Jelly

The Day the Creek Rose

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. How can rain change a route?
2. What can a map show you?
3. Who helps you choose a safe way?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Rain tapped Ben's window all night.
In the morning, the street was wet.
Dad checked the sky by the door.
Ben pulled his school bag onto his back.



Their usual walk passed the creek.
A narrow footpath cut across the bend.
It was quicker than the road.
Ben liked watching leaves float past.



Today, Dad stopped before the path.
Water covered the lower stones.
The creek was wider than yesterday.
Brown water rushed around the bend.



Ben stayed beside Dad on the pavement.

He could not see the lowest step.

A branch moved quickly past the bank.

"Can we still go this way?"



Dad shook his head at once.
"We will use a different route."
He moved farther from the creek.
Ben followed him toward the street corner.



Mina and her mum came along.
They stopped before the flooded path too.
Mina looked at the hidden stones.
Her mum took her hand gently.



"Our short way is under water."
Ben pointed from the safe pavement.
Mina's mum looked at the main road.
"There is a bridge farther along."



Dad opened a map on his phone.
He stood well back from the kerb.
Ben and Mina looked over his arm.
A blue line showed the creek.



The short path met the blue line.
Farther north, a road crossed it.
Dad enlarged that part of the map.
A bridge picture appeared by the road.



"Can we reach that bridge from here?"
Mina followed the road with her finger.
It curved past the little grocery shop.
Then it joined the bridge road.



Dad checked the local route notice.

The main bridge route was open.

The low creek path was closed.

Ben looked back at their hidden shortcut.



Mina's mum checked the walking time.
The longer route would take extra minutes.
She sent a short message to school.
The children waited beside the shop wall.



They began walking toward the grocery shop.
Ben wanted to step more quickly.
Dad pointed to wet leaves underfoot.
They kept a steady, careful pace.



At the corner, they used the crossing.
The adults checked the road with them.
A van passed through a shallow puddle.
Everyone waited until it had gone.



Beyond the shop, the road rose gently.
Ben could see the bridge ahead.
It had a wide pavement and high rails.
Cars moved along its separate roadway.



A worker stood near the bridge approach.

He wore a bright yellow coat.

Dad asked about the walking route.

The worker pointed to the open pavement.



"Keep to the marked walkway."

The worker indicated the high rails.

The lower riverside steps were blocked.

Nobody went down toward the creek.



They walked onto the bridge together.
Ben stayed beside Dad on the pavement.
Mina walked next to her mum.
The water was far below the rails.



Ben could see the creek's wide bend.
Their old path lay beneath the water.
He understood why Dad had stopped.
The shortcut was not a path today.



On the far side, Dad checked the map.
A road led directly toward the school.
They no longer needed the creek path.
Ben pointed to the school roof ahead.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What covered the low path?
2. Why did Dad stop before it?
3. What route did the map show?
4. What did Dad check besides the map?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. How might they reach school now?
2. What should they tell the school?
3. Could the creek stay high tomorrow?
4. Who should check before they return?



The last street had a large puddle.
They stayed on the clear pavement beside it.
Mina held her bag away from a hedge.
Ben watched for slippery leaves again.



At school, Ms. Lee met them.

Mina's mum explained the longer walk.

Dad showed where they had crossed.

Ms. Lee thanked them for the message.



Ben hung his bag on its hook.
Max asked why they had come later.
Ben spread his hands to show the creek.
"The water covered our short path."



Mina drew the creek on scrap paper.
Ben added the low path across its bend.
Max drew the school at one side.
They left room for the bridge above.



Ben drew a line through the low path.

Mina added the longer road around it.

They marked the grocery shop at the corner.

Max joined the road to the school.



Ms. Lee looked at their drawing.

"What helped you choose another way?"

Mina pointed to the bridge on the map.

Ben remembered the notice Dad had checked.



"A map shows where a bridge is."

Ms. Lee placed a finger beside it.

"An adult must check the route today."

Ben added a small adult beside the road.



At lunch, rain began falling again.
They watched from the class window.
Water ran down the glass in lines.
Ben thought about the creek outside.



Dad arrived at the end of school.
He had checked the route again.
They would take the main bridge home.
The low path was still closed.



Mina and her mum joined them again.
Ben showed Mina the folded class drawing.
She found the grocery shop on it.
They knew where their first turn would be.



The main bridge pavement was still open.
They crossed beside their parents as before.
No one stopped to lean over the rails.
They kept moving along the marked walkway.



At home, Ben put the drawing down.
His shoes left damp patches on the mat.
Dad brought a towel for them.
Ben hung his bag in a dry place.



"Will we use the shortcut tomorrow?"
Ben looked toward the rainy window.
"We will check before we leave."
Dad put the map beside his keys.



The next morning, the rain had stopped.
But the creek notice still showed a closure.
Dad chose the bridge route again.
Ben did not ask to try the low path.



They left home a little earlier.
Mina and her mum met them at the corner.
The grocery shop was opening its door.
This time, they had plenty of time.



At school, Ben showed Max their route.
He pointed to the long curve on the drawing.
"It took us longer than usual."
Mina pointed to the high bridge.



"But we knew where to cross."

She added a rail to its picture.

Max looked at the crossed-out low path.

He drew water over its lowest stones.



Several days later, Dad checked again.
The path had been inspected and reopened.
The water was back below the stones.
Dad still looked carefully before they walked.



Ben could see the bottom step now.
A dry leaf rested on its edge.
He stayed on the path beside Dad.
The creek moved gently around the bend.



Ben kept the drawing in his school folder.
It showed more than one way home.
He knew which questions to ask next time.
Dad closed the gate behind them.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why did they use the bridge route?
2. What did their route drawing show?
3. Why did they leave earlier next time?
4. When did they use the low path again?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. What could change your usual route?
2. Who could help check another way?
3. Why check conditions on the day?
4. What landmarks could help you?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Draw Another Way

Draw two routes with an adult.

Mark a place to check before leaving.

We can go by _____

An adult can check _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

