I’m Johnny Energy Seed. I plant energy seeds in a big field on my farm.

The sun shines. There is energy in the sun’s rays. It helps my seeds grow into tall plants. My plants store the sun’s energy in their roots, stalks, leaves and ears. Soon my energy plants look like this.

I can use the energy in my plants for many things. I can eat the seeds for energy for my body. This energy will help me grow and move and think.

I can feed my energy plants to my chickens, pigs, cows and horses. The energy will make my animals grow big and strong.

I can hang my energy plants in my barn to dry. Then I can burn them in my fireplace. The energy in my plants can keep me warm on cold winter nights.

I can put my energy plants into a big container that keeps out the air. As my plants decay, they can make a gas that I can burn in my stove to cook my food.

I can also turn my energy plants into fuel for my tractor. I turn them into alcohol, like grapes are turned into wine. This alcohol fuel, called ethanol, can run my tractor.

As you can see, a seed of corn really is an energy seed. Why don’t you plant some corn seeds and explore the ways you can use the energy in the plants you grow.
I’m Annie Soakley. I am a world traveler. Let me tell you about my last trip. It began in the Pacific Ocean. I was floating in the waves with my friends. We were bobbing up and down, watching the sun rise over the mountains. What a beautiful sight!

The sun climbed higher in the sky. I began to get warm. I got warmer and warmer. Suddenly, I rose out of the water. I floated toward the sky. I grew bigger and bigger. My molecules got farther and farther apart. I expanded.

I didn’t look like a drop of water anymore. I was invisible. I had turned into water vapor. I had evaporated!

I rose high into the sky. Many of my friends came with me. They had evaporated, too. Together, we formed a cloud.

The wind pushed us through the sky. We sailed over the ocean toward land. The people on the beach were sad to see us. We blocked the sun.

We passed over them and headed for the mountains. The wind kept pushing us.

We reached the mountains as the sun set. The air on top of the mountains was cold. It made me cold. As I cooled, I grew smaller. My molecules got closer together. I turned into a drop of water again. I condensed.

I was too heavy for the cloud to hold me. I began falling toward the earth. I was a rain drop! My friends condensed, too. We fell into a small creek and began flowing down the mountain.

The creek flowed into a mighty river. Gravity was pulling us down the mountain. We were moving very fast. We had a lot of energy.

Suddenly, we found ourselves in a long tunnel. A machine called a turbine was at the end of the tunnel. We rushed through the turbine, making it spin. The turbine used our energy to make electricity.

We flowed back into the river. The river made its way through farms and towns until it reached the ocean. I floated out into the waves, glad to be home again. It had been an exciting trip through the water cycle.