The Boy Who Could Not Sleep

LITTLE READERS



Ben gets ready for bed.
He puts on his blue pajamas
and brushes his teeth.



Dad reads Ben a story
about a little boat
on a quiet lake.



At the end of the story,
Dad gives Ben a hug.
"Good night," he says.



Ben hugs his soft bear.
Dad turns off the lamp
and leaves the door open.



The room is quiet.
Moonlight shines softly
through the window.



Ben closes his eyes.
He listens to the wind
outside his room.



A little while later,
Ben opens his eyes.
He is still awake.



He turns onto one side.
Then he turns
onto the other side.



His bear slides down
under the blanket.
Ben pulls him close again.



“Why can’t I sleep?”
Ben whispers. He looks
toward the open door.



Ben hears a soft sound.

Tap, tap, tap.

Dad is walking down the hall.



Dad peeks into the room.
"Are you awake, Ben?"
he asks quietly.



"I am trying to sleep,"
Ben says. "But my eyes
keep opening."



Dad sits beside him.
"Sometimes it takes time
to fall asleep," he says.



"Would you like a sip
of water?" Dad asks.
Ben nods.



Dad brings a small cup.
Ben takes a sip
and puts it on the table.



"Can you stay a minute?"
Ben asks. "Of course,"
says Dad.



They listen together.

The wind moves the leaves.

A little owl calls outside.



“The garden is resting,”
Dad says. “The birds
are resting, too.”



Ben thinks of the birds
curled up in their nests.
He pulls up his blanket.



“What about my bear?”
Ben asks. “Is he resting?”
Dad smiles.



Ben tucks Bear in
beside him. “Good night,
Bear,” he whispers.



Dad takes a slow breath.

Ben takes one, too.

They sit quietly together.



Dad points to the window.
"Look at the moon,"
he says.



The moon is round
and bright. A small cloud
floats beneath it.



"It looks like a boat,"
Ben says. He remembers
the boat in the story.



“Where is it going?”
Dad asks. Ben smiles.
“Across a sleepy sky.”



Ben imagines the cloud
floating over the trees
and past the moon.



In his mind, Bear rides
in the cloud boat.
Ben rides beside him.



The boat moves slowly.

The stars shine above it.

The sky is quiet.



Ben gives a little yawn.
Dad gently pulls the blanket
over his shoulders.



"I think Bear is sleepy,"
Ben whispers. Dad smiles.
"I think you may be, too."



Dad gives Ben another hug.
"I will be nearby,"
he says softly.



Ben watches Dad go
to the open door.
"Good night," Ben says.



"Good night," Dad says.
The hallway light shines
a little way into the room.



Ben holds his bear.
He listens to the wind
moving in the leaves.



The cloud boat floats
quietly in his mind.
Ben takes a slow breath.



His eyes feel heavy now.

He settles into his pillow.

Bear rests beside him.



Outside, the moon shines
over the quiet garden.
The little owl calls once.



Ben is fast asleep.

Bear is tucked in, too.

The room is peaceful.



What does Ben do
before going to bed?
Name one thing.



Who reads Ben a story?

What is the story about?

Tell a friend.



What happens when Ben
tries to fall asleep?
How does he feel?



What does Dad bring
for Ben to drink?
Where does Dad sit?



What sounds do Ben
and Dad hear outside?
Name one.



What does Ben imagine
the cloud looks like?
Who rides with him?



How does Dad help Ben
feel comfortable?
What does he say?



What happens at
the end of the story?
Where is Bear?



The End

