

Ms. Robinson Starts Her Unit on Clouds (Part 1)

(Story words: boil, boiled, pasta, Earth, causes)

Ms. Robinson walked to her car in the parking lot with a big smile. She knew that she now had come up with the best way to begin her unit on clouds. She was going to make a note of it so that she would remember to do it again next year for another first grade class.

Ms. Robinson had come up with this idea by luck. Last night when she was making dinner, she put a big pot of water on the stove to boil for pasta. Then, she got a phone call and forgot to put in the pasta. By the time she came back into the kitchen, the water had boiled down to nothing, so she had to fill up the pot again. This mishap gave her an idea that would make her lesson on clouds more vivid.

Ms. Robinson brought to class a small metal pot and a hot plate burner and put them on her desk. She put a few

inches of water in the pot and then turned on the hot plate. Soon the water boiled into almost nothing.

At the same time, she asked her students what they knew about how clouds were formed. Many did not know that clouds were made of water. Ms. Robinson explained that there is a lot of water on Earth, whether in the seas, rivers, lakes, or even on the ground. The heat of the sun causes a small amount of the Earth's water to evaporate into the air.