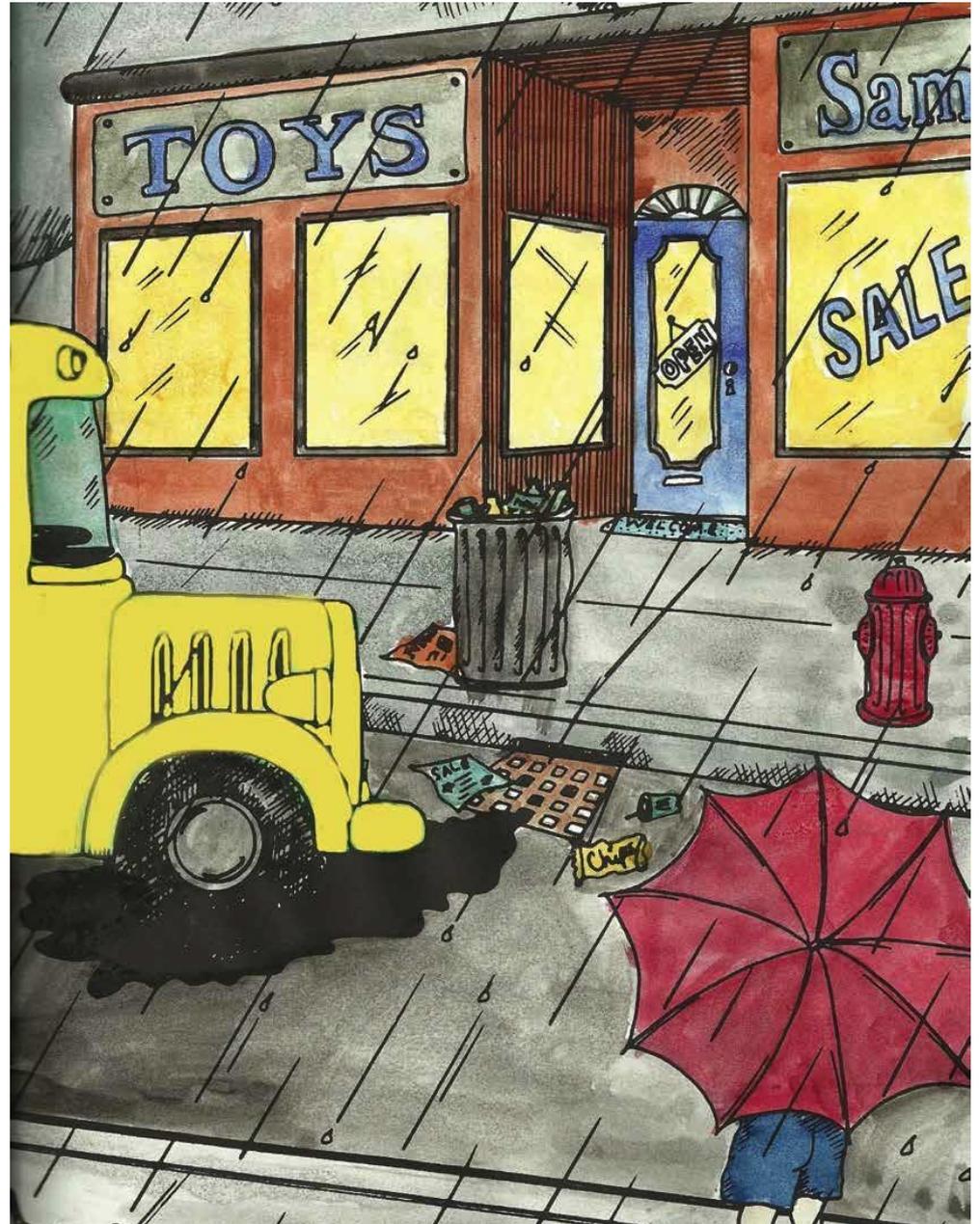


Gutters are my business
this street I dutifully
drain,

I am often overworked
in times of heavy rain.

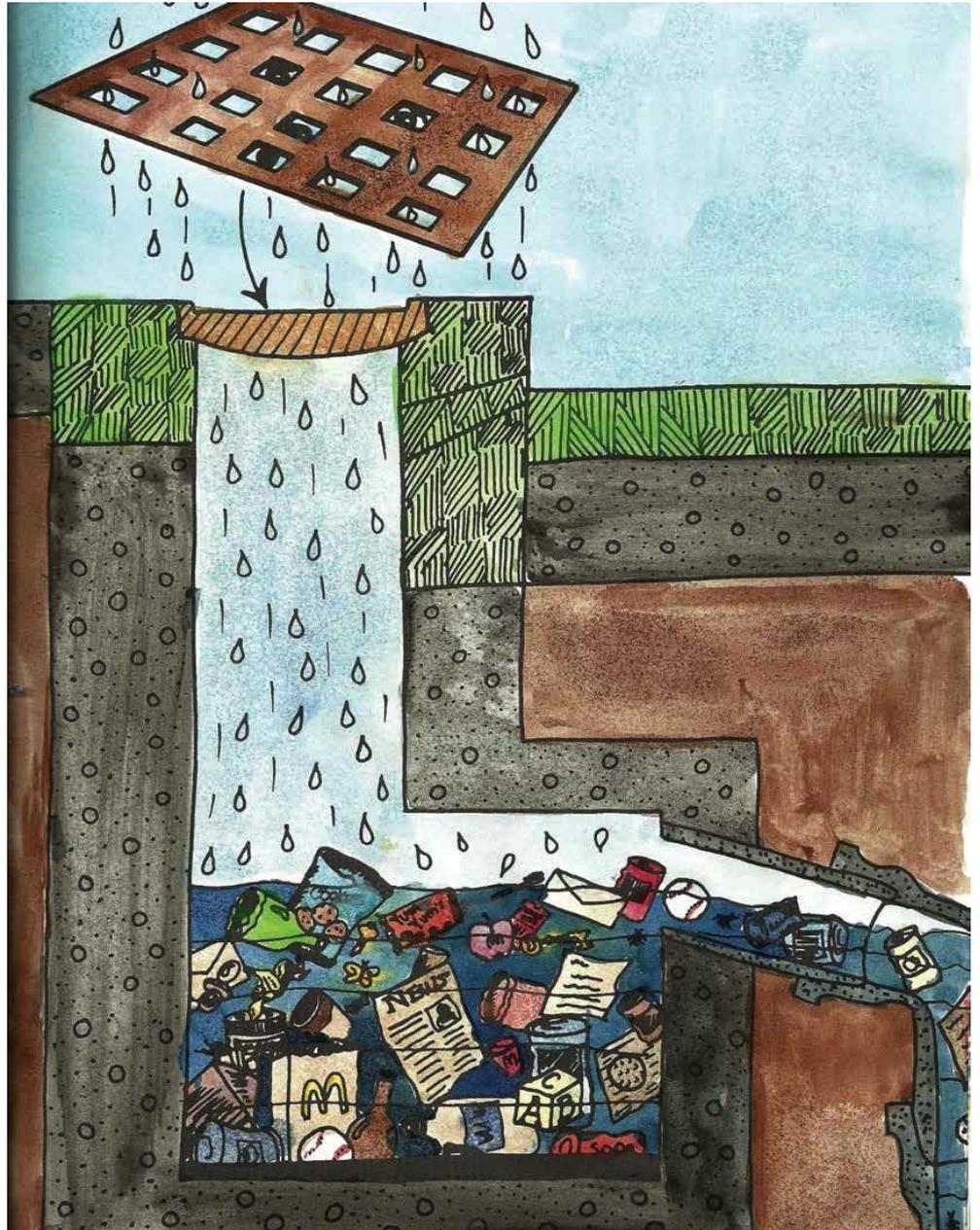
Rainwater runs through
me travelling down to
drain pipes,

But along with the water
I see garbage of all
types.



Don't use me for
dumping I've got a
specific purpose,
I am here to drain
streets of rainwater
that may surface.

BUT...



In autumn when school starts I am loaded with leaves,
Washing down with rainwater when they fall from the trees.



Winter begins and snow
falls fluffy-white,

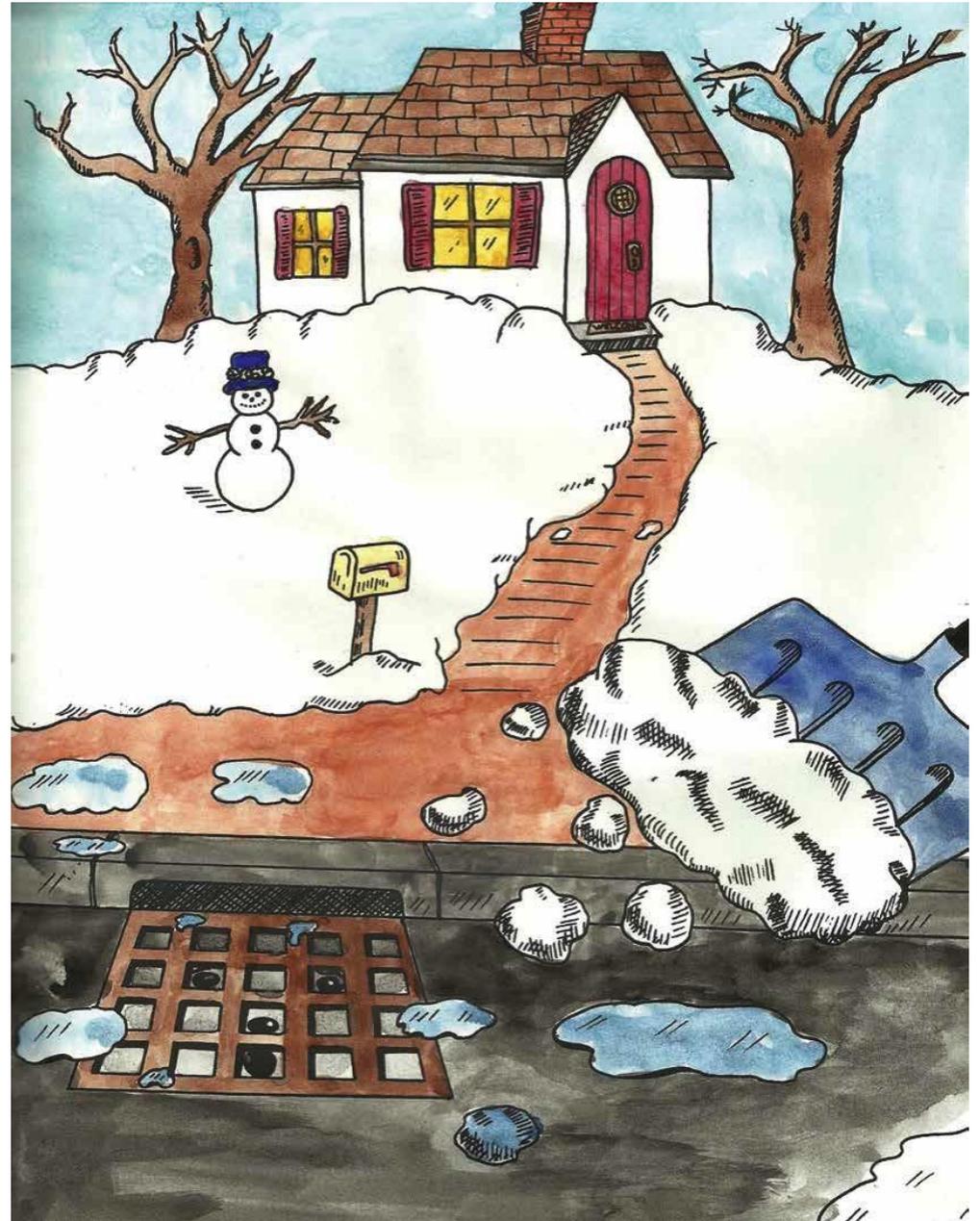
It's beautiful at first then
becomes such a sight!

It mixes with salt that is
thrown on the road,

To stop cars from sliding
so they don't crash and
get towed.

Snow shovels will clear
the road nicey-nice,

Shoving me dirt, snow,
and salt and big pieces
of ice!



This stuff it gets through
me all winter and fall,
It's a sure sign of spring
when down rolls a ball.

At the park children play
more in the school yard
as well,

When the weather is
warmer and lovely
flowers I smell.



Spring has sprung to life
and it rains a lot more,
So into my grate flows
water galore!

From hoses comes
more water when
sprinkling the lawn,
In spring neighbors
wake up to water at
dawn.

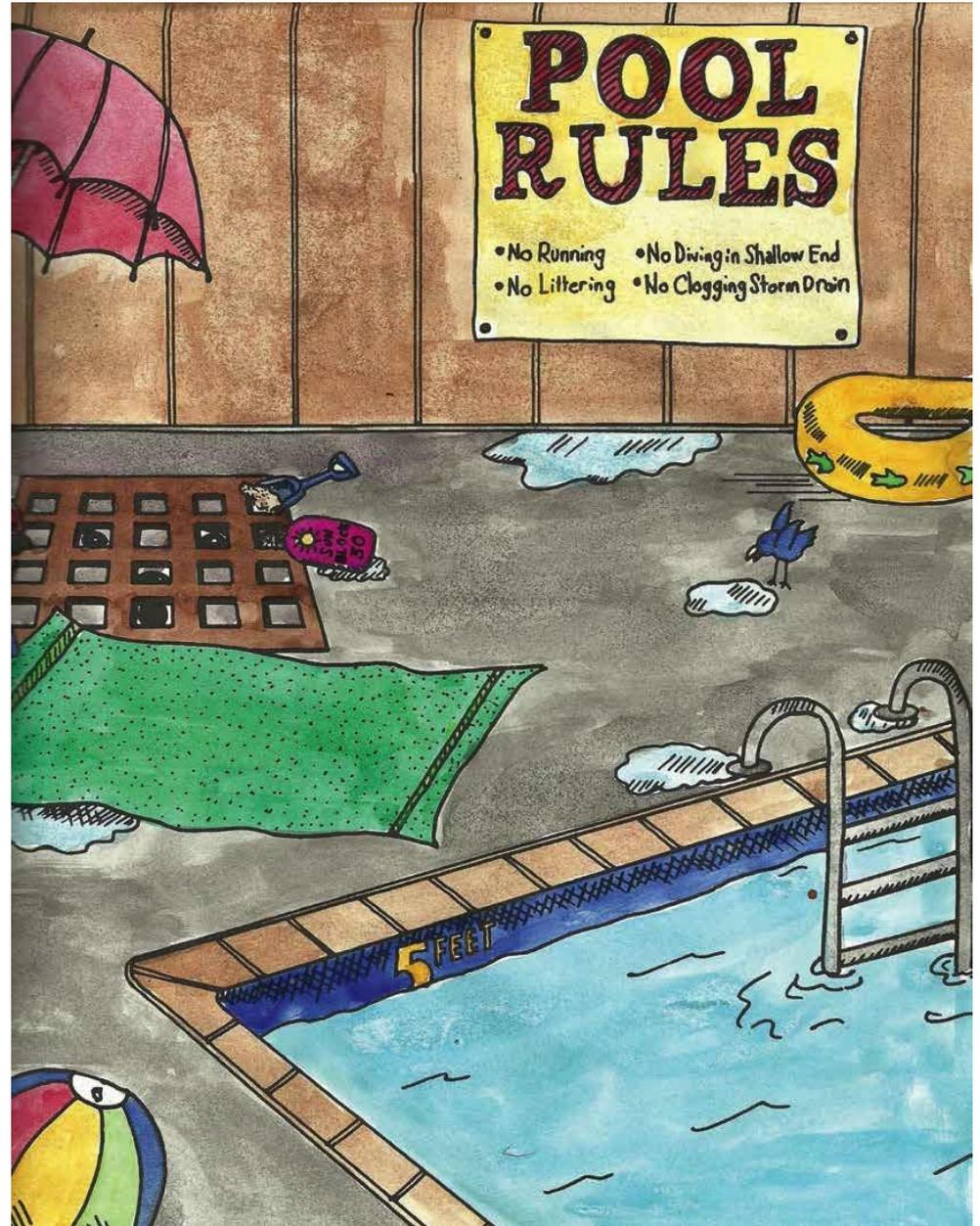


When summer arrives
the children leave
school,

And they move to the
park where there is a
big pool.

A lost towel and water
toy swept through me
today,

Someone was wet and
cold and without
something to play.



With the days growing longer dogs are walked up 'til nine.

There's more dog-poop curbside that's eventually mine.

So what's my point as I chatter on and on?

What does it all mean to you I now warn.

Where does it go? I'm sure you will ask.

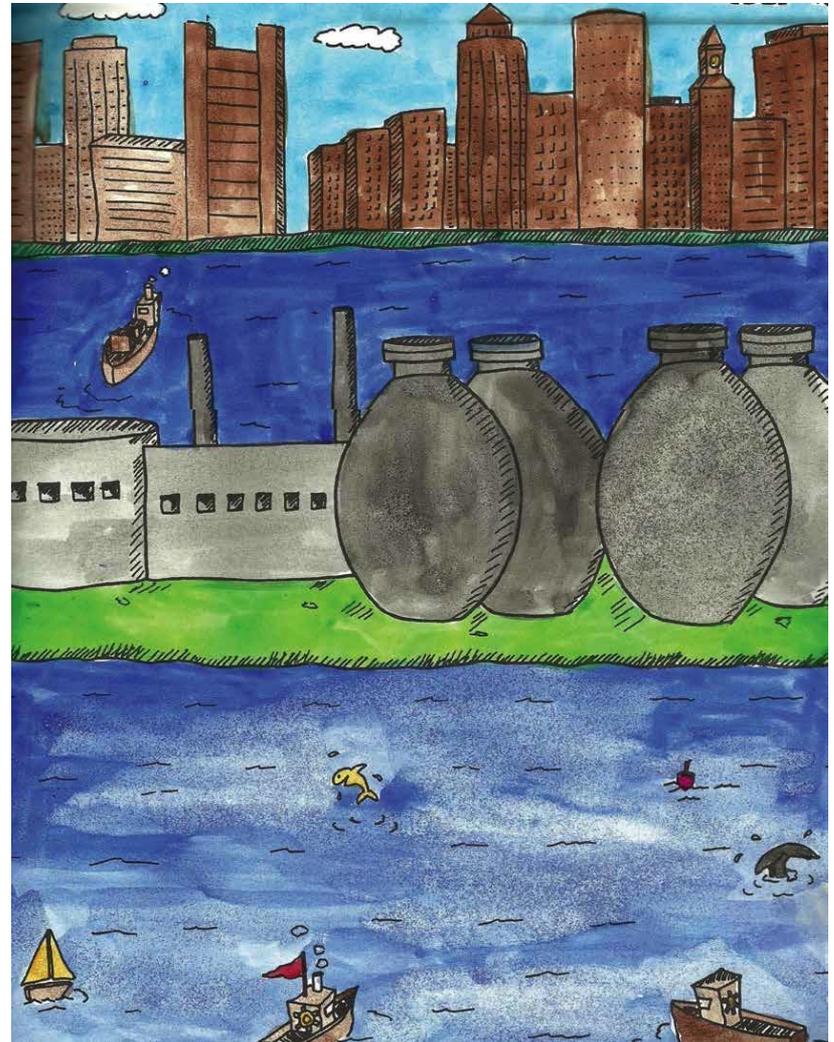
Explaining this now is no easy task.



After rain and other items go
down through my grate,
They travel through sewer
pipes a journey clear and
straight.

In some towns this all goes to
a sewage treatment plant,
The water is chemically
cleaned and becomes
effluent.*

But in most cities and towns
what I will tell you is true,
All this water and gunk flows
to water that's blue!



*effluent-the “cleaned” wastewater or final
liquid that flows out of a treatment plant.

Near your home there's
water either a brook, pond or
lake,

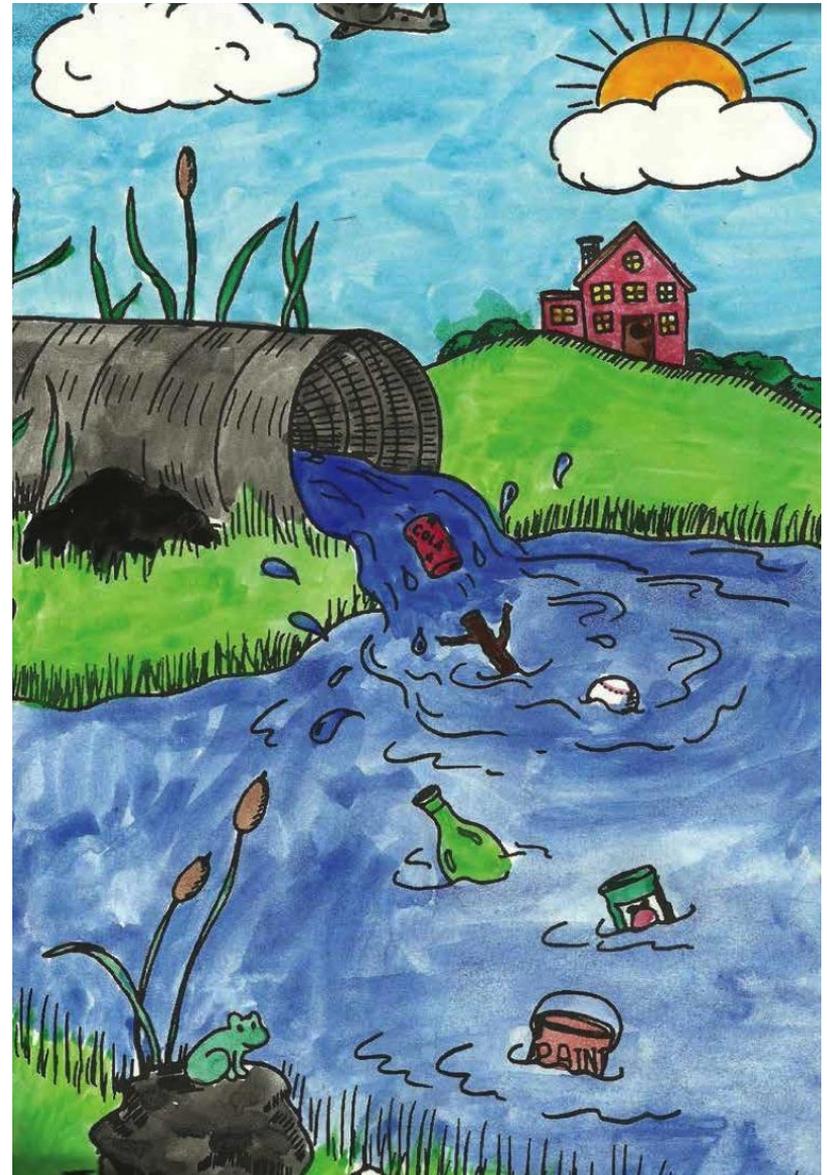
That receives all the rainfall
and other objects I take.

Things like dirt and leaves
are recycled back to earth,

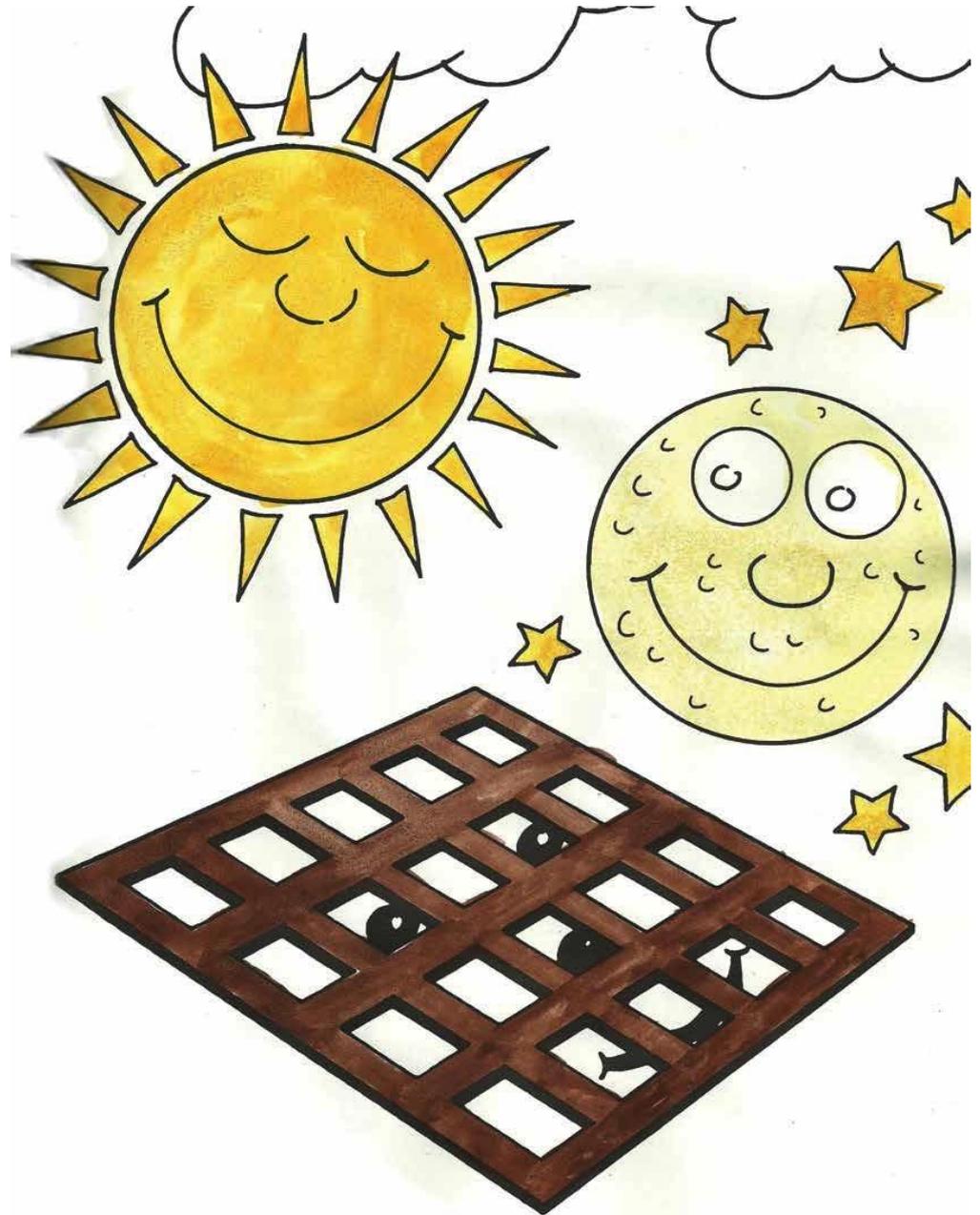
Things like litter and garbage
have no rebirth!

These things are people –
made and cannot be broken
down,

This junk hangs on forever
polluting water in your town!

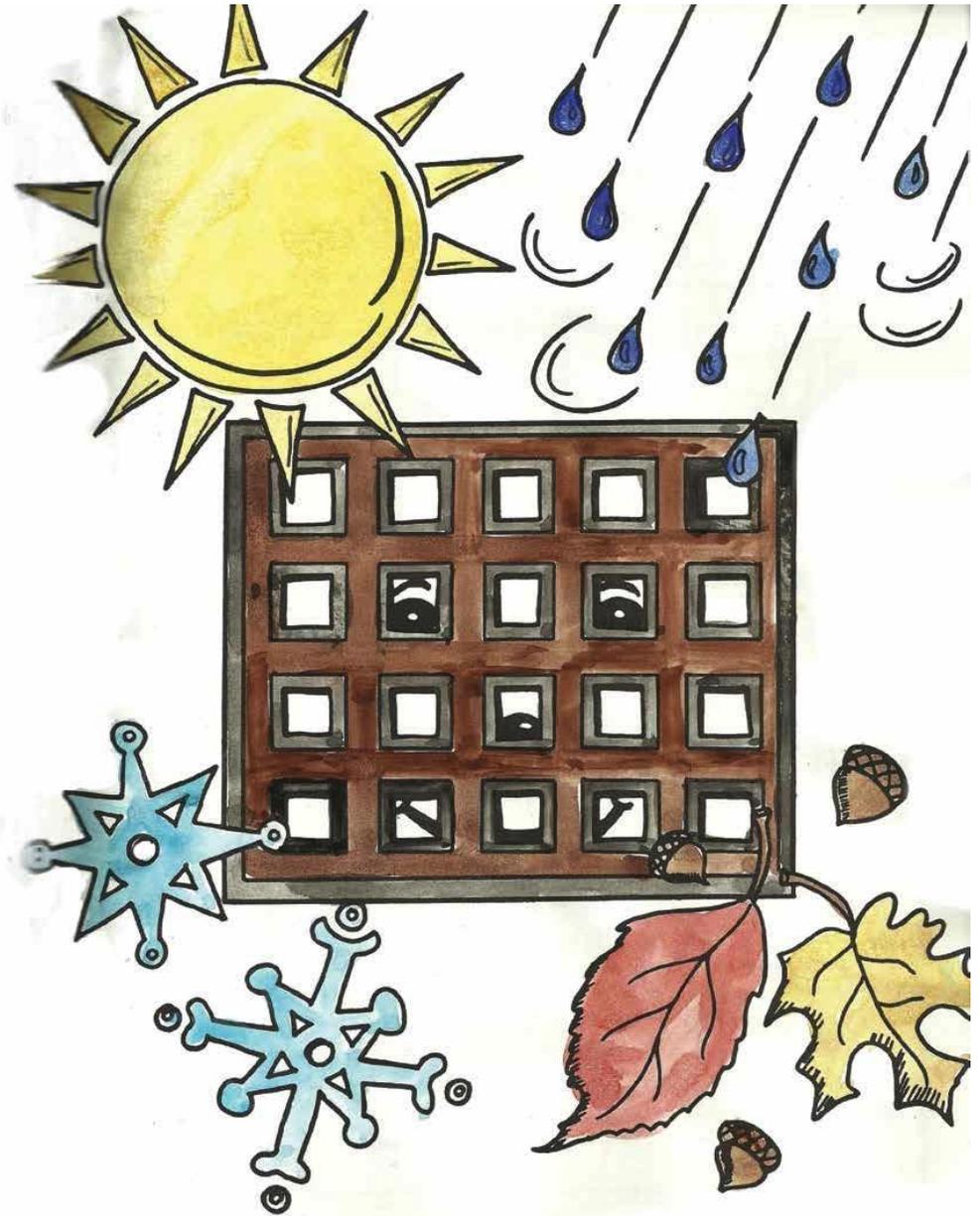


So next time you spy
me show me you care,
After reading this poem
you are surely aware.
My job is important
whether it's January or
June,
By the light of the sun
and the light of the
moon.



That's my story – I'm a
drain for all seasons,
I keep streets clear and
dry health and safety
are my reasons!

The End





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