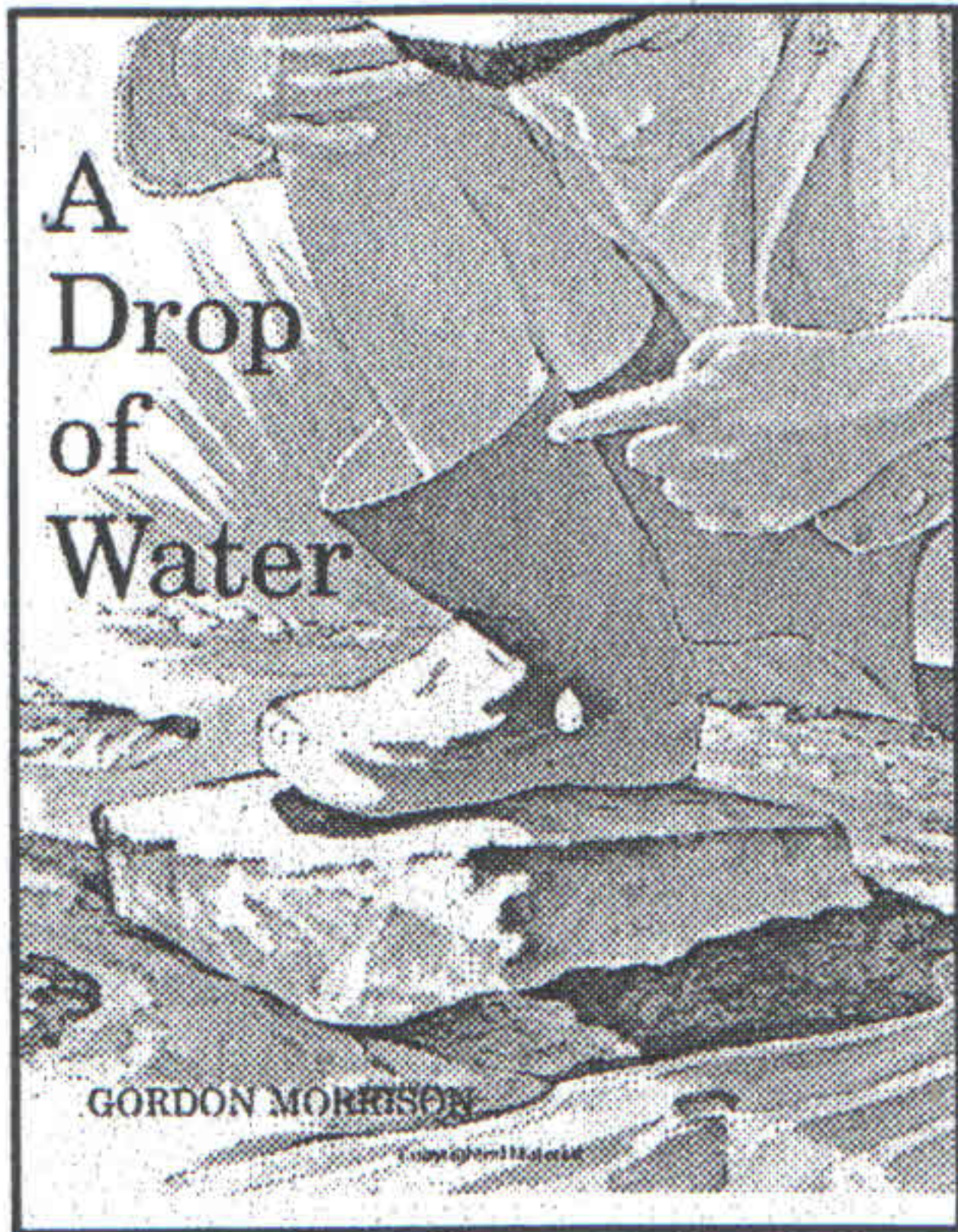




## The Village School's Children's Book of the Month



Reviewed by  
**Katrina Walton,**  
Village School science teacher

### 'A Drop of Water' By Gordon Morrison

Have you ever stopped in the woods long enough to hear your own breath and then slowly start to notice your surroundings? In "A Drop of Water," Gordon Morrison captures what unfolds in just such a moment through widening the experience that starts with a drop of water falling from a child's finger. Morrison does not follow the drop of water on its journey but actually expands the very moment in which the drop exists, describing all of the life and many places that are each uniquely a part of its existence.

Using bold, primary colors and detailed drawings of the natural world, Gordon Morrison takes us on a trip through our local environment, following the flow of the water cycle and the animals and plants in this part of New England. As a naturalist, Gordon Morrison is a keen observer. On every page there is something to search for and observe: a flycatcher pursues an insect while a moose eats a meal in a swamp, a fox bends toward the water for a drink surrounded by mountain laurel, birch trees and catkins.

As my daughter wisely states, "The pictures in this book are so elaborate that kindergarten children and first graders don't even need to read or hear the text." In fact, ask your young children to tell you the story of these amazing images themselves, or offer to create a story together that follows the course of the illustrations. The text contains rich information about our local flora and fauna and would be of great interest to second or third graders interested in scouting wildlife in their backyards. This book offers a next step for all those children shouting, "Mom, dad, look at this!" as they hold up yet another caterpillar or freshly dug earthworm, and could be the precursor to many a nature walk or outdoor scavenger hunt. "A Drop of Water" can be read again and again, with new discoveries on every page.

Writer, illustrator and naturalist Gordon Morrison has also authored and illustrated: "Oak Tree," "Pond," and "Nature in the Neighborhood." These books are fascinating for children and adults alike. Children will be mesmerized by the drawings, and adults will enjoy the discreet nuggets of information that illuminate the drawings.

Gordon Morrison resides in Royalston and will be signing his books at the Central Mass. Children's Book Festival on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Mount Wachusett Community College. He will also display some of his incredible illustrations. Come to the Children's Book Festival and meet Gordon and other wonderful children's book authors and illustrators. For more information, go to [centralmasschildrensbookfestival.org](http://centralmasschildrensbookfestival.org).