**Cloudette**

**A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES**

**Themes:** Weather, Water Cycle, Determination, Perseverance

**Book Brief:** Cloudette is a small cloud who wants to do big things. When a big storm blows her into an unknown place, she finds that even though she is little, she can make a difference. Her actions give her the confidence she needs to continue finding ways to make great things happen.

**Author and Illustrator:** Tom Lichtenheld

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**TIME TO READ!**

**Before reading, make predictions:** What do you think makes Cloudette special? What do you think the purpose of this story will be?

**While reading, make connections:** Does Cloudette remind you of anyone? How does this fictional story of a cloud remind you of events that are not fictional?

**After reading, ask questions:**
- How would you have felt if you had been Cloudette and been blown away from your friends?
- How would you describe Cloudette?

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**RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**CLOUD CLAY**

Materials: 8 cups of flour, 1 cup baby oil

Combine materials and mix with hands until the mixture feels like cornmeal. What types of clouds can be made from the cloud clay?

**CLOUD COLLECTION**

Visit author Tom Lichtenheld’s website at www.tomlichtenheld.com/childrens_books/cloudette.html. A short video shows how to collect a cloud like Cloudette by catching and filtering rain water. See how Cloudette was used to create the illustrations in the book. Grab some watercolors and see what kinds of pictures can be made using the “cloud” you collected.

**GAUGE IT!**

Materials: popsicle stick, ruler, waterproof marker, clean empty soup can, glue

Lay popsicle stick next to ruler. Mark every inch, half inch, quarter inch, and eighth inch on the stick. Stand the popsicle stick inside the can and glue it onto the side of the can. Find a place outside to set the can where it won’t tip over. After it rains, read the popsicle stick ruler to see how much rain fell. Empty the can and wait for the next rainfall. To extend this activity keep a record of each rainfall for a month. See if your totals match the local precipitation totals in your area.

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**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**OTHER BOOKS ABOUT CLOUDS**