

SCIAF WATER IS LIFE ASSEMBLY DRAMA

This sketch highlights some of the key issues faced by people who are living without access to clean water and sanitation. Person 5 takes on the lead role with other roles contributing equally.

Five people enter the worship space / stage carrying opened umbrellas, as if it is raining.

Person 1 (To the other people on stage) Good morning!

Person 2 (Unbelievably) Good? Good? What's good about it? It's raining again! I can't stand the British weather...

Person 3 (Trying to be positive) Well, it's good weather for... er, ducks...

Person 4 That's just quackers.

Person 5 And that's a terrible joke. Anyway, I like rain! (Takes down umbrella and jumps up and down excitedly) I love splashing in the puddles.

People 1-4 (Stop suddenly and stare at Person 5) What? You like rain?!

Person 5 Yeah! I love it. I mean, without it, can you imagine what life would be like?

Person 1 (Sarcastically) Yes! Sunny!

Person 5 Well, okay, it's good to have a bit of sun, too. But we need the rain to survive, don't we?

Person 2 I suppose so...

Person 5 Just think of all the times that you've used water so far today.

Person 3 Well, I showered this morning.

Person 4 (Holding their nose) Are you sure?

Person 2 And I brushed my teeth. (Breathes heavily) Hmm, minty fresh!

Person 3 And I made a cup of tea.

Person 1 (Producing a water bottle) And I've got my water bottle here for later.

Person 4 And I put some clothes in the washing machine before I came out.

Person 3 And I had a boiled egg for breakfast.

Person 1 And I watered the plants.

Person 2 Oh and I flushed the loo!

Person 5 (Interrupting) Okay, okay! Too much information! But you see, we use water all the time, often without thinking.

People 1-4 (Nodding their heads together) Yes, you're right.

- Person 5** And where do you think all that water comes from?
- Person 1** Er, the tap...
- Person 5** Well, yes. But first of all it comes from the rain!
- Person 2** I suppose you've got a point.
- Person 5** So can you imagine life without water?
- Person 3** (Looking up at the sky, sighing) Not in this weather, unfortunately.
- Person 4** It would be pretty awful.
- Person 5** But that's what millions of people across the world face regularly. Over 785 million people in the world don't have access to clean water.
- Person 1** That's a lot of people!
- Person 5** And two billion people don't have a safe, clean toilet.
- Person 2** That's a lot of people!
- Person 5** And not having clean water brings all sorts of problems. For example, lots of time is spent collecting water from wells – a job that's often left to women and children. So children can't always get to school and women can't always find work.
- Person 3** That's not good.
- Person 5** And, of course, a lack of clean water often leads to diseases such as dysentery and diarrhoea.
- Person 4** That sounds dreadful.
- Person 5** That's true. And school children around the world miss a combined average of 443 million school days a year because of water-related illness. Diarrhoea, for example, is easily treated in this country, but it can be deadly, especially for children.
- Person 4** So it could be prevented?
- Person 5** Yes, and it's a problem that is affecting many different places – parts of Africa, for example, where it is often hot and dry but also in countries where floods are common, like Bangladesh.
- Person 1** So what can we do?
- Person 5** Well, organisations such as SCIAF are working hard to give more people access to clean water. In Ethiopia, SCIAF partners are helping communities build water storage containers in their village so they don't have to walk two hours to get water.
- Person 2** That sounds brilliant!
- Person 5** It is! And SCIAF is working with governments and leaders to help them understand the need to do more.
- Person 3** It sounds like there's a lot of change needed.
- Person 5** There is! But SCIAF, with the help of the Scottish people, will continue to help as long as people are in need.
- Person 4** That sounds brilliant!
- Person 5** It is! That's because water is brilliant. It's life-giving and we need it to survive! So, you see, that's why I love rain (starts to jump again) and love splashing in puddles!
- People 1-4** (holding out a hand and taking down their umbrellas) Er, it's stopped raining!