Captain Plop
and the Tour de Recycle

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This is the third book in the Captain Plop series.
First he taught us how to save water, then he appeared at Emily and Luke's beach shack to teach us about desalination and now Captain Plop returns to their home to take them on a recycling tour they will never forget.

*Printed on recycled paper
Emily and Luke were washing their clothes. One load was finished and they had another to go.

The water from the first load sat in the laundry sink, to be used again to wash more clothes that stink!

As the water was sucked back inside the machine, the children were entranced by its swirling routine. Suddenly they found themselves inside the sink, treading water before they’d had time to blink!
Mademoiselle Emily and
Monsieur Luke, bonjour!
Join me on an interesting recycling tour.

I've just completed stage one of the race, where, I must say,
I set a cracking good pace!

The children exclaimed,
"It's Captain Plop,
our favourite, friendly water drop!"

I'm glad you can join me for stage two
as we cycle a track where water's reused.

This is my aquadynamic bike – hop inside,
I'll take you on a very informative ride!
The children climbed inside as Captain Plop prepared to ride. He spun the pedals with all his might, directing the bike to the hose on the right.

They laboured uphill through the murky water, making half turns here and there a quarter. They entered the tiny washing machine hose and landed on top of some stinky clothes!
They whirled and churned through silk robes and shirts, then got stuck inside a big black skirt. Of their surroundings they were blindly unaware, until they fell through a pair of holey underwear.

Emily was dizzy and about ready to puke. Captain Plop looked green, and so did Luke. Luckily the water emptied into the sewer main, where the ride became gentle again.
But within the water there were other things too. They noticed detergent, dirt and scraps of food; oil slicks, paper and piles of poo!

Captain Plop shook his head.

The bin is where oil and food should go, not down a drain where sewage flows.

The more you flush down the drains, the harder it is to clean the water again.
They entered the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Captain Plop began his sewage chant:

We are screened and separated from the sludge, against the poo we have no grudge.

Poo is useful in its own way, but water is treated a different way.

They were tickled with bubbles to dislodge the grit, then left to float up away from the silt.
Microbes are the pollutants that could not be seen until they all felt so much more clean!

Around the tank they cycled, then sat still in their seat. The microbes soon left to find more waste to eat.
Chlorine was added until they were disinfected.
Out to sea they were about to be directed.

Captain Plop stopped pedaling and the bike came to rest.

Which choice of ending to Stage 2 do you like best?

The first sends us out to sea for a little spell, before cycling up into the clouds to dwell.

Then raining down in someplace new, to be cleaned for someone else to use.
Instead of heading out to our ocean source to be turned into clouds and rain before being used once again; we can choose to skip that part and recycle straight to a house. Isn’t that smart! Through purple pipes we can ride, avoiding that detour in the sky.
We could end up in Japan, Cambodia or Bahrain if we took the ocean course again.

By taking the recycled way, in Australia we can stay.

So even if we don’t get rain, we can reuse the same water again and again.

“Faster and smarter” said Luke “is the way for me, let’s take the purple highway and avoid the sea!”

They began to pedal towards the purple start. Stage 3, said Captain Plop, is so very smart!
They whizzed through the pipe to another treatment plant, with Captain Plop happily singing his sewage chant.

We are screened and separated from the sludge, against the poo we have no grudge.

Poo is useful in its own way, but water is treated a different way.
They rode through a filter that looked like a brush, then were heated by UV rays until their cheeks became blushed.

To make absolutely, positively sure they were clean, they cycled through more chlorine.
They pedaled into a large purple pipe in the water supply. “Where,” asked Emily, “will be the end of our ride?”

“There’s more than one option,” said Captain Plop. “We could end up watering grapevines or crops, be used in a backyard, or make a toilet pit—stop.”
They left the long pipe which was wide as a tunnel, and entered a small pipe, more like a funnel.

The funnel became a tap, then a garden hose, and they landed at the base of a beautiful rose.
The children felt light and began to float out of the bike.

Here is where your tour must end; it’s time to hop off the bike my friends. As for me, goodness knows where I will go; this tour has no finish line you know. I’m heading back to the clouds for a little rest, who knows what options may develop for me next!

Captain Plop winked and waved, then cycled away.

I’ll see you two again another day!
Dust off your pushbikes and don your purple lycra for a water recycling adventure like no other!

Join Captain Plop as he races through three stages of water use and treatment – from the home, to the treatment plant and back to the house and garden for reuse.

This book uses a bicycle race theme to introduce primary students to the concept of treating wastewater for the purpose of reuse.