



**Blue Schools  
Network**

Educating for a Blue Future

## **The Water Princess**

Written by Susan Verde. Adapted for the classroom by Carole Hay

The stage suggests three areas, home, the shea nut tree, the well. There is a flexible cast of 8 (3 adults, 2 children, 3 dream children with doubling possible). Actors have chosen the music, prepared several dance drama or movement sequences to suggest playing, walking to the well, working.

*(MUSIC. Several children are asleep on floor mats. In a dream sequence a group moves slowly behind them. Throughout the story, music rises and falls with the action.)*

**DREAM CHILD 1:** I am Princess Gie Gie. My kingdom is the African Sky, so wide and so close.

**DREAM CHILDREN:** *(singing or chanting)* I can tame the wild dogs with my song.  
I can make the tall grass sway when I dance.  
I can make the wind play hide and seek.

*(DREAM CHILDREN EXIT, DANCING)*

**MAMAN:** Children wake up. We must collect the water.

**CHILD 1:** Water come closer! Do not make me wake up before even the sun is out of bed.

**CHILD 2:** Oh my lips are dry. My throat is dry.

**CHILD 1:** Imagine dipping your toes in nice cool water..

**CHILD 2:** Imagine scooping it up to drink.

**MAMAN:** Time to get ready children. Come and get the empty pots.

*(MUSIC. Children wrap imaginary clothes around them, pick up imaginary vessels. Maman and Child 1 carry them on her head. The family begins the cheerful procession to the well)*

**CHILD 2:** Look there's the Karite tree. Can we stop for a rest?

**MAMAN:** Yes and we can gather some sweet Shea nuts for the rest of the journey. They will give you energy.

*(MUSIC. As they rest, we see others gathered at the well. Adults are collecting water. Children playing clapping and chasing games)*

**CHILD 1:** Maman please hold my place. I want to play with my friends.

**ADULT 1:** Yes but come back soon. It will be our turn soon. *(to another)* You have traveled such a long distance.

**ADULT 2:** Yes. We will not be home until the sun has gone to bed.

**ADULT 1:** Let me help you. Oh the water is the colour of the earth.

**ADULT 2:** Yes we must boil it carefully today.

*(They work together to collect the pots of dusty water)*

**ADULT 1:** Gie Gie, come. Maitenant!

*(The family gathers their pots and begins a slower walk home. Child 2 stops at the tree to gather shea nuts to share.)*

**ADULT 3:** *(FATHER/GRANDMOTHER):* My princess, you have returned with the water. Come children, rest your tired feet.

*(As the children rest, clothes are washed, the food prepared for cooking, drinking water is boiled and cooled.)*

**ADULT 3:** Children, the water is ready. Here, drink.

*(CHILDREN EXIT TO PLAY. DREAM SEQUENCE CHILDREN ENTER)*

**DREAM CHILDREN:** I sing to the dogs.  
I dance in the tall grass.  
I hide from the wind.

**MAMAN:** Bedtime children.

*(The family settle on their mats, lights down)*

**MAMAN:** Here Princess, I have saved you one last cup. Sleep now. Tomorrow we journey again.

**CHILD 1:** Maman, why is the water so far? Why is the water not clean? Where is OUR water?

**MAMAN:** Sleep. Dream. Someday you will find a way my Princess. Someday. *(EXITS)*

**DREAM CHILDREN:** My kingdom, the African sky, the dusty earth. And someday the flowing cool clear crystal water. Someday.