

Claudia the Cloud

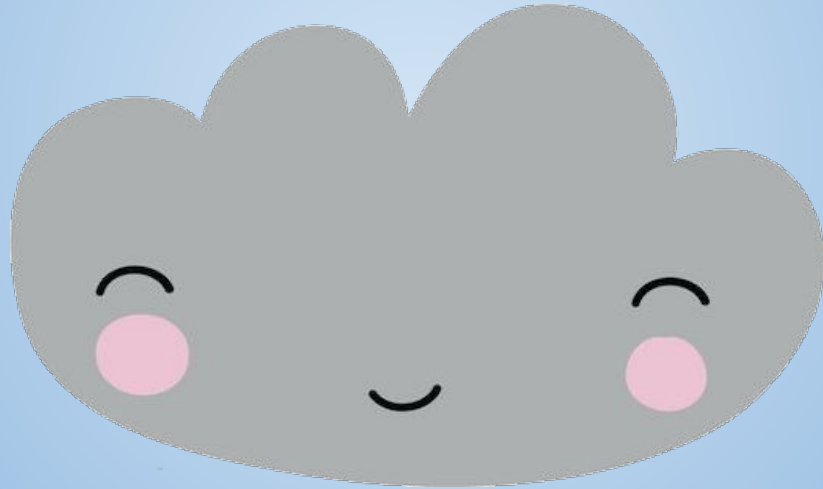
By: Kate Stoehr



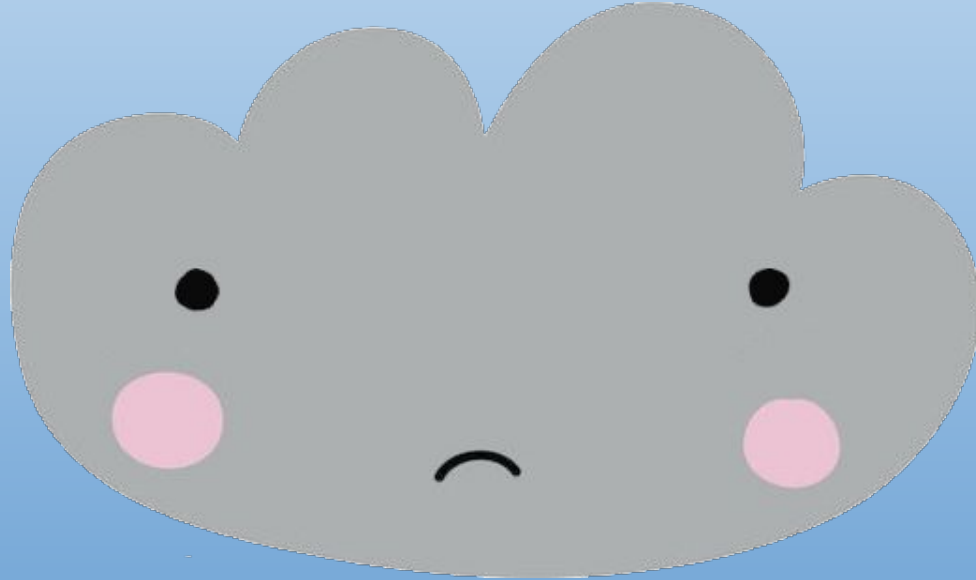
It was a clear blue day. There was not a soul in the sky except the sun and a few swift birds. The parks and the lawns were full of children running here and there. And the sidewalks were full of people strolling arm in arm, basking in the bright sunny day.



Way, way, up in the sky appeared Claudia the cloud. She looked down at the people on the ground and smiled. Claudia the cloud loved watching the happy people go about their days.



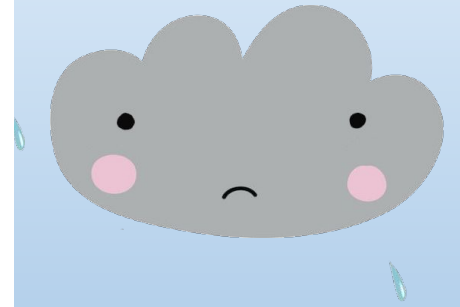
But then the people looked up at Claudia the cloud and frowned. They cried out “Oh no!”. You see, Claudia was a rain cloud. As her drops began to fall the people scurried home, off the sidewalks and out of the parks, cursing the little grey cloud in the sky.



Claudia let out a great big sigh that rustled the treetops. Tears filled her eyes, joining the rain drops that fell below. "If only those people could see the good in my rain drops." she said.



Claudia looked down at the city and saw a little red circle dotting around the park. She squinted even harder. "It's an umbrella!" she exclaimed. Beneath the red umbrella was a little girl named Lulu. Lulu didn't mind the rain, in fact, she loved it!



Lulu came upon a pink tulip whose petals held the sky's water. She saw the way the tulip welcomed the rain and grew stronger from it. Lulu lowered her umbrella, lifted her face to the sky and said "Thank you little grey cloud for helping the flowers grow!"



Next, Lulu came upon three sparrows splashing about in a puddle. Lulu saw the way the birds joyfully flapped their wings in the shallow water, drinking it in and cooling off from the hot, sunny day.



Again Lulu lowered her umbrella, lifted her face to the sky and said "Thank you, little grey cloud, for giving the birds a drink!" Just then a gust of wind caught Lulu's words and carried them up to Claudia the cloud where she sat in the sky



Claudia's eyes welled up again, this time with happy tears. She smiled down at Lulu's red umbrella, glad that someone knew the good in her.

