

The Cloud Collector

A Fleydo English School Story

A2 Level | Kids (6-10) | Reading | Story | 14 Pages

Iris lives on a hilltop and loves watching clouds. One day she discovers she can catch them in glass jars — each cloud holds a different weather power. The town loves her abilities, but when the sky turns empty and a drought threatens the valley, Iris learns that nature is not something to control. Beautiful things are always more beautiful when they are free.

Learning Objectives

- Read and understand an A2-level adventure story (14 pages)
- Learn 15 new vocabulary words in context
- Practise vocabulary with matching and fill-in-the-blank exercises
- Test reading comprehension with 10 multiple-choice questions
- Discuss themes: nature, balance, and respect for the environment

1 Read the Story

Chapter 1: The Girl on the Hill

Iris lived in a small yellow house on top of Windhill, the tallest hill in the valley. From her window she could see the village below, the river, the forest, and above everything, the enormous, endless sky.

The sky was Iris's favourite thing. She loved watching the clouds change shape. She gave them names: the big fluffy ones were "pillow clouds," the thin wispy ones were "feather clouds," and the dark heavy ones were "angry clouds."

Every day after school, Iris climbed Windhill, lay in the grass, and watched the sky for hours. She drew clouds in her sketchbook and wrote poems about them.

Chapter 2: The First Cloud

One windy October morning, a small white cloud was floating very low — close enough to touch. Iris reached out, and the cloud stayed in her hands. It felt cool and soft, like wet cotton.

She put it in a glass jar from the kitchen. The cloud floated gently inside, swirling and turning. That night, tiny raindrops fell from the jar. The cloud still had its weather power!

Over the next two weeks, Iris collected more clouds. A golden one brought sunshine. A dark grey one held thunder and lightning. A white December cloud contained snowflakes. A pink cloud after a rainstorm held a perfect rainbow. She had twelve jars, each glowing with different weather power.

News spread through the village. Farmer Petrov asked Iris to make it rain on his dry fields. The school asked for sunshine on sports day. Children asked for snow in November. The mayor asked for a rainbow for the town's celebration.

Iris loved helping. She opened her jars and gave the town whatever weather they wanted. Sunshine on demand. Rain when gardens needed it. Rainbows for weddings.

"You control the weather!" the townspeople said.

But Iris didn't notice something terrible. The sky above was completely empty. Not a single cloud remained.

Chapter 4: The Empty Sky

After three weeks without natural clouds, problems started. The river got lower. Farmer Petrov's fields turned brown. Flowers wilted. A drought was coming.

Without clouds, the sun beat down without shade. The temperature rose every day. Animals hid in shadows. Without clouds, there was no wind. The air was still and heavy.

The balance of nature was broken. And Iris understood it was her fault.

She looked at her shelf. Twelve jars containing clouds that belonged in the sky. She had taken them because they were beautiful. But they weren't hers to keep.

Chapter 5: Letting Go

Iris carried all twelve jars to the top of Windhill. The whole village watched as she opened them one by one. Each cloud floated out, rising into the empty sky, growing bigger as it rose, finding its place like a puzzle piece.

With each jar she opened, Iris felt weight leaving her — the weight of trying to control something that was never meant to be controlled.

When the last jar was empty, new clouds began forming around the released ones. The sky remembered how to be a sky again.

Then it rained. Real, warm, wonderful rain that the whole valley had been waiting for.

Chapter 6: The Gift of Weather

The rain lasted three days. The river filled. Flowers stood tall. Fields came back to life. On the fourth day, the most beautiful rainbow Iris had ever seen stretched across the entire valley.

The mayor came to see her. "Iris, you taught this town an important lesson: we cannot control nature. We can only respect it. Rain, sunshine, snow, and storms all have a purpose."

Iris never collected clouds again. But she never stopped loving them. Every afternoon she still climbed Windhill and watched the sky. Sometimes a cloud would float close enough to touch. She would feel it on her fingertips, smile, and let it go.

"See you tomorrow," she would whisper. And the cloud would drift away across the beautiful, ever-changing sky.

The End

Beautiful things are always more beautiful when they are free.

Nature is not something to own — it is something to respect, admire, and enjoy.

2 Key Vocabulary

These words from the story will help you improve your English.

Word	Type	Definition	Example
cloud	<i>noun</i>	white or grey shapes in the sky made of water drops	<i>Iris loved watching the clouds change shape.</i>
collect	<i>verb</i>	to gather things together as a hobby	<i>Iris collected twelve clouds in jars.</i>
jar	<i>noun</i>	a glass container with a lid	<i>She put the cloud in a glass jar.</i>
breeze	<i>noun</i>	a gentle, light wind	<i>A breeze pushed the cloud close to Iris.</i>
raindrops	<i>noun</i>	small drops of water falling from clouds	<i>Tiny raindrops fell from the jar at night.</i>
thunder	<i>noun</i>	the loud crashing sound during a storm	<i>The grey cloud held thunder and lightning.</i>
lightning	<i>noun</i>	a bright flash of light during a storm	<i>Miniature lightning crackled inside the jar.</i>
snowflakes	<i>noun</i>	soft pieces of frozen water from the sky	<i>Perfect snowflakes drifted from the white cloud.</i>
rainbow	<i>noun</i>	a curved band of colours in the sky	<i>The pink cloud held a perfect rainbow.</i>
drought	<i>noun</i>	a long period without rain	<i>A drought was coming to the valley.</i>
wilted	<i>verb</i>	became weak and started to die	<i>The flowers wilted without rain.</i>
released	<i>verb</i>	let something go free	<i>Iris released all twelve clouds.</i>
balance	<i>noun</i>	things existing in correct amounts	<i>The balance of nature was broken.</i>
respect	<i>verb</i>	to admire and treat something properly	<i>We must respect nature, not control it.</i>
horizon	<i>noun</i>	where the sky seems to meet the land	<i>The rainbow stretched across the horizon.</i>

3 Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Iris loved watching the _____ change shape in the sky.
2. She caught a small cloud and put it in a glass _____.
3. A gentle _____ pushed the cloud close enough to touch.
4. The dark grey cloud held _____ and lightning inside it.
5. The pink cloud contained a beautiful _____ of many colours.
6. The flowers _____ because there was no rain for three weeks.
7. The valley was suffering from a terrible _____.
8. Iris _____ all twelve clouds back into the sky.
9. The mayor said we must _____ nature, not control it.
10. Without clouds, the _____ of nature was broken.

Answer Key:

1. clouds

2. jar

3. breeze

4. thunder

5. rainbow

6. wilted

7. drought

8. released

9. respect

10. balance

4 Comprehension Quiz

Choose the correct answer for each question.

Question 1. Where did Iris live?

- A. By the sea
- B. On top of Windhill
- C. In a city
- D. In a forest

Question 2. What did Iris discover about the jar cloud?

- A. It disappeared
- B. It still had weather power
- C. It turned to water
- D. It changed colour

Question 3. How many cloud jars did Iris collect?

- A. Three
- B. Seven
- C. Twelve
- D. Twenty

Question 4. What power did the golden cloud have?

- A. Rain
- B. Warm sunshine
- C. Snow
- D. Thunder

Question 5. Why did the village have problems?

- A. Iris broke the jars
- B. No clouds left in the sky
- C. Too much rain
- D. Wind too strong

Question 6. What happened to the fields?

- A. Flooded
- B. Turned brown from drought
- C. Grew too fast
- D. Covered in snow

Question 7. What did Iris do to fix the problem?

- A. Made more jars
- B. Asked for help
- C. Released all clouds back into the sky
- D. Moved away

Question 8. What happened when the clouds returned?

- A. Nothing
- B. It rained for three days and the valley recovered
- C. A storm destroyed everything
- D. Clouds flew away again

Question 9. What lesson did the mayor share?

- A. Clouds are dangerous
- B. We cannot control nature, only respect it
- C. Jars are useful
- D. Weather is boring

Question 10. What is the main lesson?

- A. Collecting things is fun
- B. Beautiful things are more beautiful when free
- C. Rain is best
- D. Hills are windy

5 Quiz Answer Key

Q	Correct Answer
1	B. On top of Windhill
2	B. It still had weather power
3	C. Twelve
4	B. Warm sunshine
5	B. No clouds left in the sky
6	B. Turned brown from drought
7	C. Released all clouds back into the sky
8	B. It rained for three days and the valley recovered
9	B. We cannot control nature, only respect it
10	B. Beautiful things are more beautiful when free