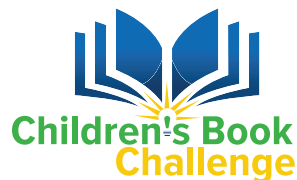


Myah's Energy Enlightenment





Myah's Energy Enlightenment, by Myah McMillan, was selected as the winner of the 2019 Children's Book Challenge, sponsored by EnlightenSC—an educational initiative of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. The competition challenges fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on how electricity has impacted their lives, communities and the history of our state.


South Carolina's electric cooperatives have been committed to powering rural communities since 1938. Since their founding, the Seven Cooperative Principles have included a commitment to education, concern for their communities, and attention to the future of young people. Those same ideals guide co-ops today. By inspiring students to learn about the history of electricity in our state, S.C.'s electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's energy leaders.

Myah's Energy Enlightenment




Story and illustrations by Myah McMillan


Ms. Kimi Daly's 2018-19 fifth grade art class
Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science, Winnsboro, S.C.




Sitting in her room, Myah had all of her electronics running. She was watching an HBO movie, streaming YouTube videos, listening to her favorite jams on the radio, enjoying the wind from her fan that was blowing on her desk, as she video chatted with her bestie on her laptop.





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Suddenly Myah's room door swung open. Her mom was back from the grocery store and she wasn't happy. Barging in, Mom yelled, "Your energy usage is out of control, Myah! You are costing us so much money on our energy bill." Myah asked, "What is energy usage?" Myah had no idea what her mom was talking about. She decided to do some research.

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After dinner, Myah immediately began her quest for answers. She got online and found a link for “Energy Efficiency in South Carolina.” The site was incredible. Her mom was correct. She could save money and help the environment. She needed to find out how.

enLIGHTenSC
Energy Focused Education

LEARN ABOUT ENERGY

>What is Energy?


>How is it

ENERGY EFFICIENCY


WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Stored energy
- Safety
- **working energy** ★

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 = ± ? Back Space



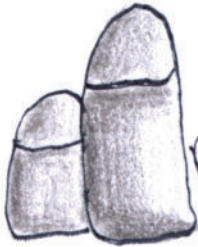
Along with saving money and helping the environment, the article had information about power plants and peak times of power usage. She also learned that electric co-ops first began to help rural areas. They were owned by the people in small rural areas to get affordable energy, because big energy companies did not want to serve these small areas.



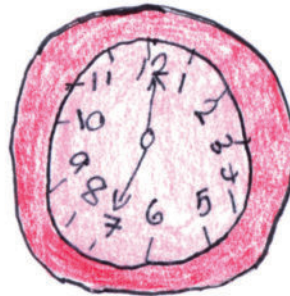


save
money


help
the
environment




power
plants



peak
times
7:00pm-10:00pm

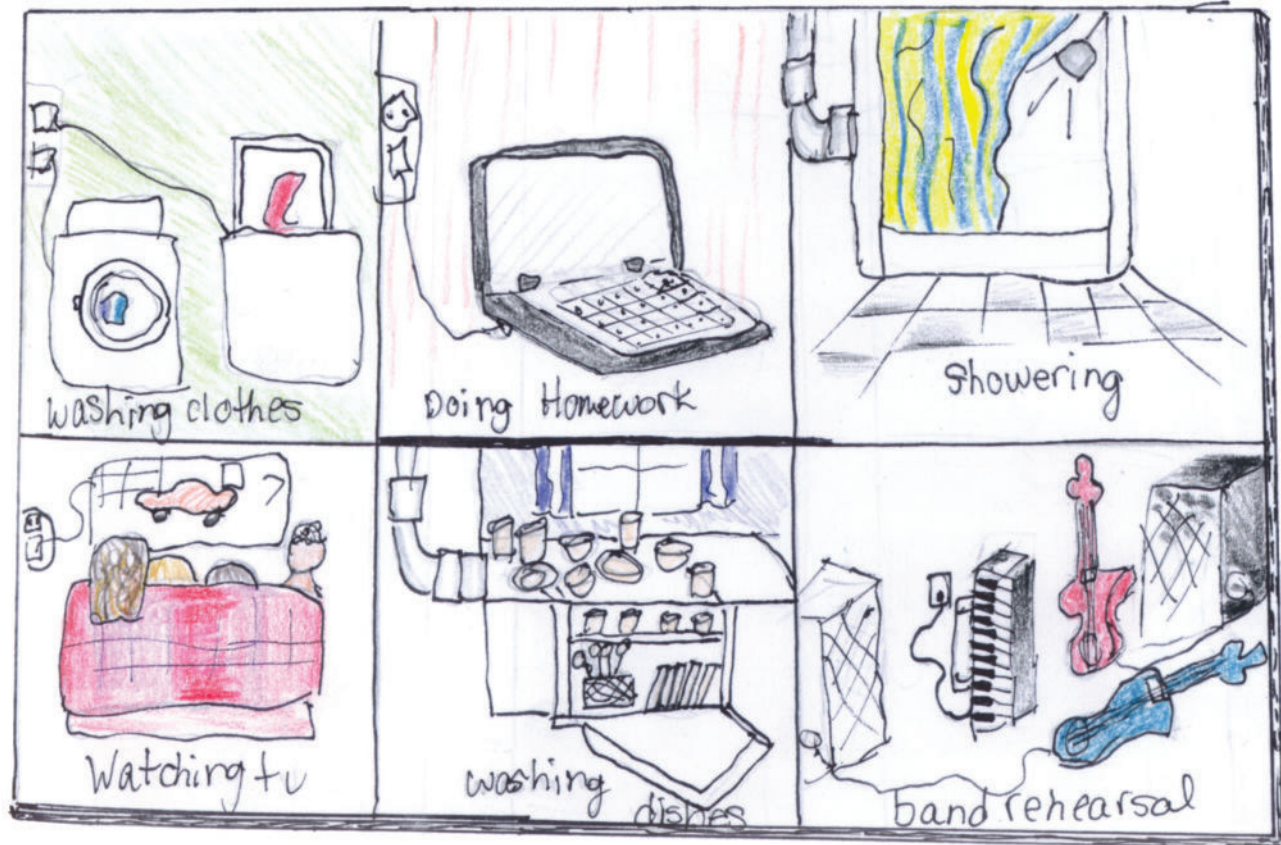
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“Wow,” Myah thought. “I never knew that I was using so much electricity. And I am using it during the exact time period that it costs us more money than usual, because it is the peak time that everyone is using power.” It was no wonder her mom was aggravated.

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Peak Times

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm





Myah got excited about her new knowledge. She was going to make her mother proud. She made a schedule to get her homework done on the computer and Chromebook before peak time began. She told her mother that if she would wash the clothes and the dishes before or after the peak time, it would also save money. Myah's mother was so impressed that her daughter was teaching her more about saving money.

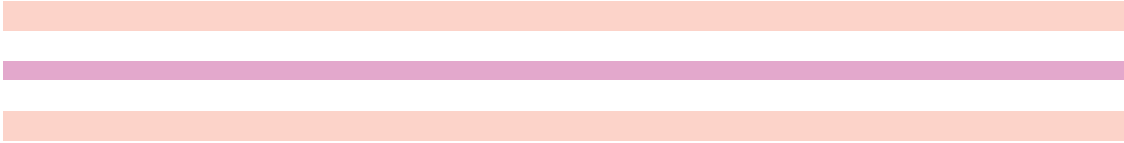


Saving Energy Schedule

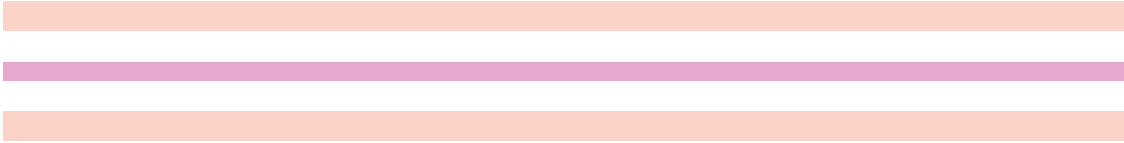
Peak Time
7:00 pm

- Home
- Dishes
- Cloth


0pm
2:00pm
10:00am




After more research, Myah found that she had also been wasting water by letting it run the entire time she was brushing her teeth. With her new strategy, Myah was now going to turn off the water when she didn't need it.






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Myah and her mom reminded each other to turn off lights, computers, televisions, and stereos when they weren't in those rooms. Myah was a whirlwind of ideas and she wanted to share them with the world. She leaned against the window, wondering how she could make a difference in someone's life.

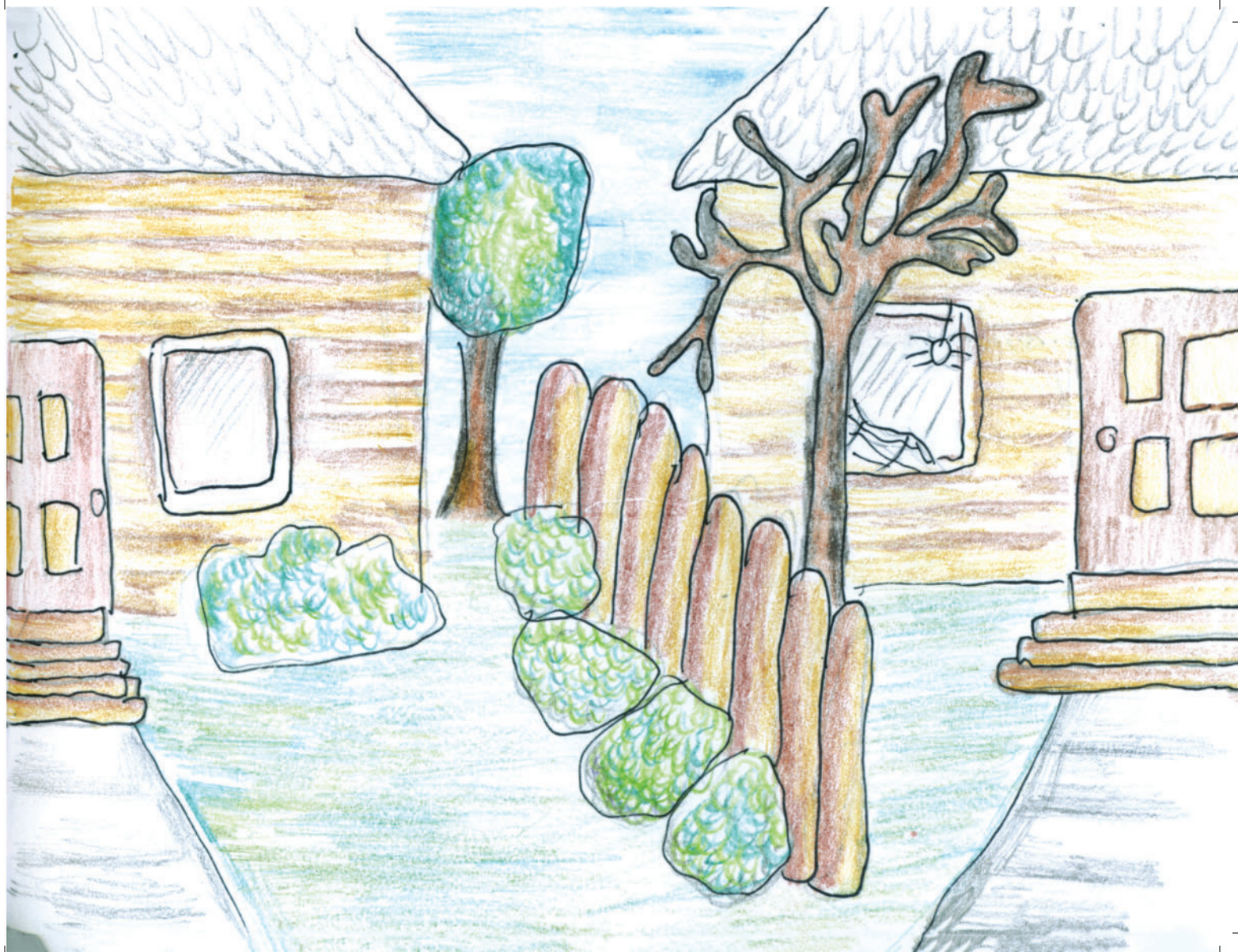
The bottom of the page features three sets of horizontal lines, identical to the ones at the top. Each set consists of two parallel lines: the top line is pink and the bottom line is yellow. These lines are positioned below the main text block.





She immediately spotted the neighbor's house. It belonged to Mr. Bates and it was just next door. There was only one problem. It was a creepy house. Even in the daytime Mr. Bates' house looked sinister. The house was so dark and the quietness seemed eerie. Myah had to get her courage together to make herself knock on the old man's door.

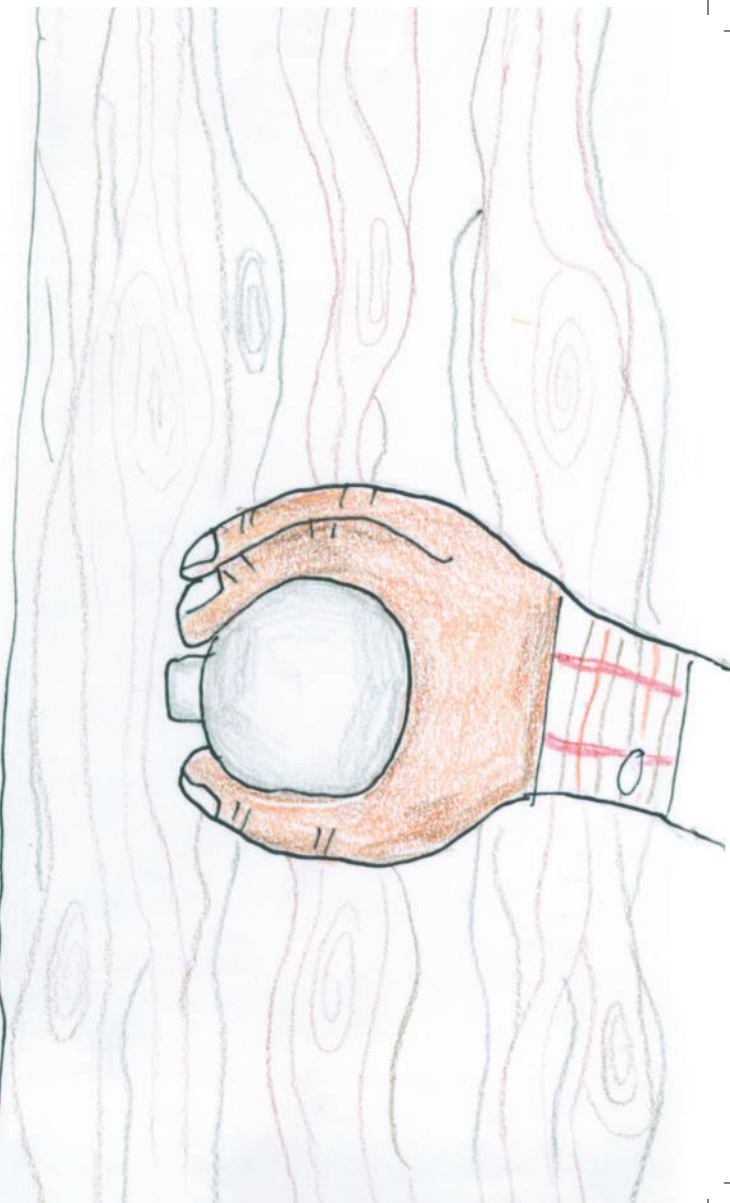






After what felt like a million years, Mr. Bates finally opened the door with a flashlight in his hand and a big, warm grin on his face. “Hello,” he said. Myah suddenly felt relieved.







Mr. Bates asked, “Myah, what are you doing here? I haven’t seen you since I bought Girl Scout cookies from you last month.” Myah responded, “I saw you over here sitting in the dark and I knew I had to come talk to you.”

Mr. Bates told Myah to grab a seat in his cold, dark living room. The next hour’s conversation was filled with helpful facts about energy. Myah was thorough in her explanation of how Mr. Bates could enjoy reading without a flashlight if he avoided peak times.







“While energy efficiency is the goal to reduce your use of energy,” Myah told Mr. Bates, “you do not need to sit in the dark all the time and use a flashlight.” He could switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs because they use 75% less energy than standard light bulbs. Mr. Bates smiled and agreed to make the changes. He appreciated all the time and effort Myah had put into her research. And the co-op idea was amazing! Myah said goodbye to her neighbor and left with a beaming grin.







Myah was now encouraged to take this knowledge a step further. She prepared a presentation for her class at school and decided to create an energy club with her friends. Who knew that saving money and energy would actually be a fun challenge? What an enlightening experience!









Myah Alease McMillan

I enjoy being an Honors Artist at Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science. Drawing is my favorite. I also like watching videos on YouTube. My best school subject is Social Studies.

I hope you learn about energy conservation from this book.



enlightensc.org | ecsc.org

