

The Forever Chemicals Mystery

An illustrated storybook preview • Ages 5–9



The Ice-Cube Question

Rascal dropped ice cubes into a glass. 'Do they tell us if water is safe?' 'No,' Steven said. 'Freezing doesn't reliably remove dissolved contaminants like PFAS.'



What Are PFAS?

'PFAS are a large family of human-made chemicals,' Steven explained. 'Some persist in the environment for a long time, which is why people call them forever chemicals.'



The Water Detective

Ranger looked into a clear glass. 'Can we see them?' 'Not by looking, smelling, or tasting,' Steven said. 'Adults can consult water reports and appropriate laboratory tests.'



What Is Reverse Osmosis?

Steven opened a diagram of a drinking-water system. 'Reverse osmosis uses a special membrane to reduce many dissolved substances. It can be one treatment option, depending on a home's needs.'



Does RO Help?

'Some properly selected reverse-osmosis systems can reduce certain PFAS,' Steven explained. 'Adults should check specific independently verified reduction claims and maintain the system correctly.'



Water for Drinks and Ice

'Could treated water go into our glasses and ice maker?' Rascal asked. 'Sometimes,' said Ranger. 'An adult must check how the equipment is connected and whether it's suitable.'



Junior Water Detective

'Ask good questions, check reliable information, and don't judge safety by how clear water looks,' said Ranger. 'And never drink mystery creek water!' Rascal added. Steven smiled. 'Case closed!'