

# Water Worries

by Feana Tu'akoi

## CHARACTERS

FARMER

MAYOR

SCIENTIST

ENGINEER

TOWN CLERK

DAVID

DAISY

DAMON

DORA

**Scene One:** A meeting room at the council offices. It's a hot day and the characters are fanning themselves, trying to cool down.

**DORA** (*grumbling*). It's too hot in here. I should have flown into the hills with the other dragons.

**FARMER**. It's too hot everywhere!

**TOWN CLERK**. Yes, it's been like this for ages. How long is it going to drag on? (**DORA** looks at her crossly.) Sorry. I didn't say dragon. I said drag on. I meant ...

**SCIENTIST** (*interrupting*). It's hot because of global warming. The world is getting hotter.

**ENGINEER** (*reaching for the water jug*). I need a drink of water to cool down.

**TOWN CLERK**. I'm sorry, but the jug's empty. We don't have enough water.

**ENGINEER**. But we get our water from the river. And the river comes from the mountains. And the mountains are covered with snow. We should have plenty of water.

**DORA**. Well, there wasn't any water in the river this morning.

**ENGINEER**. That's odd.

**MAYOR.** Ahem! Tēnā koutou. Thank you for coming, everyone. Our water problem is getting worse. There wasn't even enough water for me to have a shower this morning.

**FARMER** (*nodding*). I couldn't water my crops. My wheat is wilting.

**SCIENTIST.** I couldn't boil my eggs for breakfast. I had to fry them.

**TOWN CLERK.** I couldn't clean my car windscreen. I had to bike to work.

**DORA.** And I couldn't clean my scales properly. They're all dusty!

**SCIENTIST.** The river's drying up because of global warming.

**ENGINEER** (*sharing the screen on her laptop*). But the river **isn't** drying up. Look at these photos from yesterday. I sent a drone out to check. There's plenty of water in the river.

**FARMER.** I don't get it. Sometimes there's plenty of water, and sometimes there's none. Why does it keep changing?



**MAYOR.** This is a big problem. We should try every way we can think of to solve it. How can we find out what's going on?

**ENGINEER.** It might be a problem with our water pipes. They might be blocked. I'll get my team to check them.

**ENGINEER** *leaves the room.*

**SCIENTIST** (*crossly*). It's not blocked pipes. It's global warming! We have to plant more trees. I'll get a team together.

**FARMER.** I'll help. I love to plant things.

**SCIENTIST and FARMER** *leave the room.*

**DORA.** I'll fly up into the hills and talk to the other dragons. The river flows down through the hills. They might have noticed something.

**MAYOR.** Good idea, Dora. And I'll think of ways our town can use less water. Let's get to it!

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**Scene Two:** Dragons DAVID, DAISY, and DAMON are asleep beside the river. DORA has just landed close by.

**DORA** (crossly). I might have known it was too hot to fly! It's even worse up here. I should have stayed in town.

The other DRAGONS wake up.

**DAVID.** Is that you, Dora? What are you complaining about?

**DORA.** There you are! I've been looking everywhere for you.

**DAISY.** You should have looked near the river. It's too hot to be anywhere else.

**DORA** (pointing). The engineer was right. There's plenty of water in the river!

**DAMON** (rolling his eyes). Of course there's water in the river! Where else would it be?

**DORA.** There's a big problem in town. We're running out of water. The scientist says the river's drying up because of global warming.

**DAVID.** Global warming is a serious problem, but there's plenty of water in this river. Come on, Dora. Join us for a swim. It will cool you down.

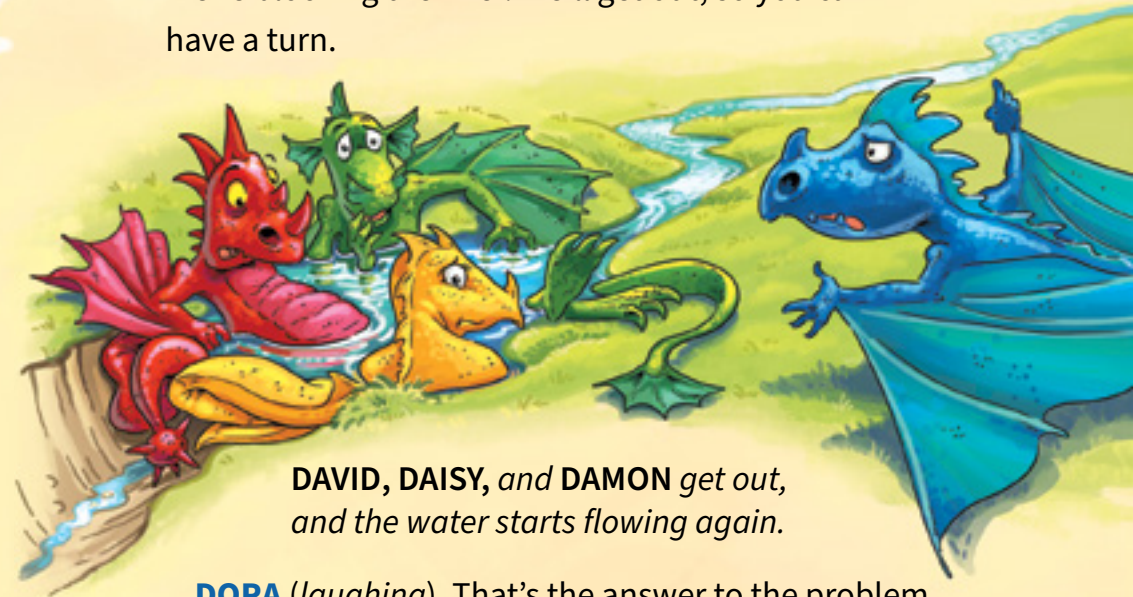


**DORA** watches from the bank while the other dragons jump into the river.

**DAISY.** Come on in, Dora! The water's lovely and cool.

**DORA.** I can't. There's no room.

**DAVID** (looking around). Oops! I see what you mean. We're blocking the river. We'll get out, so you can have a turn.



**DAVID, DAISY, and DAMON** get out, and the water starts flowing again.

**DORA** (laughing). That's the answer to the problem. You guys are the reason the water keeps stopping!

**DAVID.** What do you mean?

**DORA.** You are too big for the river. When you all get in together, you stop the water from getting through. You're just like a big dam.

**DAMON.** Oh no! We didn't even notice. It's been so hot. We've been having lots of swims.

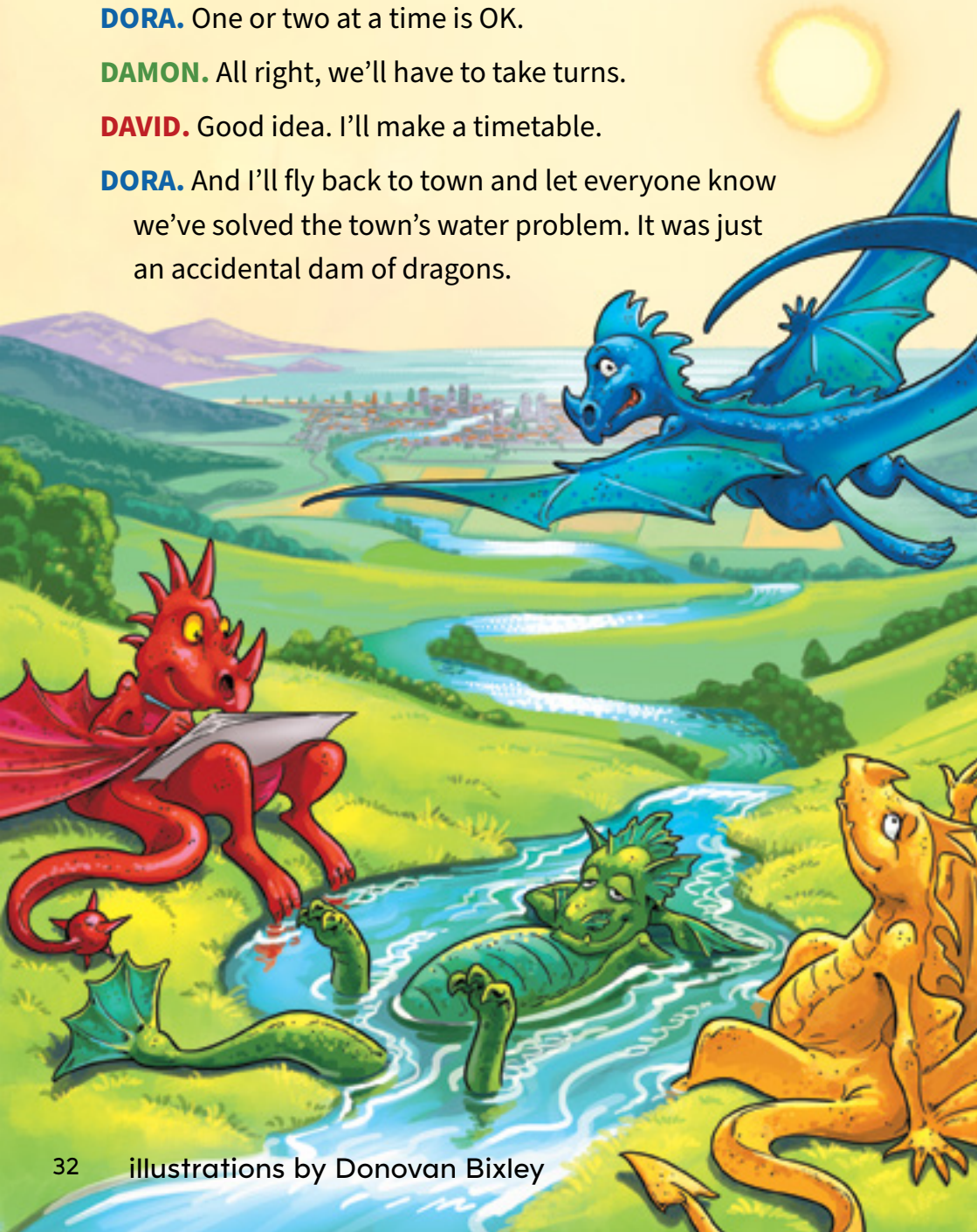
**DAISY.** So how can we cool off, without blocking the river?

**DORA.** One or two at a time is OK.

**DAMON.** All right, we'll have to take turns.

**DAVID.** Good idea. I'll make a timetable.

**DORA.** And I'll fly back to town and let everyone know we've solved the town's water problem. It was just an accidental dam of dragons.



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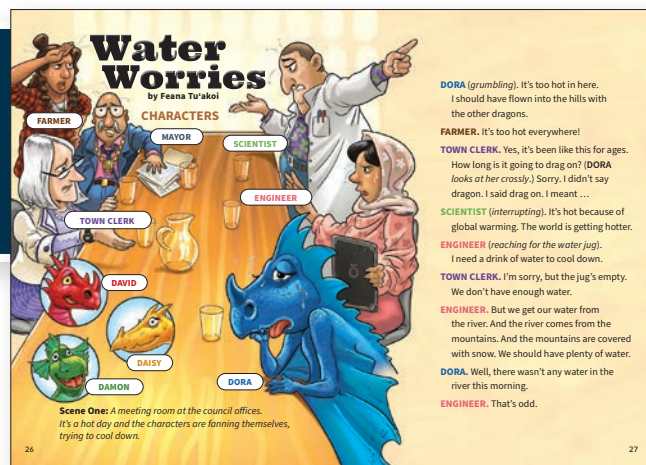
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