

# Introduction

The use of good trade books can enhance the study of science. The key to selecting these books is to check them for scientific accuracy and appropriateness for the level of the students. *The Magic School Bus*® series, written by Joanna Cole, contains outstanding examples of books which can help students learn about science and enjoy it. These books are delightfully written and scientifically accurate, thanks to the thorough research done by the author as she writes each of her books.

This **Science Literature Unit** is directly related to *The Magic School Bus*® at the *Waterworks*. The activities in this unit are particularly appropriate for intermediate grades. Teachers who use this unit will find a variety of lessons to do before, during, and after reading the book with their students. These include the following:

- Pre-reading Activity—Discovering initial knowledge of the way water works
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Activity-oriented lessons which expand the topics covered in the story:
  - growing mold on bread
  - experimentally determining the amount of water in popcorn
  - graphically visualising the distribution of water on our planet
  - observing the process of melting and boiling
  - extracting water from the atmosphere
  - forming clouds
  - creating a mural depicting the water cycle
  - creating a mural depicting the way water is purified
  - creating a replica of a water filtration plant
  - performing tests for water quality
  - investigating the fundamentals of siphon action
  - developing an effective water pistol
- Post-reading Activity—Creating a mural depicting how waste water is treated
- Unit Assessment—What Did You Learn?
- Answer Key

This unit is designed to help you present exciting lessons for your students so they can develop their understanding and appreciation of the function of water and its cycle in our everyday lives.

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