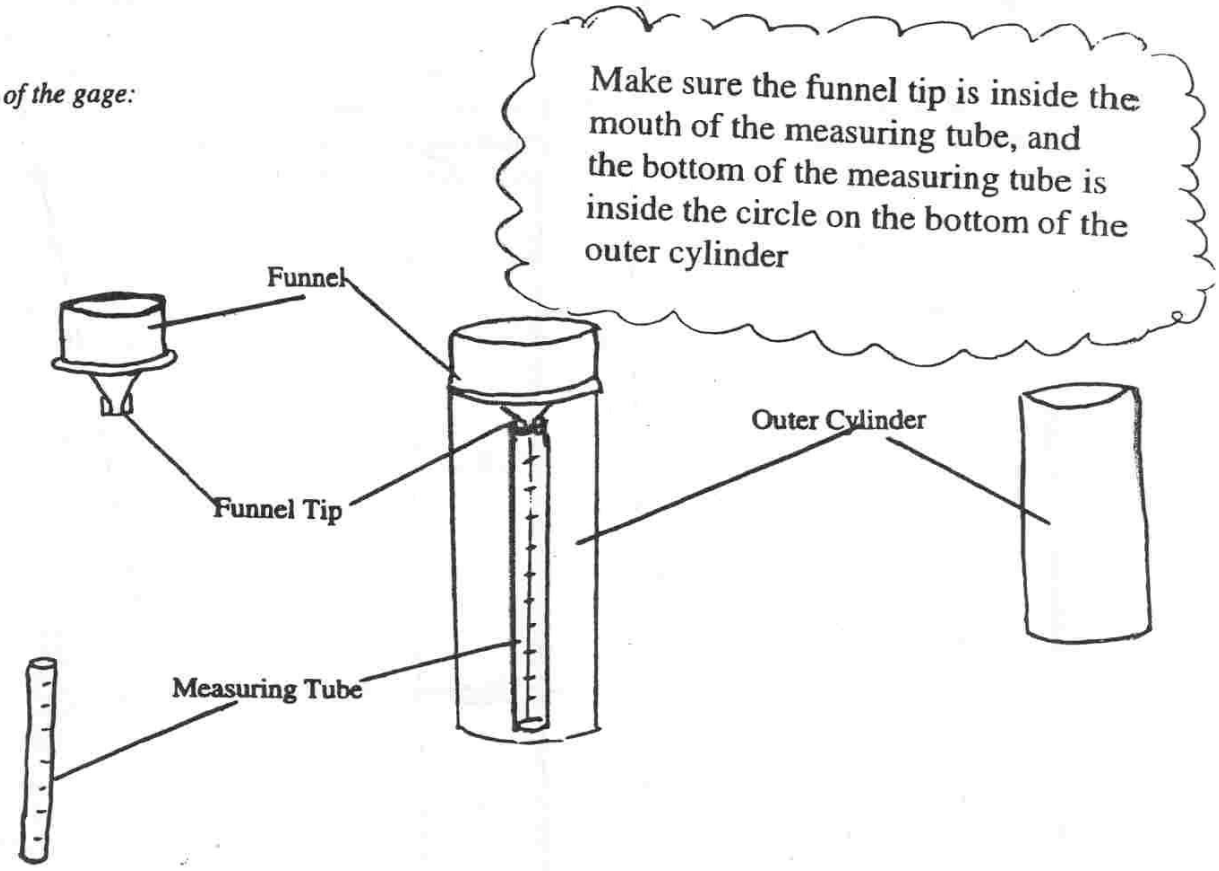
Reading the 4" Rain Gage

Parts of the gage:



Reading the gage:

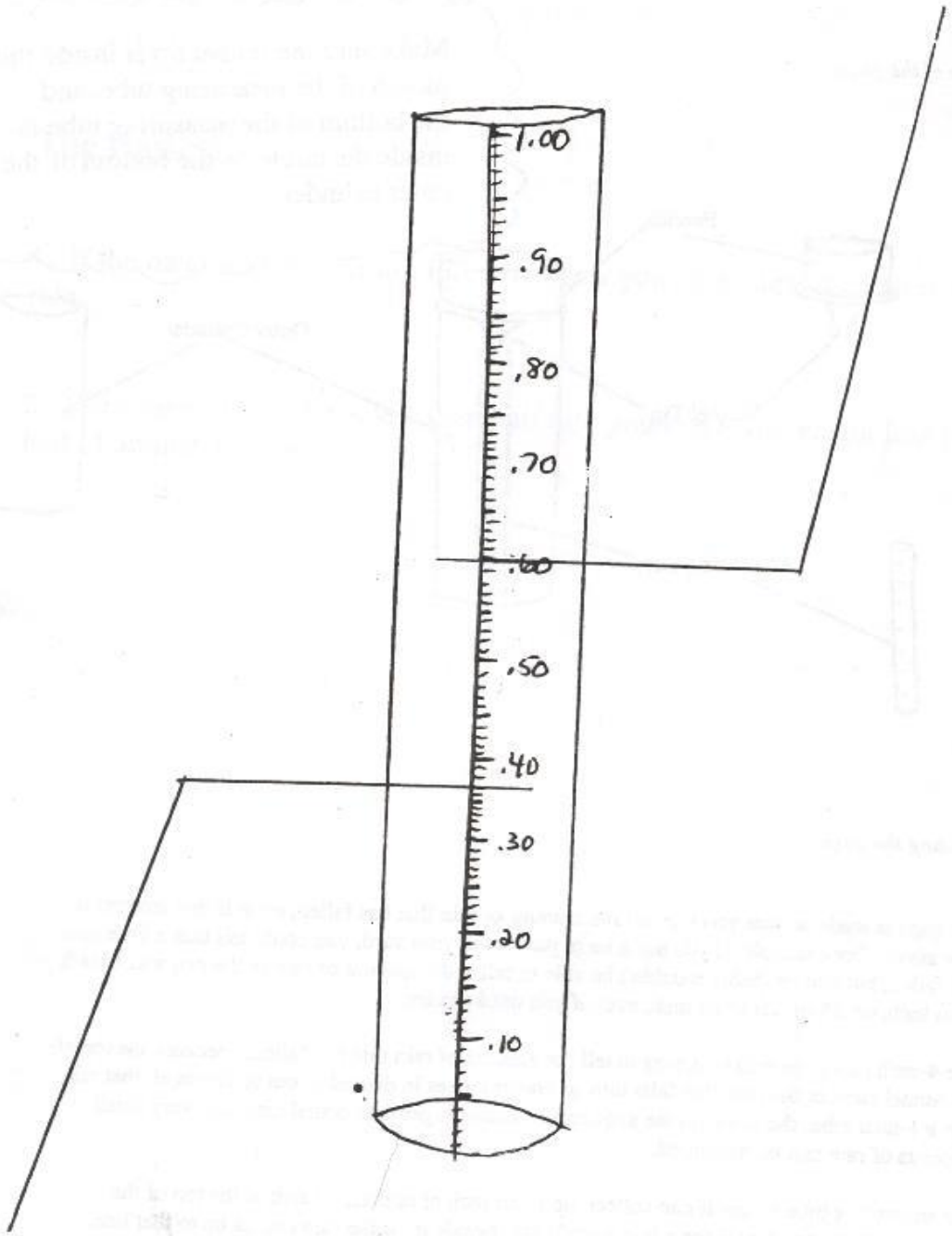
The gage is made so that you can tell the amount of rain that has fallen, even if that amount is very small. For example, if you put a large pan out in your yard, you could tell that a little rain had fallen, but you probably wouldn't be able to tell if the amount of rain in the pan was a tenth of an inch, or .15 or .20 of an inch, even if you used a ruler.

The 4-inch rain gage makes it easy to tell the amount of rain that has fallen. Because the top of the funnel catches the rain that falls into an area 4 inches in diameter, but it directs all that rain into a 1-inch tube, the scale on the gage can be made larger than actual size, and very small amounts of rain can be measured.

The measuring tube by itself can collect up to an inch of rainfall. Look at the top of the measuring tube, and you'll see a line with "1.00" beside it. If the rain comes up to that line, you've had an inch of rainfall. If the tube is not full, you can easily read how much rain fell from the scale on the tube. Each number on the tube represents another tenth of an inch of rain, and the marks in between the tenths are in hundredths.

Here are some examples:

If the water in the tube comes up to this line, you've had .60, or six-tenths of an inch of rain.

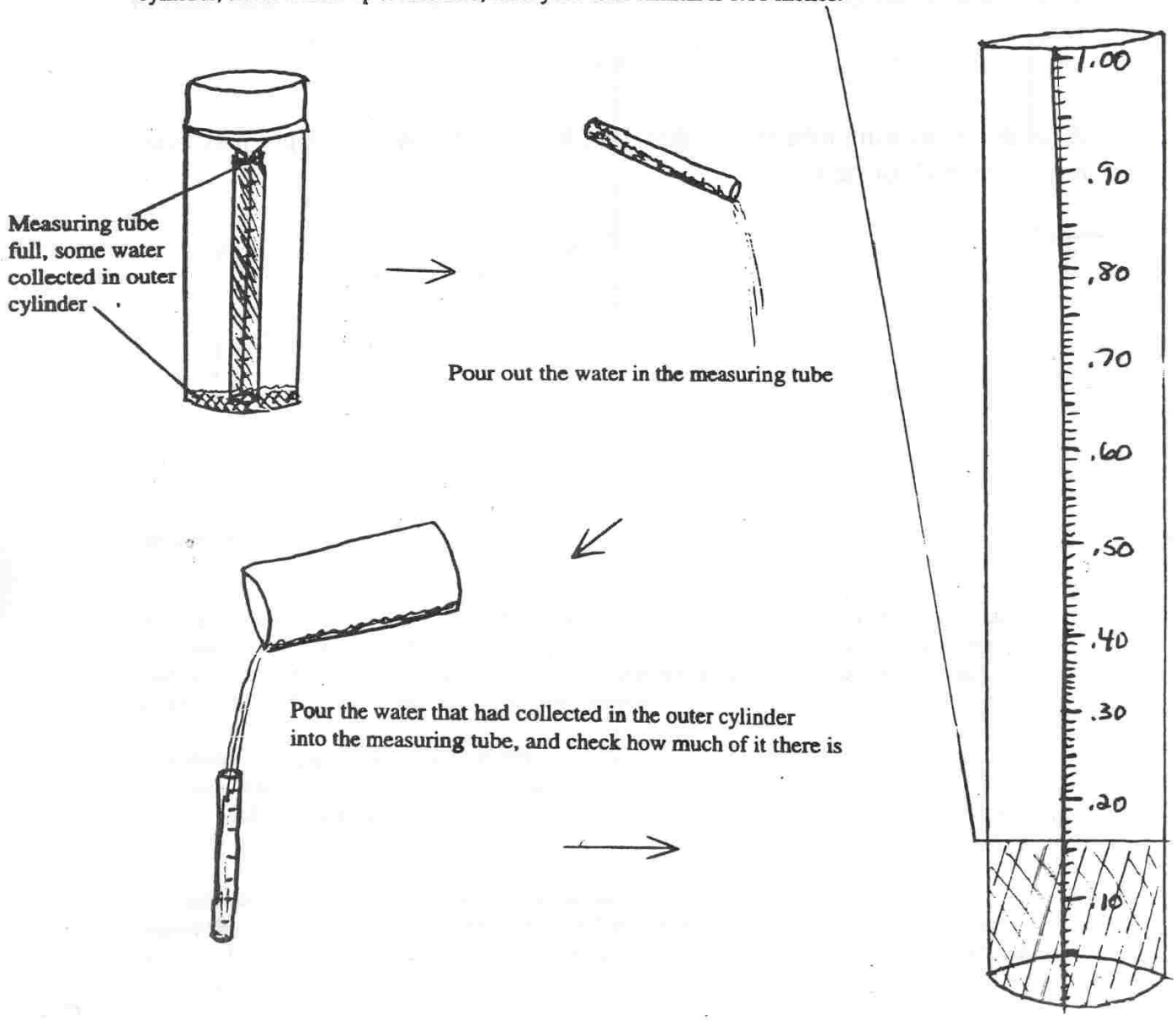


If the water in the tube comes up to this line, you've had .37, or thirty-seven hundredths, of an inch of rain.

If more than an inch of rain falls between gage readings, the extra water will run over the top of the measuring tube and collect in the bottom of the outer cylinder. If the measuring tube is full and there's water in the outer cylinder, remove the measuring tube and pour the water out of it, carefully noting that you've just poured out the equivalent of an inch of rain. Next, pour the water that was in the outer cylinder into the measuring tube, and note how much rainfall is shown. The total rainfall is one inch (what you poured out of the measuring tube first) plus the amount that you poured from the outer cylinder into the measuring tube.

Here is an example:

If the tube is full, and you pour it out, then pour in the water that was collected in the outer cylinder, and it comes up to this line, then your total rainfall is 1.16 inches.



The Basics:

1. If the measuring tube is not full, you know you've got less than an inch of rain.

2. If the measuring tube is less than half full, you know you've got less than half of an inch of rain.