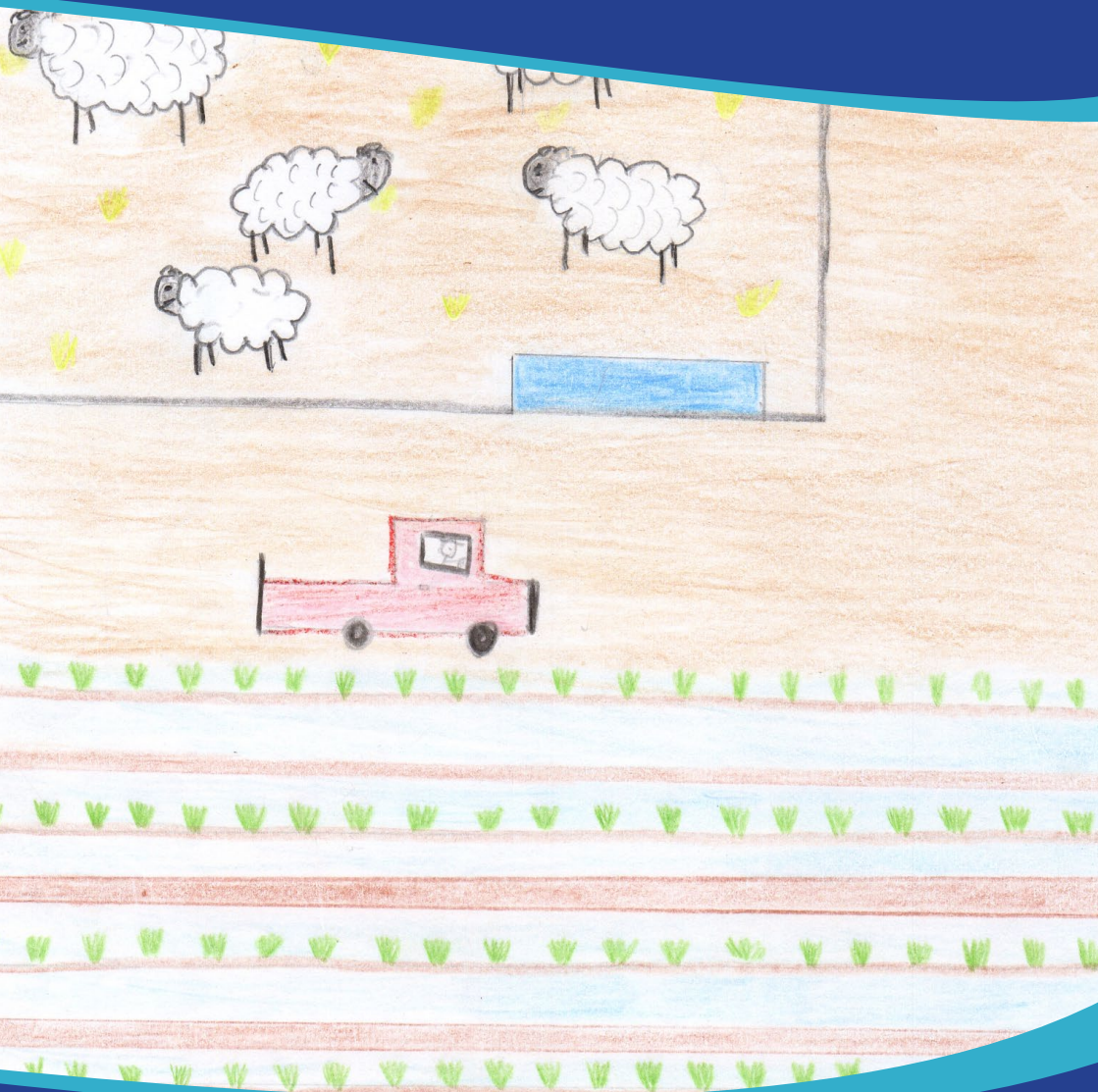


On the Farm



Georgia Constable
St. Joseph's Primary School, Wee Waa



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry. CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

www.crdc.com.au

On the Farm

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School: St. Joseph's Primary School, Wee Waa

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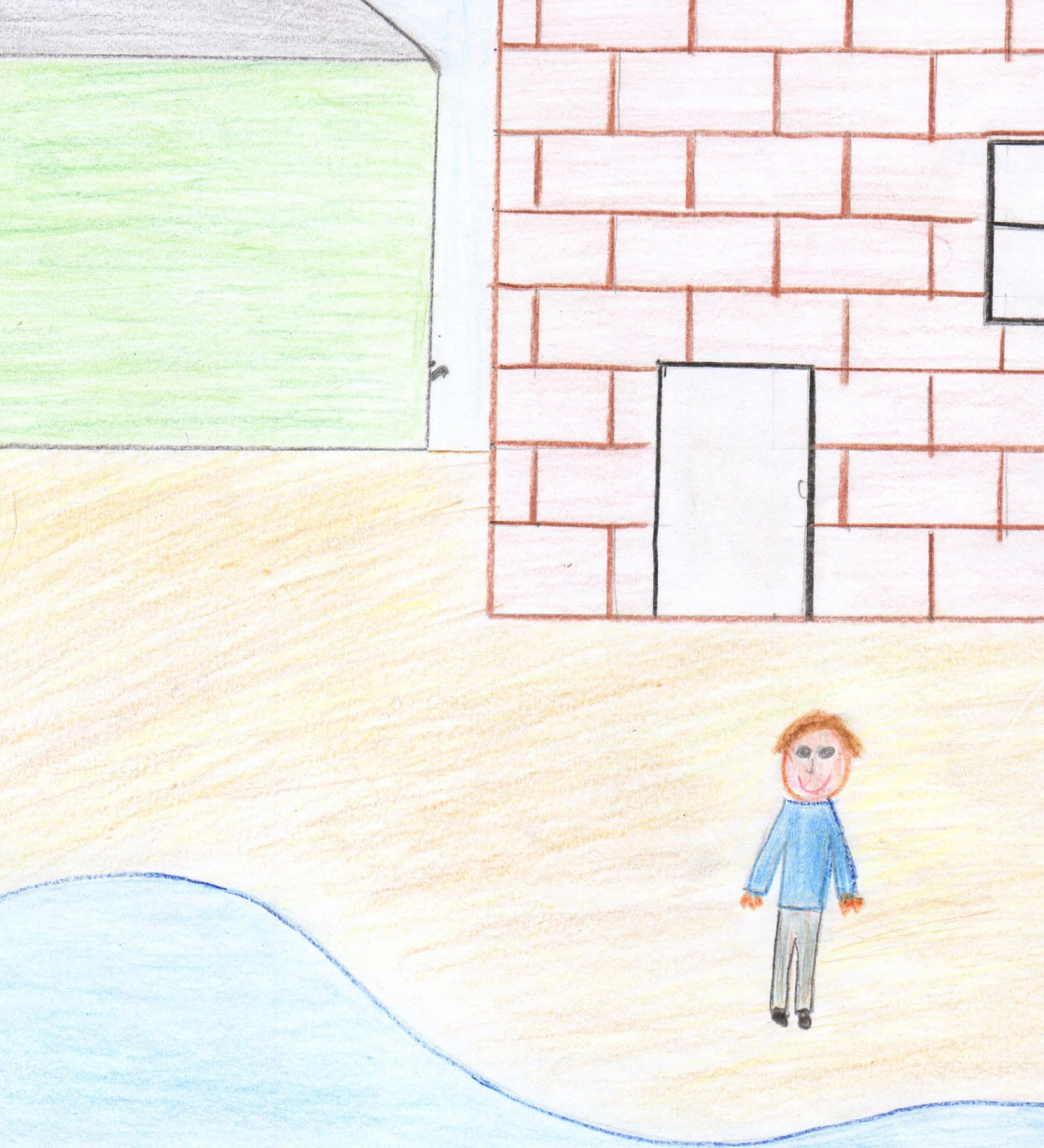
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Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au.

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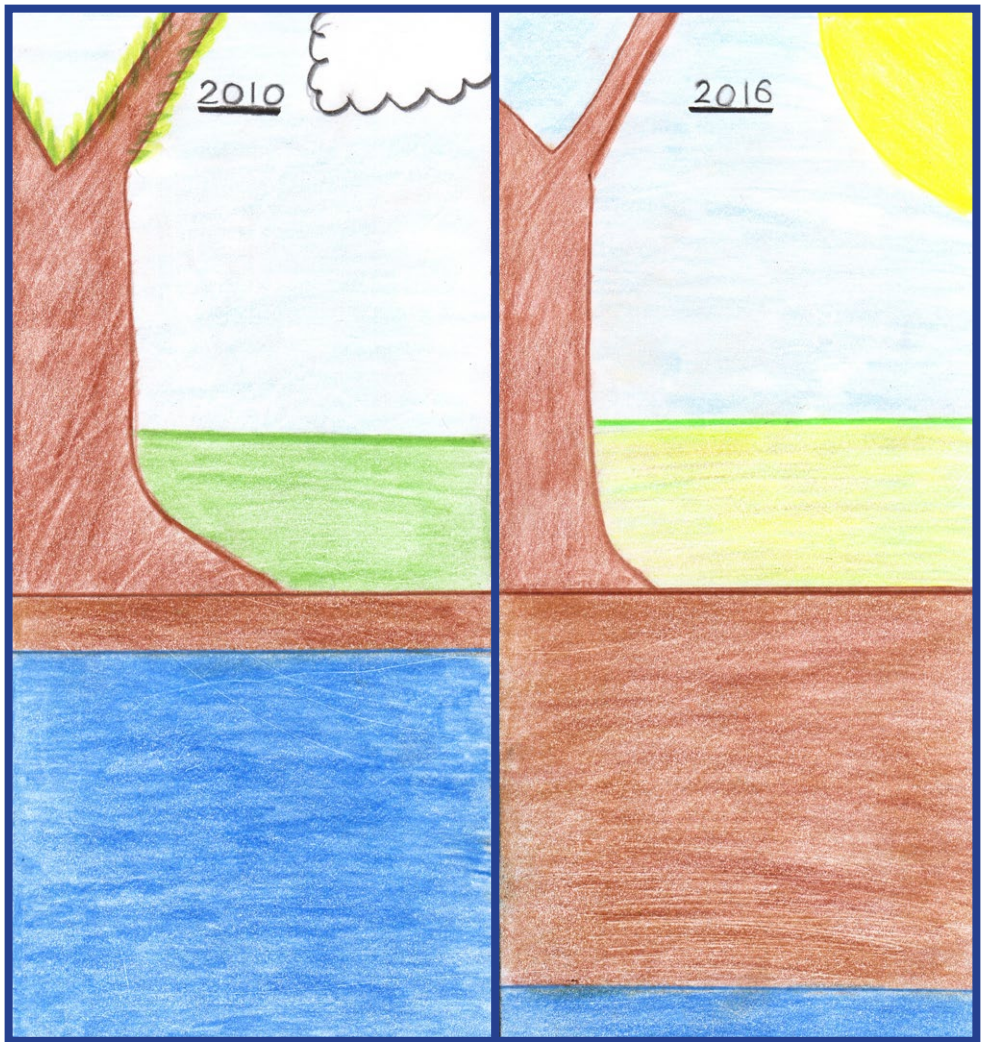


Once there was a farmer named Jeff, who lived in a rural area on a small farm surrounded by a river. Jeff lived there with his wife Shell and their four young children.



Jeff's farm relied on the river and dam to provide water for his crops and support his animals.

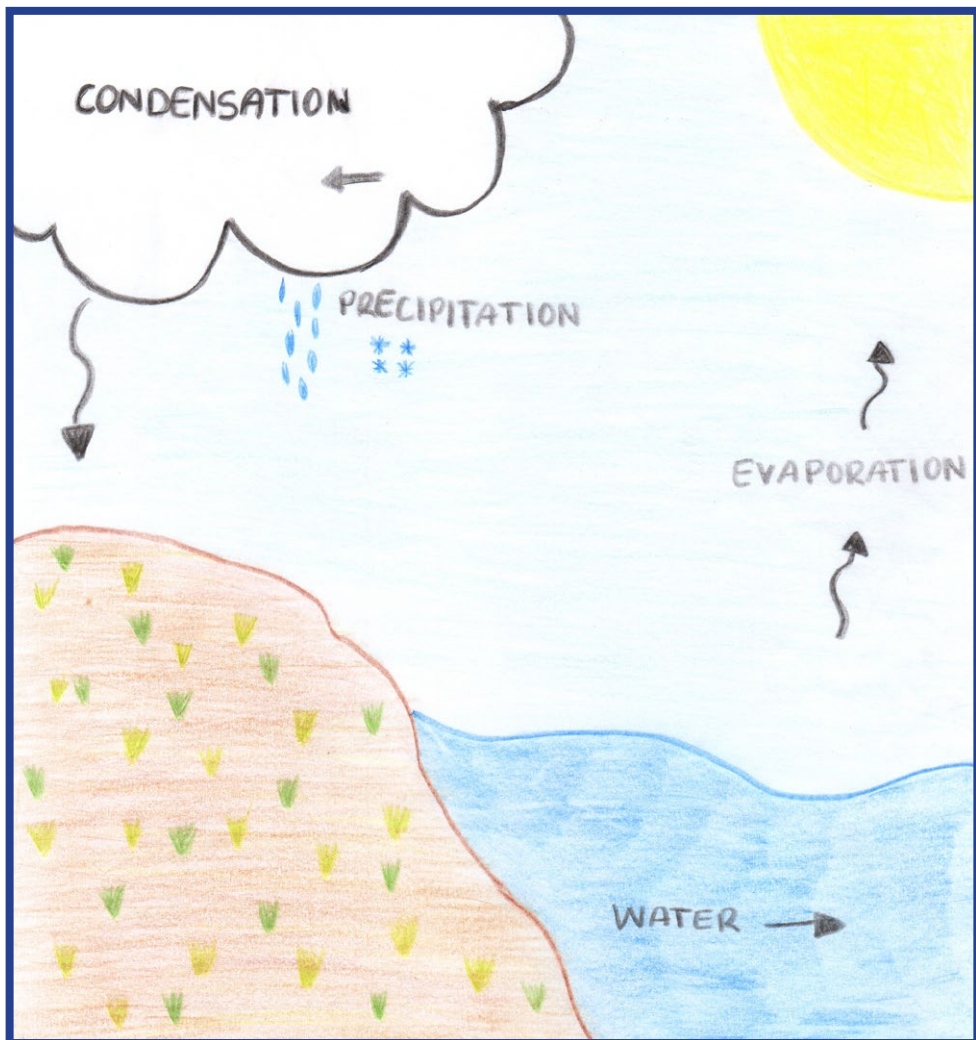
Although Jeff had a bore that supplied water to his house, the bore water wasn't suitable for his crops and animals.

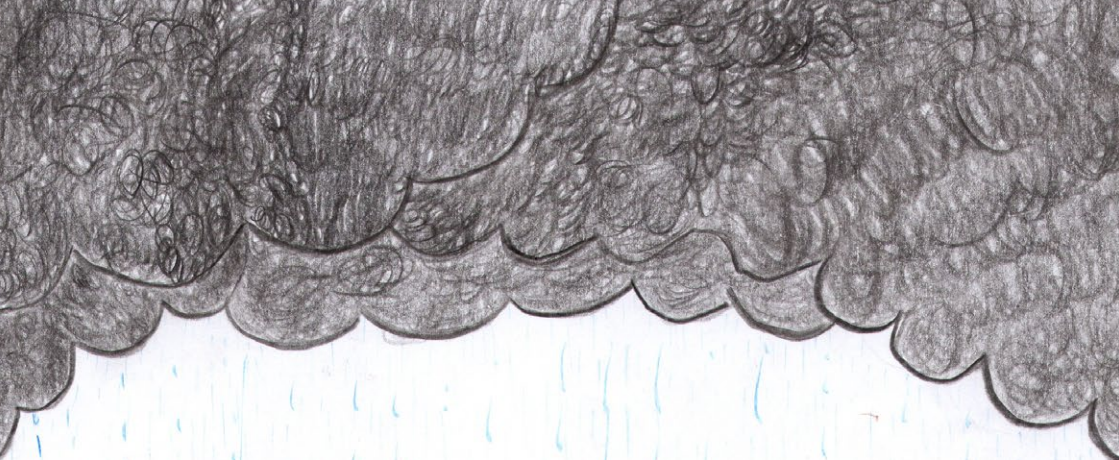


One day as Jeff was doing his rounds around the farm he noticed that the water level in the dam had started to get low. This was due to evaporation that was caused by the extremely hot weather over the past few months.

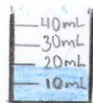
The river water was evaporating quickly too. Jeff reflected on how the water cycle seemed broken. Water only seemed to go up and never come down.

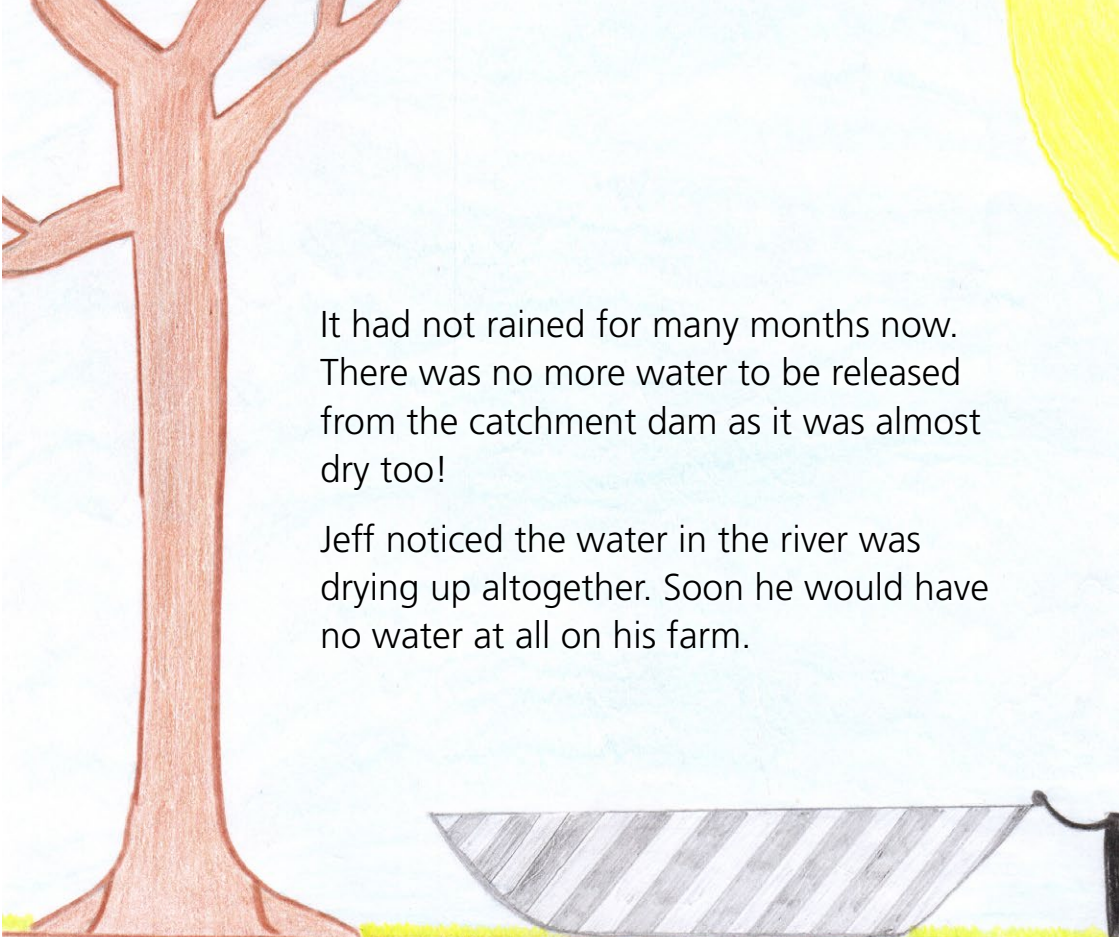
He hoped the storage water in the huge catchment dam would be released soon and that there was still enough water to help all the farms in the region.





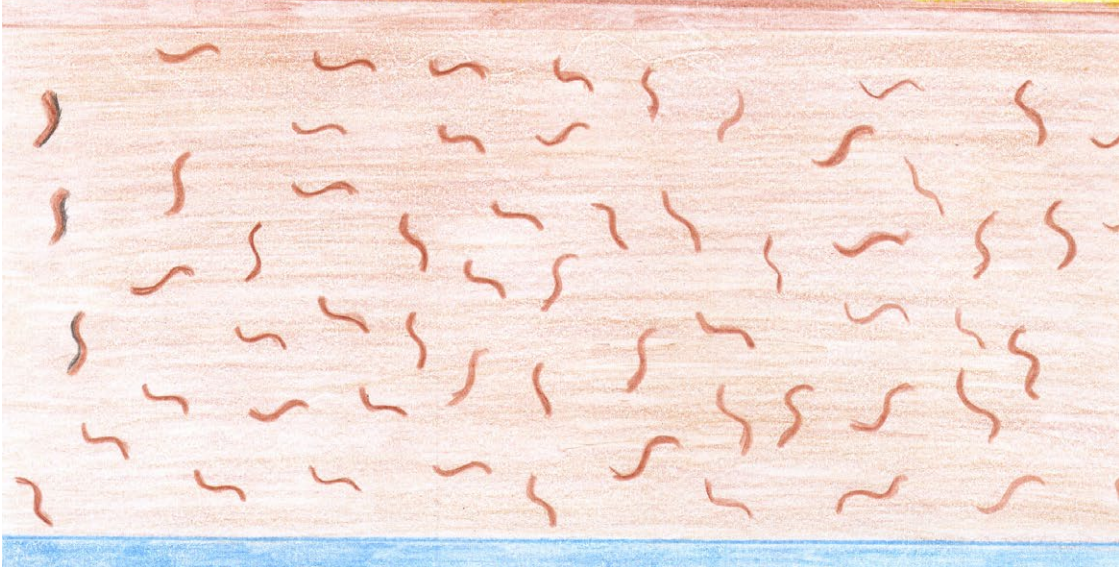
Although it had rained at times throughout the year it was never enough to fill the dam or increase the flow in the river. Jeff needed a lot more rain than 20mm to break the drought!

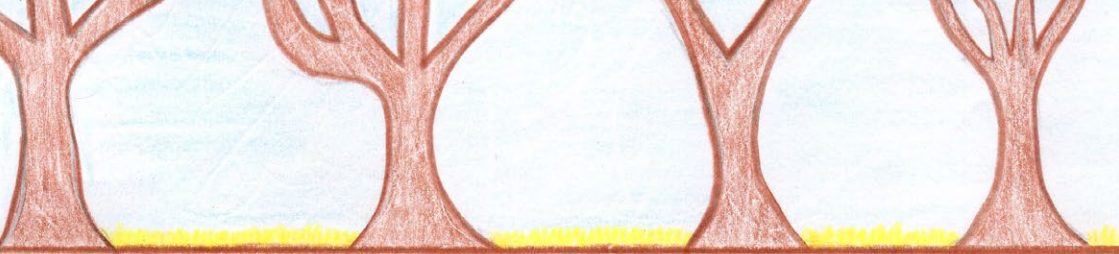




It had not rained for many months now.
There was no more water to be released
from the catchment dam as it was almost
dry too!

Jeff noticed the water in the river was
drying up altogether. Soon he would have
no water at all on his farm.

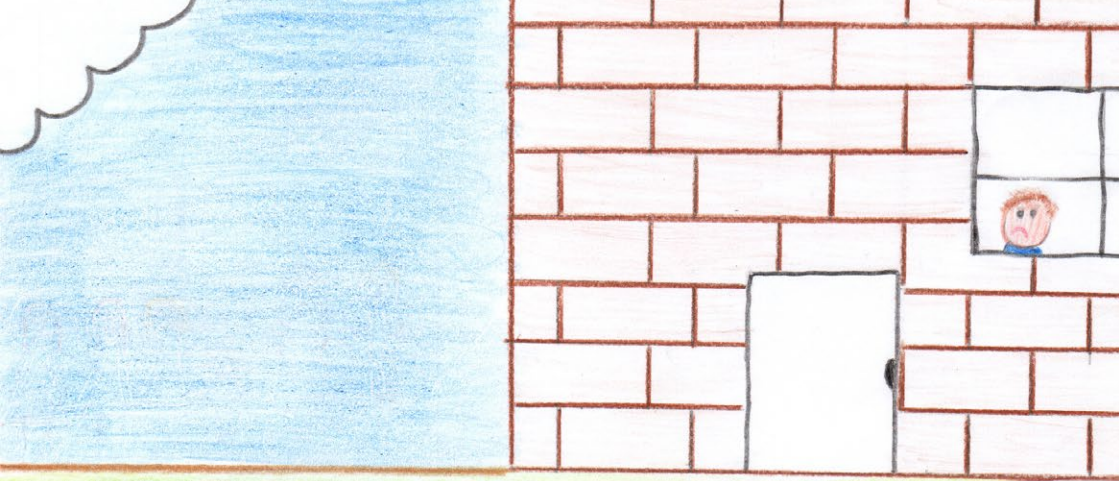




Jeff started to worry about how he would grow crops and pastures to support his family.

If he couldn't grow his crops or feed his animals he would have no income.






Jeff was scared that if it didn't rain soon he would need to consider selling the farm. It was the only way he could think of to support his family.

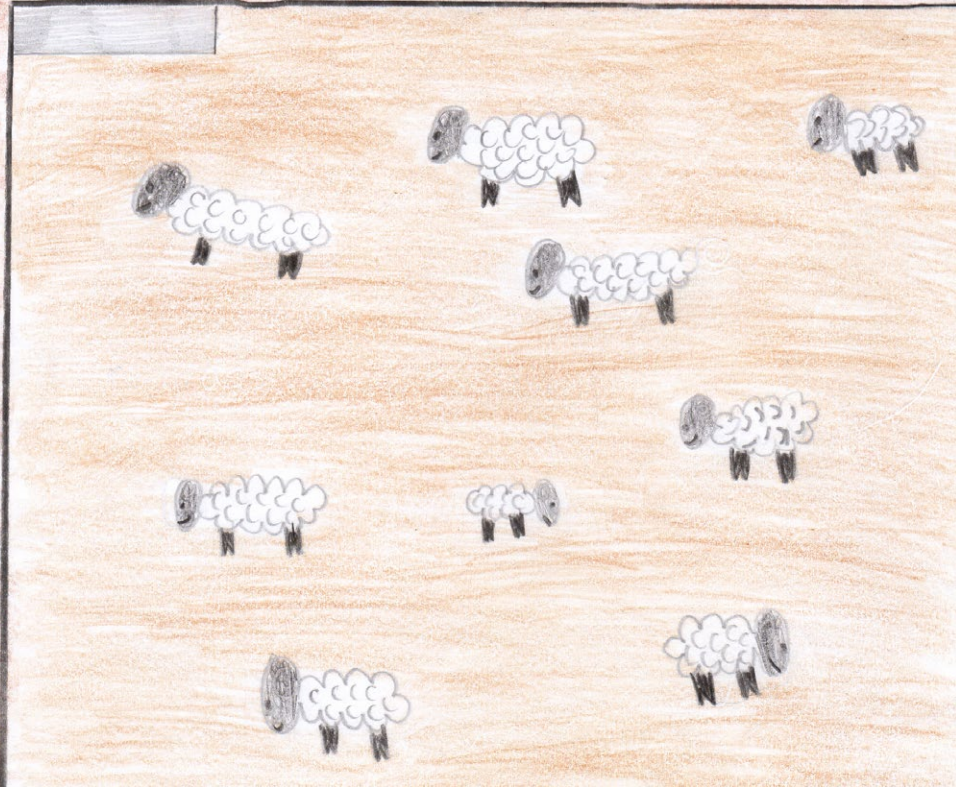
Jeff drove around his farm checking to see the effects the drought had brought. He would get out of his vehicle and walk through the paddocks, looking at the land with sadness.





When he looked at the crops and kicked the ground, he realised the soil had completely dried up and started to crack. He wouldn't be able to sow anything in such hard, dry, dusty ground.





He hopped on the quad and went to check the stock. The cattle looked skinny and were moving slowly. They wouldn't get big enough to sell. The sheep were also thin and their wool was of poor quality.

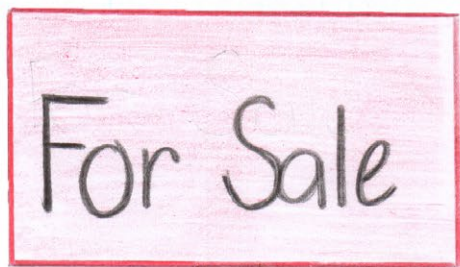
Jeff felt so sad looking at his stock. They used to be so happy and healthy.



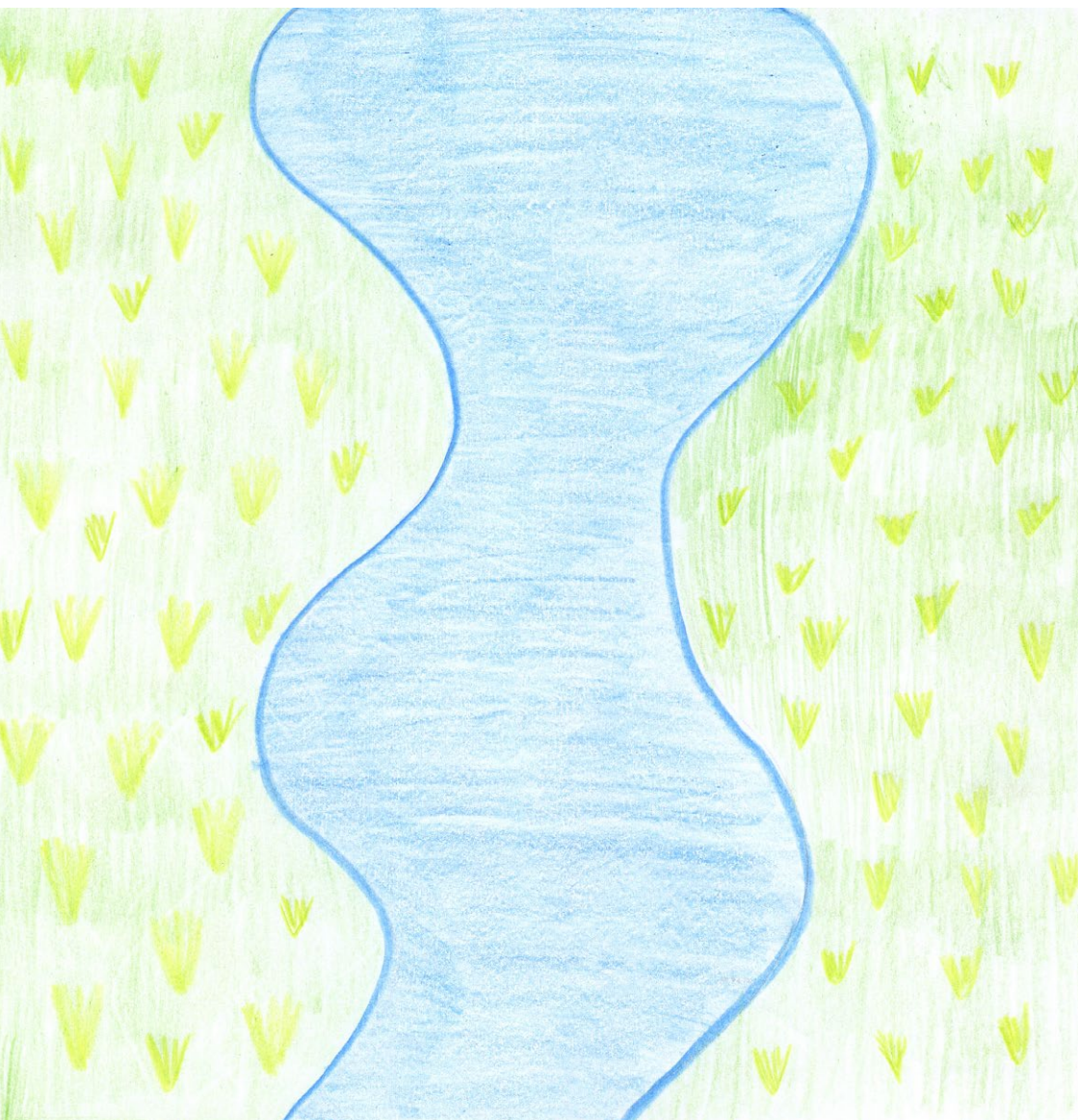
In the months that followed Jeff decided to sell his farm. It seemed the only way to solve his problems.

He had only just put up the sign when it started to rain! Big, fat raindrops were falling from the sky.

Unfortunately, it didn't rain for long, but it was enough to change Jeff's mind. It was enough to save the farm.



Over the next three weeks it rained enough to fill the dam. The river filled back up and was flowing freely again. Now there was enough water for the crops and livestock.



Jeff, Shell and their four young kids
were extremely excited because
now they didn't have to move.





Jeff watered his crops and animals. He looked forward to his farm being healthy and luscious once again.



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