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**2019 STEM Options Writing Contest**

**Grades 6 – 8**

**Second Place Winner**

**Chlorine**

**Annabelle Deady**

“Hey mom, what's wrong with the water it’s gross.”

Last Friday I woke up to the ringing of my alarm clock going through my whole room. I was really mad because I was in the middle of a weird dream. Our town had dirt in our water so we couldn't have water for our whole lives. All the thought about water was making me thirsty so right when I woke up I got a drink. When I poured the water it was all cloudy and gross. I went to ask my mom if it was ok to drink. She said it was probably fine and not a big deal. So I didn't worry about it. When I went to get lunch I poured water and it was still cloudy. I didn't ask my mom because she said it was fine. It tasted weird so I stopped drinking it. When we got dinner the water was still cloudy. My dad said there is probably something wrong with a pipe so we just didn't have water.

The next day I went to school and I was filling up my water bottle and I noticed it was cloudy.

“My water at my house is cloudy too,” my friend said to me.

“Really? That is weird because mine is also,” I explained.

After school my friend and I came home. We looked if we could see anything in the water. We couldn't see anything, just the cloudiness. The next day after school we decided we would go to my friend’s mom’s house because she knows a lot about the water. We asked her about it but she was confused too. So that was no help at all. We were stuck we had no idea who to ask. We asked around and no one said they knew anyone or knew anything about the water. After about a week my aunt said she knew someone who could help. She was on a trip so we couldn't see her for three more days. We waited. It felt like five years. When it finally came time we got out of school and ran to her house. We had to wait because she was on the phone. While we were waiting I was thinking about my dream I had on Friday and how it is like real life. I was scared that all of my dreams would come true. After fifteen minutes we got to talk to her.

“So, our water has been very cloudy and gross. Is there a way that we could fix it,”?

“Ok, I can look at the water to see if it is a water problem or a pipe problem. If it is a water problem, then we can fix it with chlorine or we will have to change the pipes if it is a pipe problem.” Dr. C. explained

“Well, we brought some of the water just in case.”

“It seems to be a water problem. I suggest you go to the mayor and ask if they can work on it”

“Sounds good thank you so much for all of the help.”

“You’re very welcome.”

The next day we looked when we could go and talk to the mayor. The only day was a week away. We worked on a speech and some ideas of things they could do to fix the water. My friend remembered being on the swim team and asking if it was ok to drink water with it in there and they said yes. When it came time to go we dressed up in our best outfits and drove to the borough hall. We had to wait a little when we got there. We went into his office and took a seat and then started talking.

“Hello, we have to talk about the water on our street. It has been very cloudy and gross for almost a month. So we came to ask if you could do anything.” I explained.

“Well, thank you for addressing this situation with me. We would have to get the water cleaners to look at it.”

We were talking back and forth for 20 minutes.

Then we decided to get the water cleaners to come to our street on Saturday. When they got to our street they had to cut up the road. They found out there was a pipe broken so they had to fix the pipe that made the water dirty. We had an idea to clean the water with chlorine so that is what they did. They didn't have any chlorine so we had to go and buy some. We went to five stores but we couldn't find any. So then we went to one last store and finally found it. It took us an hour to get back because it was so far. When we got back, they told us it was the wrong chlorine. So we had to go back out for another two hours to find the right chlorine. We finally found a pool store and picked up four different kinds just in case. We got home and found out we got the right chlorine. It took them about thirty minutes. When they were done and went to look if the water was clean but it wasn't it was still cloudy. So they put a tiny bit more chlorine and then it was clean. They left and we thanked them for everything they did. After they left we drank a lot of water because it tasted so good and we haven't had that water in such a long time.