Owen Otter and the Wobbly Boat

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LOOKUP FAMILY

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Illustrations were created with AI image tools under the direction of Look Up Family.

One of four read-aloud stories for children aged three to six about everyday screens. Read it together, then turn to the page for grown-ups at the back.

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It was a nice day and Owen wanted
to play by the stream today.
“Mine keeps tipping,” said Owen.
He scooped his leaf boat out of the water.
It was very soggy.



Owen came home and sat beside Dad
to watch a video together.
Then a scary picture popped up.
Owen’s tummy went funny.



He turned away at once.
“Dad! Make it stop.
I don’t like it!”



Dad stopped the video and held Owen close.
“Thank you for telling me,” he said.
“You’re safe.” Dad put the tablet away.
“Dad, can we go play?” said Owen. Dad nodded.



Down by the stream,
Bea was waiting.
“I’ve made a boat too!”



Bea’s boat tipped.
Splash! A leaf landed
right on her whiskers.
Owen tried not to giggle.



“Draw me like this!” said Bea.
Owen found his crayons.
The leaf in his picture
was enormous.



“Dad, can we share it with others?”
“Let’s ask Bea first,” said Dad.
“She might not want
everyone to see it.”



“Please don’t,” said Bea.
“I don’t want everyone
laughing at me.”
Owen put his picture face down.



“Then we won’t,” said Owen.
He found a bigger leaf.
“Shall we make another boat?”



Owen put a twig in the boat. “One for me.”
Bea added another. “And one for me.”



The boat wobbled, then sailed on.
“It’s working!” Owen shouted.
Bea ran along the bank to catch it.



For the grown-up reading this

If something scary, confusing or inappropriate appears, help your child stop and turn away, then tell a trusted adult immediately. “Thank you for telling me. You’re safe. You’re not in trouble.”

- Stay calm. The adult handles closing content, reporting and blocking. Never ask the child to investigate or look again.
- Preschoolers do not need social-media accounts. Any sharing in this story is an adult’s choice.
- Before sharing, consider possible hurt as well as permission. Do not post an embarrassing drawing or image just because someone agreed. A “no” is enough.

After the story: practise “Please help me!” together, and ask how Bea felt when Owen listened.

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Stop, tell, think

Owen's leaf boat keeps tipping. A scary picture pops up on Dad's tablet. And a drawing of Bea turns out to be hers to share, or not.



Also in this series

Pip, Poppy and the Sky-High Kite
Pari Peacock Says No
Sami Snail and the Bunny Hop

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