

Imagine that you are on a trip to some mountains far away. You want to visit a beautiful lake you once saw in a picture. The trip takes a couple days for you to get there. During the drive, you get more and more excited about seeing the wonderful sights you know will be there - all the wildlife, the great flowers and the fish! How much fun you are going to have when you get there!

When you arrive at the lake, it looks even more beautiful than in the picture. The lake is deep, clear and very blue; it reflects the sky perfectly. It is so quiet and serene here on the lakeshore. You can hear yourself breathing because it's so quiet. The sun is shining, the wind is gently blowing..... But wait! How come you don't hear any birds singing? No frogs saying "riddup." No fish jumping in and out of the water! IT IS TOO QUIET!!!

Now you start to notice a few things about the lake. There's no insects buzzing around. No turtles basking on a rock in the sunshine. There's no living things around the shore or in the water. In fact, the only things around are some old shells, insect cases and dead moss. And now that you're noticing, the trees don't look very good. Many of them don't have leaves and their branches look sick. THE LAKE IS

DEAD!!!

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You look around to your friends who are very puzzled. You all start discussing what happened to the lake when you hear someone coming. You start looking for a place to hide, but before you can hide, Ranger (insert your name) rides out of the forest on his faithful horse, Giddyup. He waves and smiles. You are all relieved and all wave

back. You crowd around Ranger (insert your name) and start firing questions at him.

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(Pretend to climb down from your horse and hold up your hand to impede the questions)

“Hold it! I can’t hear everyone talking at the same time! Now, I heard you all asking what had happened to the lake, right? Well, I’ve only got two words to say, ‘Acid rain.’”

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What on earth does that mean? How could rain hurt the lake? How could the rain be acidic?

(Shake your head and draw!) "You folks best be coming with me and Giddyup up to the lodge. I'll give you a lesson about acid rain that may help you understand what's happened here at the lake!"

