

Grades 2-4. The Little Fluffy White Cloud. Directions. Print out. Read the story.

The Little Fluffy White Cloud

A mist crept over a swamp. “What a beautiful night it is,” she whispered. “The moon and the stars are beautiful. The hills and the woods and the rivers are beautiful. But, I am not beautiful. I am stuck in this swampy marsh.”

Just then, an evening breeze danced by, fresh and full of life. As he approached, the mist began to rise, brightening under the light of the full moon. “Come with me,” the breeze called as he lifted her far up into the sky. And, she became a fluffy little white cloud.

Meanwhile, the dawn approached and the sun shone on the fields sparkling with dew. The farmers awakened to a bright new day. They looked up to the sky and saw the little cloud sailing by. “We hope for rain today,” they called as they went about their farming chores.

It got hotter and hotter, and by afternoon the workers grew weary. The earth was hard and dry and they could no longer till the soil. The little cloud looked down from above. She saw the dry land and the exhausted workers. “I wish I could do something for them just to show the breeze how grateful I am for his help.”

The weary men looked up and called, “Little cloud, can you bring us rain? Our streams are dry and our cattle need water. Please revive us, little cloud.” “I wish I could help you,” the little cloud called. “The breeze helped me and now I must help them,” she whispered. “But, I do not know how.”

Directions. Print out. Continue reading the story.

Then, the breeze heard her whispers and drew near. "Come with me," the breeze called and drove the little cloud across the sky. She began to change color like a chameleon. After that, the wind arrived and roared, blowing the trees back and forth. The farmers ran to their homes for shelter.

Then, the wind hushed and a bolt of lightning flashed from the little cloud. Thunder was soon heard followed by a torrent of rain. The rain soaked the earth and the dry clods and the thirsty fields revived. The streams ran deep once more.

Then, the sun broke forth lighting everything again and the raindrops glistened in its beams. The little cloud changed color again and a beautiful rainbow appeared.

End.

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Directions. Print out. Answer the questions using the “Blank Answer Sheet” on page 5. Make sure to number your answers. Check your answers with the answers on page 6.

Questions:

1. Who crept over the swampy marsh and was stuck there?
2. Who danced by full of life and helped the mist leave the marsh?
3. What did the mist become?
4. When it was daylight, who woke up to a new day?
5. What did the farmers say to the little cloud as it sailed by?
6. Why did the workers have to stop work in the afternoon?
7. What did the cloud wish she could do?
8. Who heard the little cloud’s whispers?
9. What did the breeze do?
10. What happened to the little cloud?
11. Who arrived and roared as the little cloud was changing color?
12. What did the wind do?
13. What did the farmers do when they heard the wind?
14. What happened to the little cloud when the wind hushed?
15. What followed the bolt of lightning?
16. What did the rain do?
17. What did the sun do?
18. What did the little cloud do when the sun shone after the storm and what appeared?

DEFINITIONS. Directions. Print out. Study the definitions.

awaken – *v.* To wake up from sleep or a sleep-like state.

awakened – *v.* Past tense of awake. Woke up from sleep or a sleep-like state.

breeze – *n.* A light to moderate wind, 4-31 mph (6-50 kph).

broke (v.) forth (adv.) – Came or burst into view.

clods – *n.* Plural of clod. A large lumps of earth or clay.

dawn – *n.* The first appearance of light in the sky as the sun rises at the beginning of a new day.

glisten – *v.* To shine brightly, or reflect light from a wet surface.

harrow – *v.* To break up land by pulling a harrow over it, or be broken up with a harrow. A harrow (*n.*) is a piece of farm equipment with sharp teeth or disks that is used to break up soil and clods of dirt and to even up a plowed field.

hush- *v.* To become silent.

hushed – *v.* Past tense of hush. Became silent

marsh – *n.* A low-lying water-logged area, often beside water.

mist – *n.* A thin gray cloud of condensed water droplets in the atmosphere just above the ground, limiting the view and making objects unclear.

revive – *v.* Become alive; restore to life.

revived – *v.* past tense of revive. Became alive; restored to life.

swamp – *n.* A large, wet area overgrown with shrubs and trees.

till – *v.* To prepare land for the growing of crops by plowing or harrowing.

torrent – *n.* A fast and powerful rush of liquid, especially water.

weary – *adj.* Tired.

Directions. Print out. Check you answers with the answers below.

Answers:

1. The mist.
2. An evening breeze.
3. A little fluffy white cloud.
4. The farmers.
5. "We hope for rain today."
6. It got hotter and hotter and the workers grew tired of tilling the hard and dry soil.
7. Help them but she whispered she did not know how.
8. The breeze.
9. "...drove the little cloud across the sky."
10. "She began to change color like a chameleon."
11. The wind.
12. Blew the trees back and forth.
13. They ran to their homes for shelter.
14. A bolt of lightning flashed from it.
15. Thunder and a torrent of rain.
16. "The rain soaked the earth and the dry clods and the thirsty fields revived." And, the streams were full again.
17. "The sun broke forth lighting everything again and the raindrops glistened in its beams."
18. "The little fluffy white cloud changed color again and a beautiful rainbow appeared."