

Study Guide



Gotas de Agua (Drops of Water)

by Jacqueline Briceño

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Summary of the Play

Gotas is a happy town with a special fountain that gives the town clean, clear water. Rocio is the fountain's guardian, who makes sure no one pollutes its water. She is especially worried because other towns nearby have been hurt by a bad virus, *Humanus Descorazonadus*, that steals the hearts of humans.

One day, Rocio hears her name being called. She hides the fountain and goes to answer the call.

But the call came from Conta, the King of Contamination. He wants to put his virus, *Humanus Descorazonadus*, in Gotas's fountain. When Rocio returns, Conta freezes her and forces her to tell him where the fountain is.

Just as he is about to destroy Gotas's pure water, Hidroamigo arrives to help save the day. He frees Rocio, and together they battle Conta. The magic fountain is saved!

Spanish Vocabulary with English Translation by Grade Level

Pre-K through 1st Grade

abuelita (ah-boo-ai-LEE-tah)	granny	mágico (MAH-hee-co)	magic
agua (AH-gwa)	water	manos (MAH-nose)	hands
ave (AH-vay)	bird	mejor (may-HORE)	better
ayudar (ah-you-DAR)	to help	nada (NAH-dah)	nothing
calle (CA-yeah)	street	niños (NEE-niose)	children
camino (cah-ME-no)	road	niña (NEE-nia)	girl
circo (SEER-coh)	circus	nombre (NOME-bray)	name
ciudad (see-oo-DAHD)	city	nuestro (new-AI-strow)	our
color (coh-LORE)	color	nunca (NOON-ka)	never
corazón (core-ah-ZTHOWN)	heart	peces (PAY-says)	fish (more than 1)
crecer (cray-SAIR)	to grow	pequeña (pay-KAY-nia)	little
cuidado (cooee-DAH-dough)	watch out	playa (PLA-ya)	beach
dar (dahr)	to give	real (ray-AHL)	real
dolor (dough-LORE)	pain/hurt	regalo (ray-GAH-low)	gift
dulce (DOOL-say)	sweet	rey (RAY)	king
dura (DO-rah)	hard	salir (sah-LEAR)	to leave
enferma (ain-fair-mah)	sick	señor (say-NIOR)	sir/mister
fácil (FAH-sill)	easy	señorita (say-nior-EE-tah)	miss
feliz (fay-LEEZTH)	happy	siempre (see-M-pray)	always
fuego (foo-AI-go)	fire	sol (SOHL)	sun
fuelle (foo-AIN-tay)	fountain	tarde (TAR-day)	late
gotas (GO-tahs)	drops	tiempo (tee-M-poe)	time
historia (ee-STORE-ee-ah)	story	ver (vair)	to see
jugar (who-GAR)	to play	vida (VEE-dah)	life
limpio (LEAM-pea-oh)	clean	viento (vee-AIN-toe)	wind
lindo (LEAN-dough)	pretty	voz (VOZTH)	voice
lluvia (YOU-vee-ah)	rain		

2nd through 4th Grade

alérgico (ah-LAIR-hee-coe)	allergic	corriendo (core-ee-N-dough)	running
alguien (AHL-gee-n)	someone	creer (cray-AIR)	to believe
bañarse (bah-NIAR-say)	to wash oneself	cubierta (coo-bee-AIR-tah)	covered
basura (bah-SOOR-ah)	trash	curar (coo-RAR)	to cure
belleza (bay-YEAH-ztha)	beauty	delicioso (day-lee-CIO-sow)	delicious
botella (bo-TAY-ya)	bottle	despertar (day-spare-TAR)	to wake up
burbuja (boor-BOO-ha)	bubble	doler (doe-LARE)	to hurt
cambiar (cahm-be-ARE)	to change	engañar (ain-ga-NYAR)	to fool/cheat
campeón (cahm-pay-OWN)	hero	encontrar (ain-con-TRAHR)	to find
campo (CAHM-poe)	field	escuchar (ais-coo-CHAR)	to listen to
cantidad (can-tee-DAHD)	amount	esperar (ais-pair-ARE)	to wait/hope
cero (SAY-row)	zero	estómago (ais-TOE-mah-go)	stomach
contento (con-TAIN-toe)	pleased	famosa (fah-MOSE-ah)	famous
corazón (core-ah-ZTHON)	heart	fresco (FRAYS-coh)	fresh
cortar (core-TAR)	to cut	fuerte (foo-AIR-tay)	strong

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gente (HAIN-tay) people
gusto (GOOSE-toe) taste/liking
hablar (ah-BLAR) to talk
hermoso (air-MOE-sow) beautiful/handsome
huele (oo-AI-lay) it smells
igual (ee-GWHALL) equal
joven (HO-vain) young
lagos (LA-goes) lakes
libre (LEE-bray) free
lugar (loo-GAR) place
llegar (yeah-GAHR) to arrive
llorar (yo-RAR) to cry
malvado (mal-VAH-dough) wicked
mar (MAHR) sea
memoria (may-MORE-ee-ah) memory
mirar (mee-RAR) to look at
montaña (moan-TAHN-ya) mountain
mover (mow-VAIR) to move
mundo (MOON-dough) world
necesitar (nay-say-see-TAR) to need/want
nubes (NEW-base) clouds
oír (oh-EAR) to hear
olvidar (ol-vee-DAR) to forget
ordenar (or-day-NAR) to order
país (pah-EES) country

parar (par-ARE) to stop
peligro (pay-LEE-grow) danger
pensar (pain-SAR) to think
peor (pay-OR) worse
perfecto (pair-FAKE-toe) perfect
planeta (pla-NAY-tah) planet
poder (poe-DARE) power
polvo (POLE-voe) dust
prometer (pro-may-TAIR) to promise
riega (ree-AI-gah) waters (plants)
rio (REE-oh) river
rocío (row-SEE-oh) dew
seca (SAY-ca) dry
sonoro (so-NO-row) loud
sordo (SORE-dough) deaf
tesoro (tay-SORE-oh) treasure
tomar (toe-MAR) to take/ (drink) to have
traer (tray-AIR) to bring
único (OO-nee-coh) only
uñas (OO-nias) finger/toe nails
vecino (vay-SEE-no) neighbor
visitante (vee-see-THAN-tay) visitor
volver (vole-VAIR) to return
vuelo (VOOAI-low) flight

5th through 8th Grade

adivinar (ah-dee-vee-NAR) to guess
admirada (ahd-me-RAH-da) admired
administrala (ahd-mean-EES-tra-la) manage it
alimentarse (ah-lee-men-TAR-say) to feed oneself
amoroso (ah-more-OH-soe) loving
anciana (ahn-see-ANA) old woman
aplausos (ah-PLOW-sews) applause
apoderar (ah-poe-dare-ARE) to authorize
armonía (are-moe-KNEE-ah) harmony
arreglar (ah-ray-GLAR) to fix
arrojar (are-oh-HAR) to throw
arruinar (ahr-roo-ee-NAR) to ruin
asco (AHS-co) disgust/loathing
asombroso (ah-soam-BRO-so) amazing
asunto (ah-SOON-toe) the matter
aterrar (ah-tay-RAR) to panic
cenizas (say-KNEE-zthas) ashes
cepillarse (say-pea-YAR-say) to brush oneself
colocar (co-low-CAR) to arrange
compuerta (comb-pooAIR-tah) flood-gate
conjunctivitis (con-hoonk-tee-vee-tees) ... pinkeye
conocer (coh-no-SAIR) to know
consérvarla (con-SAIR-var-la) conserve it

contaminación (con-tah-me-nah-see-OWN) ...
contamination
convertir (con-vair-TIER) to convert
cristalina (cree-stahl-LEE-no) like crystal
chiquilla (chee-KEY-ya) youngster (girl)
decorar (day-core-RAR) to decorate
definitivamente (day-feen-ee-tee-va-main-tay)...
definitely
desperdicios (days-pair-DEE-see-ohs) rubbish
destruido (days-true-EE-dough) destroyed
detener (day-tay-NARE) to hold up
diariamente (dee-are-ee-ah-MAIN-tay) daily
ejecutar (ai-hay-coo-TAR) to execute (do)
encantar (ain-cahn-TAR) to delight
enfrentar (ain-frain-TAR) to confront
enseguida (ain-say-GHEE-dah) immediately
ensuciar (ain-sue-see-ARE) to soil/befoul
enviarnos (n-vee-ARE-nose) to send us
escalofrío (ais-cal-oh-FREE-oh) chills
estupendo (ais-too-PAIN-dough) terrific
evaporarse (ai-vah-poor-ARE-say) to evaporate
existir (aiks-sees-TIER) to exist
explicación (aiks-plea-ca-seOWN) explanation

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extraño (aiks-TRAN-yio) strange
 fantasía (fahn-tah-SEE-ah) fantasy
 fastidiar (fas-tee-dee-ARE) to annoy
 fíjate (FEE-ha-tay) look
 fulminante (fool-me-NAHN-tay).....
 explosive/unstable
 gracioso (grah-see-OH-soe) gracious/graceful
 guardián (who-are-dee-AHN) guardian
 habitante (ah-bee-TAHN-tay) inhabitant
 imaginario (ee-mah-he-NAR-ee-oh) imaginary
 joven (HO-vain) young/youth
 jugueteón (who-gay-TONE) playful
 lata (LAH-tah) a can
 levantar (lay-vahn-TAR) to raise
 líquido (LEE-key-dough) liquid
 maravillosa (mar-ah-vee-YO-sah) marvelous
 mentiroso (main-tier-OH-soe) liar
 mintiendo (mean-tee-AIN-dough) lying
 muelas (moo-AI-las) molars (teeth)
 obsequios (ohb-SAY-key-ohs) gifts
 ocurrir (oh-coo-REAR) to happen
 paralizador (par-ah-lee-ztha-DOOR) paralyzer
 pelear (pay-lay-ARE) to fight
 perfectamente (pair-fake-tah-MAIN-tay) . perfectly
 poquitín (poe-key-TEEN) little bit
 preciado (pray-see-AH-dough) precious
 preocupar (pray-oh-coo-PAR) to worry
 protección (pro-take-see-OWN) protection
 protector (pro-taic-TORE) protective
 protégela (pro-TAY-hay-la) protect it
 purificar (poor-ee-fee-CAHR) to purify
 quizás (key-ZTHAHS) maybe
 realmente (ray-ahl-MAIN-tay) really
 reciclar (ray-see-CLAR) to recycle

reflexionar (ray-flay-see-o-NAR) to reflect
 regresar (ray-gray-SAHR) to return
 revivir (ray-vee-VERE) to relive
 resistar (ray-sees-TAR) t resist
 rinitis (rean-EE-tees) congestion
 sagrado (sah-GRAH-dough) sacred
 salada (sah-LAH-dah) salted
 salvar (sal-VAR) to rescue
 seguir (say-GEAR) to go on
 seña (SAY-nia) sign/mark
 sequía (say-KEY-ah) drought
 seres humanos (SAY-race oo-MAN-ose) ...
 human beings
 silvato (seal-VAH-toe) whistle
 simpático (seem-PAH-tee-co) .. pleasant/agreeable
 sonar (soe-NAR) to play (music)
 sorprender (sore-prain-DARE) to surprise
 sospechoso (soes-pay-CHO-so) suspicious
 suficiente (sue-fee-see-AIN-tay) sufficient
 superficie (sue-pair-FEE-see-ai) surface
 tampoco (tahm-POE-co) neither/not
 temas (TAY-mahs) themes
 temperatura (tame-per-ah-TOU-ah) ... temperature
 transformar (trahns-for-MAR) to transform
 transparente (trans-par-AIN-tay) transparent
 tristeza (trees-TAY-ztha) sadness
 urgencia (oor-HANE-see-ah) urgency
 valiente (va-lee-AIN-tay) valient
 valioso (vah-ee-OH-soe) valuable
 verdadero (vair-dah-DARE-oh) truthful/real
 virus (VEE-ruse) virus
 vital (vee-TAHL) vital

Spanish Phrases with English Translation

¿Cómo se llama? What is his/her name?
 ¿Que pasaría? What would happen?
 ¿Que sería? What could it be?

English Vocabulary with Definitions **by Grade Level**

Pre-K through 1st Grade

animal	a living thing that is not a plant, can move around, and feed itself. (<i>The zoo is full of many animals.</i>)
awful	very bad or terrible. (<i>Throwing trash on the ground is awful.</i>)
beautiful	very pretty to see, hear or feel. (<i>Rain helps beautiful flowers grow.</i>)
brush	a tool for cleaning, painting or other things. It has a handle on one end and a bunch of stiff on the other. (<i>How often do you brush your teeth?</i>)
city	a place with lots of buildings where many people live and work. (<i>Washington, D.C. is a big city.</i>)
covered	to put something over or on something else. (<i>Rocio covered the fountain to hide it.</i>)
cry	tears falling from the eyes. (<i>Babies cry when they are hungry.</i>)
daily	every day. (<i>I water the plants daily.</i>)
dirty	not clean. (<i>I fell in the mud and got dirty.</i>)
drops	tiny bits of liquid with a round shape. (<i>Drops of rain fell from the sky.</i>)
friend	someone whom you know and like very well. (<i>My best friend is my dog.</i>)
hear	to get sound with your ears. (<i>Rocio could not hear the whistle.</i>)
heart	the part of the body that is in charge of blood flow; also a symbol of loving or being kind. (<i>Conta's virus takes away people's hearts.</i>)
help	to do part of the work for someone. (<i>Can you help me lift this?</i>)
lake	a large or medium body of fresh or salt water that has land all around it. (<i>I like to fish in the lake.</i>)
listen	to pay attention to what can be heard. (<i>Listen to the birds singing.</i>)
morning	the early part of the day, before noon. (<i>In the morning I eat breakfast.</i>)
nothing	not anything. (<i>There's nothing to eat!</i>)
ocean	a large body of salt water that covers a lot of the earth. (<i>The ocean is fun to swim in.</i>)
plan	something you intend to do. (<i>My plan is to finish my homework and then play.</i>)
plant	a living thing that has leaves and roots. (<i>Plants need water to live.</i>)
rain	drops of water that form in the clouds and fall to earth. (<i>Rain is one of the earth's treasures.</i>)
steal	to take something from someone else without being allowed. (<i>Conta wants to steal people's hearts.</i>)
story	a report of something that happened or is made up. (<i>"Gotas de Agua" is a story about a magic fountain.</i>)
teeth	hard, white objects in a row in the mouth. (<i>My teeth feel cold when I eat ice cream.</i>)
thirsty	a need to drink water. (<i>Running makes me thirsty.</i>)
water	the clear stuff that is in rain. (<i>Water is good to drink when you're hot.</i>)
without	not with; having none or no. (<i>Without water, grass would die.</i>)
whistle	a small instrument that makes a noise when you blow air through it. (<i>I call my dog with a special whistle.</i>)

2nd through 4th Grade

allergic	a reaction your body has to some things that make it feel sick or cause a rash. (<i>Many children are allergic to peanuts.</i>)
blow	to force air out of the mouth. (<i>I like to blow my horn.</i>)
boring	something or someone who is very dull. (<i>Sometimes my family can be boring.</i>)

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deaf	not able to hear. (<i>Conta made Rocio deaf with his dust.</i>)
destroyed	to ruin completely. (<i>The fire destroyed the house.</i>)
dew	little drops of water that collect at night on grass and other surfaces. (<i>In the morning looks like diamonds.</i>)
difficult	hard to do or understand. (<i>It was difficult to stop Conta from ruining the fountain.</i>)
doubt	to not know for sure. (<i>I doubt that Conta likes children.</i>)
dust	tiny, dry pieces of soil, dirt or other things. (<i>There is a lot of dust on the table.</i>)
cleanliness	the habit of always keeping clean. (<i>Conta doesn't like Rocio's cleanliness.</i>)
famous	recognized or liked by people. (<i>Gotas was famous for its fountain.</i>)
fountain	a spray of water made by a machine, or the thing from which the water flows. (<i>Gotas' magic fountain had very pure water.</i>)
human beings	people. (<i>Conta doesn't like human beings.</i>)
leave	to go away from. (<i>Rocio could not leave the fountain.</i>)
order	to tell someone to do something in a strong way. (<i>Rocio ordered Conta to put her down.</i>)
percent (%)	one part, or a fraction, of something. (<i>Rain is 100 percent wet.</i>)
planet	a large object in outer space that circles around the sun. (<i>Our planet is the Earth.</i>)
protect	to defend or keep safe. (<i>I always protect my little brother.</i>)
minute	a unit used to measure time. One minute is 60 seconds. (<i>I shall be ready in a minute.</i>)
mistreat	to treat badly. (<i>Never mistreat an animal.</i>)
ready	fit and prepared to do something. (<i>Ready or not, here I come!</i>)
river	a large stream of water that flows in one direction. (<i>The Potomac River is near Washington, DC.</i>)
shower	washing your body with an overhead tool that sprays water over you. (<i>I like to shower before school.</i>)
silence	without a sound; quiet. (<i>There is silence in the theater before the play.</i>)
spread	to open or stretch out. (<i>The virus spreads from city to city.</i>)
strange	unusual or odd. (<i>Conta is a very strange person.</i>)
suddenly	something happening without warning. (<i>Suddenly, Rocio heard her name called.</i>)
surface	the outside of something. (<i>The surface of the moon is rocky.</i>)
teach	to show how to do something, or to help someone learn. (<i>This play teaches about water.</i>)
trash	things that are thrown away because they are not wanted. (<i>Conta threw trash all over the street.</i>)
treasure	money or something valuable that has been stored up. (<i>The magic fountain was a special treasure to Gotas.</i>)
virus	a tiny living thing that lives in other living things and causes diseases. (<i>Conta wants to hurt the whole world with an awful virus.</i>)
wonderful	causing a feeling of happiness or wonder. (<i>Gotas is a wonderful city.</i>)

5th through 8th Grade

admire	to respect; to hold in high esteem. (<i>I admire Rocio's dedication.</i>)
brotherhood	a warm and close feeling between people who feel like family, or are family. (<i>The people of Gotas live in close brotherhood.</i>)
contamination	something that is unclear or impure. (<i>The lake is contaminated with trash.</i>)
crystal	a clear colored rock with a regular shape; to be clear, not clouded. (<i>The water in the fountain in Gotas was crystal clean.</i>)
defender	someone who guards or protects a person, place or thing. (<i>Hidroamigo was the defender of the magic fountain.</i>)
definitely	without a doubt. (<i>Gotas is definitely a wonderful city.</i>)

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glacier	large mass of ice formed in cold regions from compacted snow, slowly moving down a slope or across land. (<i>The glacier moves at about 5 feet per day.</i>)
marvelous	causing awe, admiration or amazement. (<i>It's marvelous that you've learned all these words.</i>)
nourish	to supply with food needed for life and growth. (<i>The dew nourishes the grass and trees.</i>)
precious	of great value. (<i>Water is as precious as air.</i>)
pure	not mixed with anything else; clean, not dirty. (<i>The water in the stream is so pure it's like crystal.</i>)
reign	to have complete control or influence; comes from a monarch ruling. (<i>Peace and happiness reign in Gotas.</i>)
sea	a large body of salt water completely or partially surrounded by land; some people also use sea as interchangeable with ocean. (<i>The Mediterranean Sea is almost surrounded by land.</i>)
unattended	to not be present at a specific place. (<i>Rocio didn't want to leave her fountain unattended.</i>)
unfortunately	suffering from bad luck; unlucky. (<i>Unfortunately, the dog ate my homework again.</i>)

Vocabulario de Teatro (Theater Vocabulary)

Autor (<i>auw-TORE</i>)	Playwright: The person who wrote the play.
Actor/Actriz (<i>ahk-TORE/ahk-TREESTH</i>)	Actor/Actress: The men and women who play the parts onstage.
Director (<i>dee-reck-TORE</i>)	Director: The person who picks the actors and tells them what to do.
Escena/Escenario/	Scene/Stage/Scenery: All words related to the stage. The scene is the
Escenografía (<i>ai-SAIN-ah,</i> <i>ai-sain-ARE-ee-oh,</i> <i>ai-sain-oh-grah-FEE-ah</i>)	location where each part of a play takes place; the stage is the place where the actors work, and the scenery is what they act in front of.
Fotografía (<i>foe-tow-grah-FEE-ah</i>)	Photography. Photos have to be taken of all shows – for publicity, for program covers, and for reminders.
Maquillaje (<i>mah-key-YA-hay</i>)	Makeup: All actors, both women <i>and</i> men, wear stage makeup to make them more visible from the audience.
Musicalización (<i>moo-see-cah-lee-tha-see-OWN</i>)	Music Design: Selecting what music is used for the play.
Producción (<i>pro-duke-see-OWN</i>)	Production: The people who organize everything about the play, including who will direct it, who will design and build the set, and where the costumes come from.
Sonido (<i>sow-NEE-doe</i>)	Sound: Not just music is used during a play; many times there are other sounds involved, too.
Vestuario (<i>ves-too-ARE-ee-oh</i>)	Costumes: What the actors wear to make them look different.
Utilería (<i>oo-teel-air-EE-ah</i>)	Properties: everything that an actor uses onstage (such as the Old Woman's embroidery).

The Nature of Water

We see water everyday. It comes out of the tap when we brush our teeth or wash dishes. It falls from the sky as rain, and if it's cold, as snow. Sometimes we see hail, which is also water. We built snowmen out of it, swim in it, and sail on it. Water is a part of our lives.

But water is also necessary for life. Without water, we can not live. An average adult man can live between 48-60 days with no food, but for only 3-6 days with no water.



So what is water? The scientific answer is that each molecule of water is made up of one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms. However, it's really more complicated than that. Water sticks together because in each molecule of water, the hydrogen atoms want to be near the oxygen atom of a neighboring molecule of water. We can say that water is sticky, even though we don't feel its stickiness.



Water, as you know, can go from a solid to a liquid and back again. But it can also become a gas. The water cycle is when liquid water (a lake, ocean, or even a puddle) changes from liquid to a gas (steam or fog), and rises into the air where it forms clouds. After awhile, the gas in the clouds becomes liquid again, and falls to the ground as rain, snow or hail.

The solid forms of water include snow, ice and hail. Glaciers are huge areas of packed snow and ice. Ice can be as small as the cubes you put in a drink and as big and thick as the Arctic Ocean in winter.

When water freezes, turning from liquid to solid, it gets bigger, or expands. You may have seen this happen if you've left a full soda bottle in the freezer by accident. When you finally remember it, the top has exploded off of the bottle and the partially frozen soda is all over the inside of the freezer.

Most of the water we've talked about so far is fresh water; water we can drink. But most of the water on earth – 97 % - is salt water, found in oceans, seas and salt lakes. Almost all streams and rivers flow into an ocean eventually.

Pollution in the Ocean

The oceans of the world are becoming dirtier and dirtier. For years people thought that it did no harm to dump plastics, left-over rope, waste-water from ships, and even some oil into the ocean. They thought the ocean could clean itself easily. However, we know now that the ocean can only clean itself to a point.

Man-Made Products:

About 10% of the 100 million tons of plastics which are made each year end up in the ocean. 20% of this is thrown from ships, boats and platforms (like oil platforms); the rest comes from plastics left on land or in rivers and washed into the ocean. Most plastics do not disintegrate easily, so they're with us for a long time. A single large soda bottle could break up into enough tiny pieces to be able to put one piece on every single mile of beach in the whole world.



Plastics can hurt and kill animals in the ocean. They eat the plastic thinking it is food.

Glass is also thrown away, but does not have as bad an impact on animal life as plastic does, mainly because it is heavier and sinks. However, broken glass has its own dangers.

Oil:



Most oil pollution does not come from big spills. It comes from people changing their car oil, regular cleaning of the inside bottoms of ships (bilges) and other ship activities, and air pollution from cars and factories that settles into the ocean through rain.

If one person changes his car oil and lets the old oil wash into the gutter instead of collecting and carefully getting rid of it, that oil can pollute a million gallons of water. Scientists estimate that about 363 million gallons of oil ends up in the ocean every year this way.

When sailors empty the bilges of ships, or clean the decks of ships, they wash about 137 million gallons of oil into the ocean by accident each year.

Air pollution causes about 92 million gallons of oil pollution each year when cars and factories pollute the air. The polluted air is condensed into clouds which rain into

the ocean.

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Only 5 percent of oil pollution is caused by big oil tanker accidents, though it still is about 37 million gallons of oil leaked into the ocean each year. Offshore drilling accounts for 15 million gallons of oil.

Some oil pollution is even natural, because there are places in the ocean where oil seeps through decaying rock into the water. This causes about 62 million gallons of pollution every year.

Animals and birds can be harmed for many years by oil pollution. The oil keeps birds from being able to fly. They also eat the oil by accident as they try to clean themselves. Every year over a million water birds die from oil pollution.



Algal Blooms:



Water runoff from farms and cities is causing algae (very small plant-like things) to grow in rivers, bays and near coastlines around the world. Human and animal waste, plus fertilizers used in growing plants on farms, combines to form nutrients – mainly nitrogen and phosphorus. The amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the water create algal blooms.

Algal blooms have always happened, but the number happening now is creating a problem. As the algae die, they take oxygen from the water. This causes fish to suffocate because they cannot breathe. Some kinds of algae can poison fish, birds and animals.

Biography: Jacqueline Briceño



Ms. Briceño was born and grew up in Venezuela. She began acting in 1973, when she joined the University Theater children's theater group at the University of Carabobo in Venezuela. After several years, she became more interested in other parts of theater. She learned about producing, directing, working with music, playwriting and working with children. Finally, she took over the direction of the Academy of Children's Theater for more than twelve years!

During that time, Ms. Briceño took part in more than 40 shows that included classical theater, Spanish theater and children's theater. She won many awards for her work.

In 1997, Ms. Briceño moved to Miami, Florida. She started the Miami Children's Theatre. The Miami Children's Theatre was invited to bring a show to Teatro de la Luna's International Festival of Hispanic Theater, where she first met the people from Teatro de la Luna. Since then, she has come back to create four shows for Teatro de la Luna's Experience Theater Program. Besides *Gotas de Agua (Drops of Water)*, Ms. Briceño also wrote and directed *El Gato y la Gaviota (The Cat and the Seagull)*, *ABE: un sueño cumplido (ABE: a Dream Fulfilled)*, *Hansel y Gretel (Hansel and Gretel)*, *La Bella Durmiente (The Sleeping Beauty)* and *Las Aventuras de Pinocho (The Adventures of Pinocchio)*.

Ms. Briceño also won an important international award in Spain for an adult play she wrote.

Jacqueline Briceño still lives in Miami. She has a young boy now, who is learning in both English and Spanish.