

**Drip, Drop,
Don't Stop!**



The first raindrop landed right on Joy's nose. Then another. And another. 'Drip, drop, don't stop!' she shouted. She spread her arms wide and **tipped** her face up to the sky. The drops **dotted** the grass and the green bushes. They sparkled like tiny glass beads all over the yard. Joy **grinned**. The sky was just **getting** started. A blue bird **hopped** closer to see what all the fuss was about. A green frog blinked up at Joy from the grass. 'You two get it,' she told them. 'Rain is the best thing that ever happens.'





Joy ran to the doorway just in time. Water was **dropping** off the roof and splashing into the big bucket below. Splash, splash, splash! 'We are catching it!' Joy called out. 'Every single drop!' She watched the bucket filling, her eyes wide. Each splash was like a tiny burst. If Mom boiled this water, they could drink the sky. How many kids got to drink the sky?

Inside, Mom sat down, closed her eyes, and smiled a big, slow smile. Then she picked up her sitar. Joy had seen that look before. That meant only one thing: rain music. Mom's fingers danced on the strings, and her voice **hummed** and floated in the room. Outside, the drops fell on the roof. Tap-tap-tap-tap. They **dripped** and **drummed** and did not stop. Mom let it all fill her up. 'See?' Joy whispered. 'The rain even knows how to sing.'





After class, Joy **gripped** her book tight to her chest and ran for home. The rain came down hard, **dripping** and **dropping** all around her. Then she **stopped**. Right there in the middle of the wet path stood a big bird, its tail feathers **fanned** out wide. Not **running**. Not hiding. Just showing off, right in the cold rain. 'Excuse me,' Joy said. 'Don't you want to hide from the rain?' The bird did not move. It just stood there looking very proud of itself. It looked like it was waiting for a clap. Joy **grinned, clapped** for it, and ran the rest of the way home.

Joy washed up and dried off, then followed her nose down the hall. Something hot and rich was calling from the kitchen. Joy closed her eyes and breathed in deep. Then her little brother Sam burst in from the doorway with arms flung wide and a big grin on his face. 'Dinner!' A black cat sat between them, its whiskers twitching at the steam drifting out of the kitchen. Mom **stirred** her big bowl with a ladle and smiled at them both. 'Wet days make the best stew.' Joy **nodded** hard. Wet days made the best everything.





And then, just like that, the rain **stopped**. Joy **stepped** outside and looked all around. No more drip. No more drop. But the world had changed. Every leaf wore a tiny glass bead. Every twig held a perfect, still drop. Joy reached out and **tapped** a big sparkling leaf, and the drop **slipped** off slow and cool, **dripping** down into the wet grass. 'Wow,' she said softly. This was what the rain left behind.

Joy's best tree stood waiting for her, tall and green. Its branches were **dotted** with pink flowers like tiny birthday candles. Joy had watched it all spring, soaking up the rain drop by drop, **getting** taller and fuller until the green looked so deep and bright. Joy pressed her hand flat on the trunk of the tree. One last drop **slipped** from a leaf up above and landed right on her nose. It was small and cool and perfect. Joy **grinned** and looked up. 'Drip, drop,' she whispered. And up there in the clouds, she hoped the rain whispered back, 'Don't stop.'





Drip, Drop, Don't Stop!

A girl races into the rain, arms wide, catching every drop she can. Rain music, a showy peacock, and a bowl of stew later, she watches the storm fade and the world sparkle with tiny glass beads. Will she find what the rain left behind? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 107: Doubling Rule -ed, -ing), this book practices words like 'grinned', 'dotted', 'hopped', 'stirred', 'tapped'.

Phonics Focus: Doubling Rule -ed/-ing

clapped, dotted, dripped, dripping, dropping, drummed, fanned, getting, grinned, gripped, hopped, hummed, nodded, running, slipped, stepped, stirred, stopped, tapped, tipped

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