

Ms. Robinson Starts Her Unit on Clouds (Part 2)

(Story words: boiling, amount, pointing, heavy)

The students could see that steam was rising from the boiling pot of water. She then showed them the pot which now had almost no water in it. Ms. Robinson said that the water had gone into the air and had turned into water vapor. Although it looks as though water is disappearing when it becomes vapor, the same amount of water is still there but just in a vapor or gas form that we cannot see.

Ms. Robinson explained that when water vapor meets with more water vapor up in the sky, the vapor condenses into small droplets of water. These small droplets floating in the air are the clouds we see.

Ms. Robinson then took her students outside to look at some real clouds. “The water from down here,” she said, pointing at the ground, “travels up into the sky as a vapor, and the vapor comes together and makes droplets. If the droplets are small and light, they can float. We are looking

at liquid in the air!” she said with wonder, pointing at a cloud. Her students were now squinting at clouds as if they had never seen clouds before.

“When too many small droplets come together, they become too heavy to stay up there. Then, they fall to the ground. Have you ever seen that happen?” she asked in a low whisper.

Students were shouting things all at once, such as “Yes, I have,” and “when it rains.”