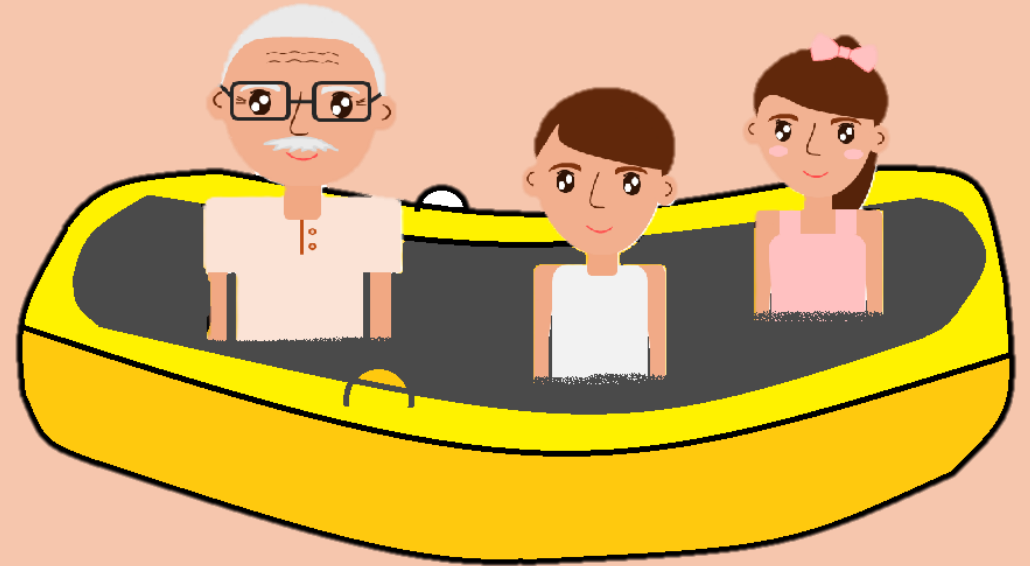
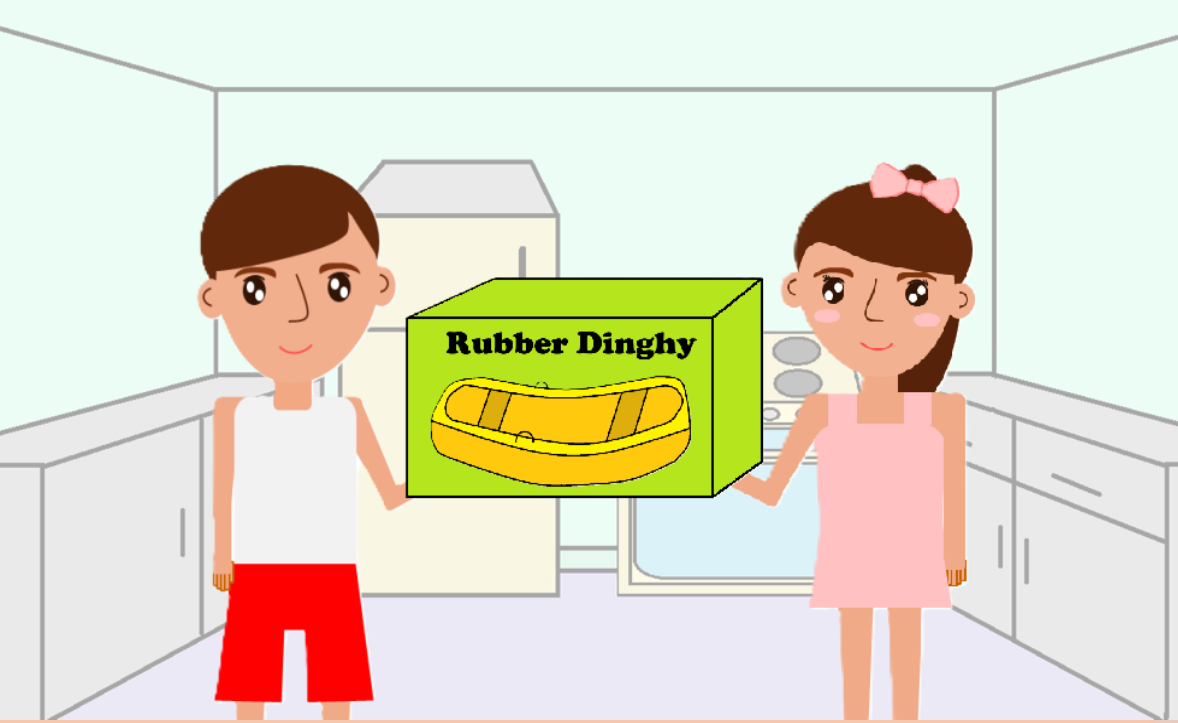


Lek and Luca go rowing

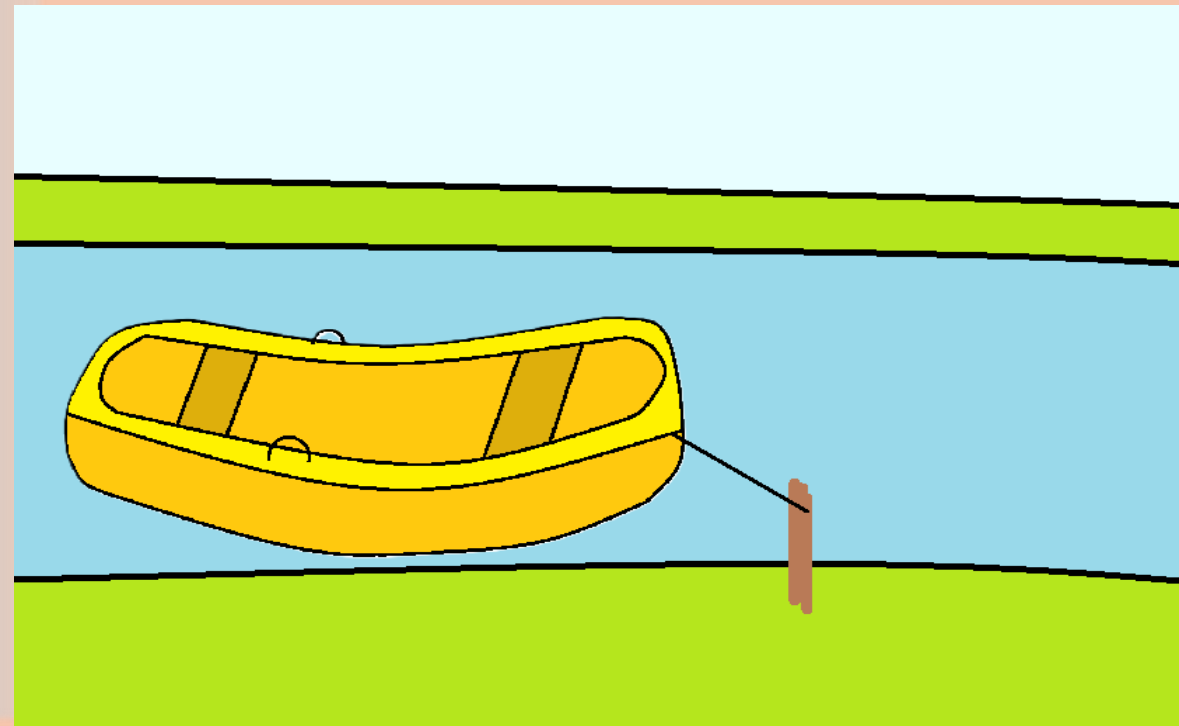


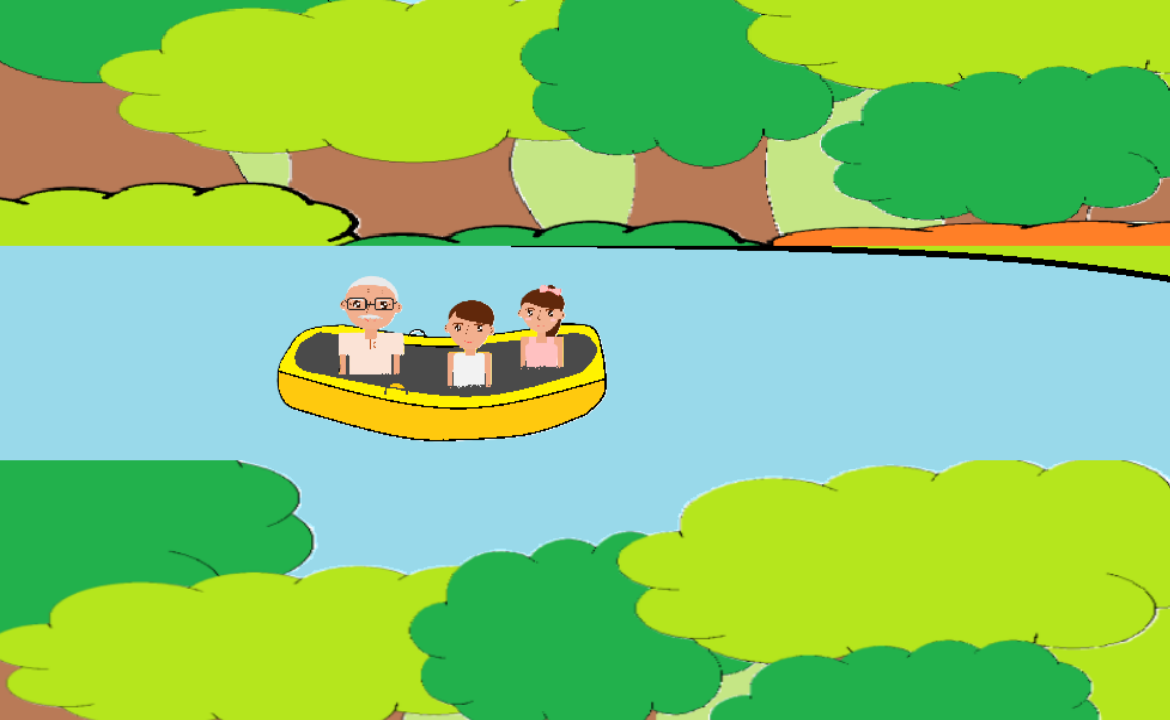
Written by Russell Holton
Illustrated by Russell & Somkamon Holton



Lek and Luca were excited to be going on an adventure with their grandpa. They had planned a trip to row on the river and see as much nature as they could possibly find. Their boat was bright yellow, and they couldn't wait to get started on their journey.

They made their way to the river where they found their boat moored alongside the bank. It was very wobbly when they tried to get in, but once they were all sat safely in the boat it was actually very comfortable. The plan was to take turns rowing so that all of them could enjoy the magical scenery.

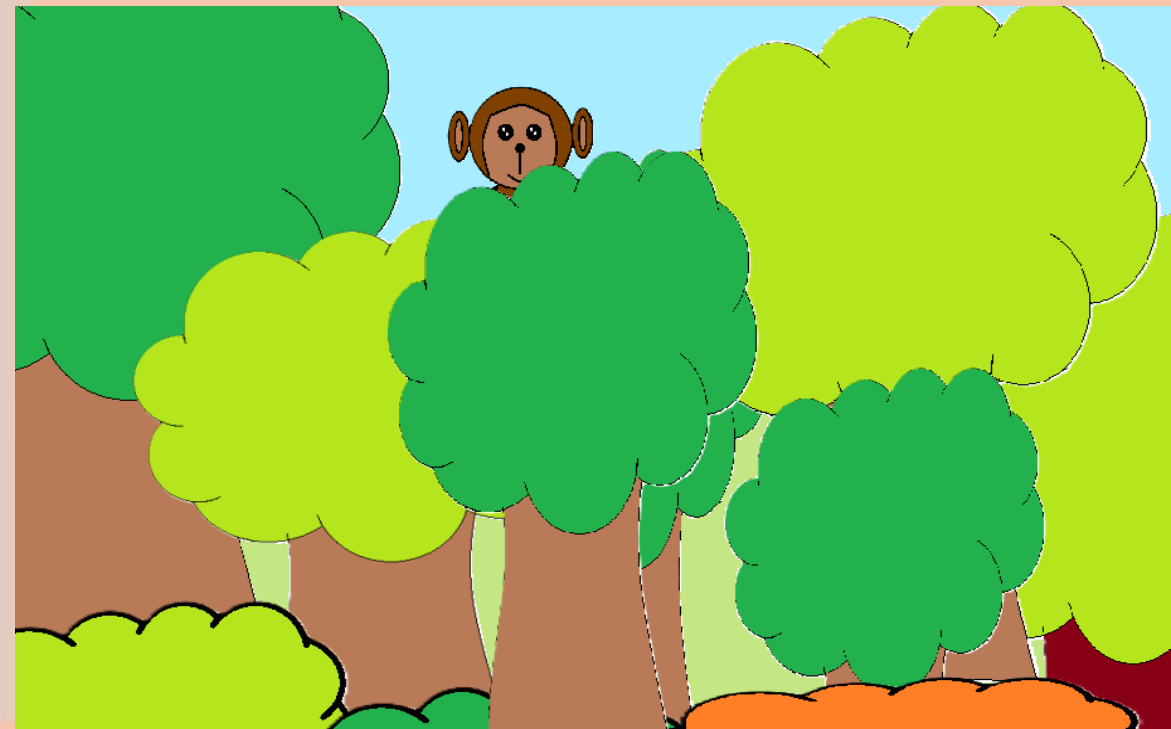


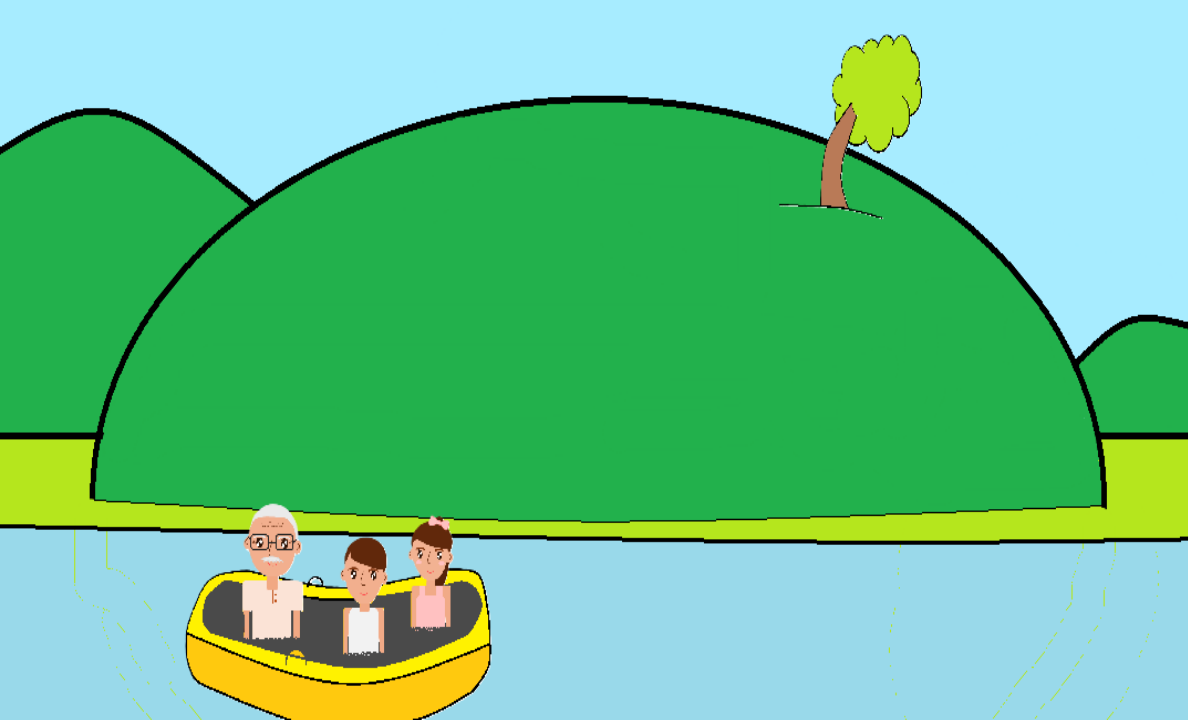


Once they'd set off it was clear that it was going to be hard work rowing down the river, but they could already see that it was worth it. They floated around a bend, and trees started to appear on both sides of the riverbank. It wasn't long before they were rowing through a beautiful green forest.

They kept their eyes open for any signs of wildlife in the forest and Luca thought he saw a monkey in a tree.

"I'm not sure about that," said Lek disbelievingly. "However, we should be able to spot some rabbits, or even a horse."





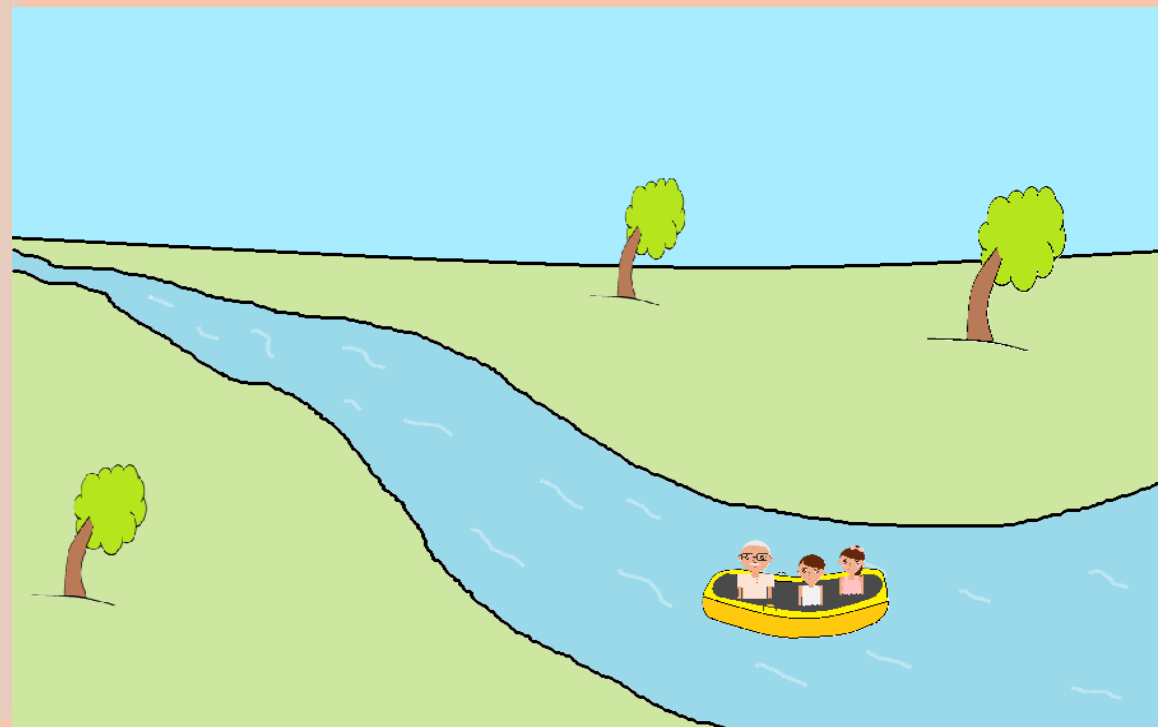
As they continued down the river the forest started to thin out and once the trees had disappeared, they could see a very large hill. It was covered in beautiful green grass, and there was a lonely tree on the top swaying in the wind.

"I'd love to sit under that tree and have a picnic. I bet you could see for miles around," Lek said.

The river started to get a lot wider, and Luca wondered if this was such a good idea.

"Do you think we might come across a waterfall?" he asked nervously.

"No, there aren't any waterfalls here," Grandpa replied. "We are perfectly safe, but we should try to stay close to the bank because it's easier to row."



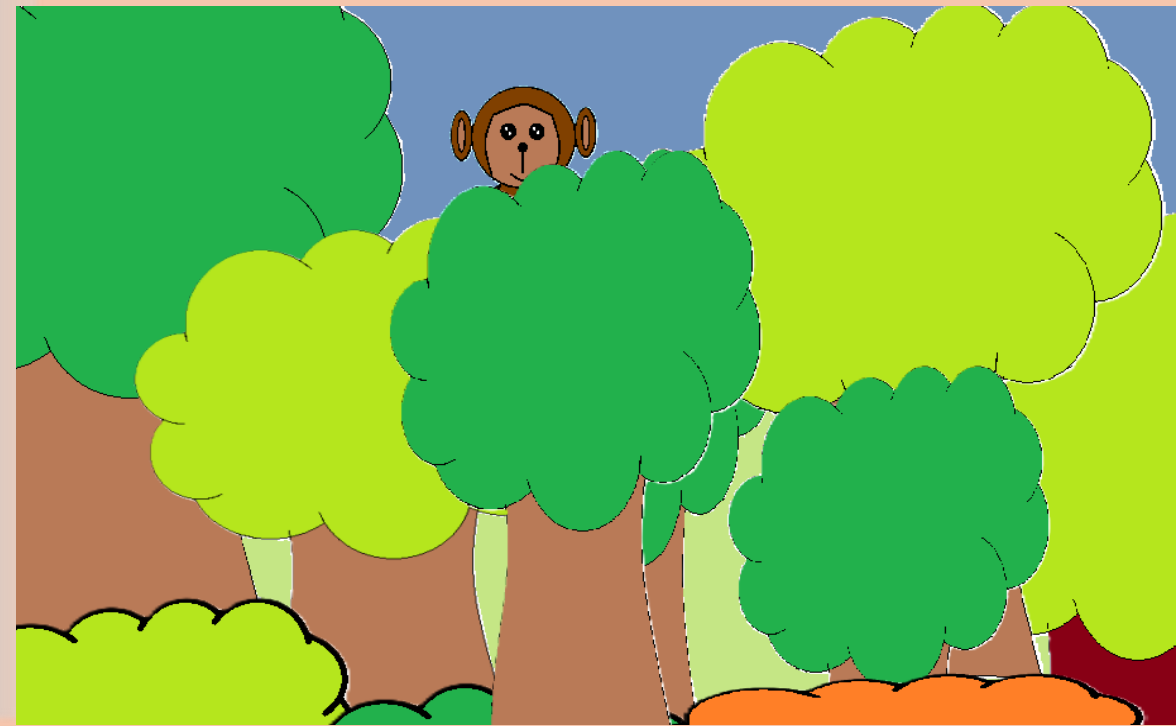


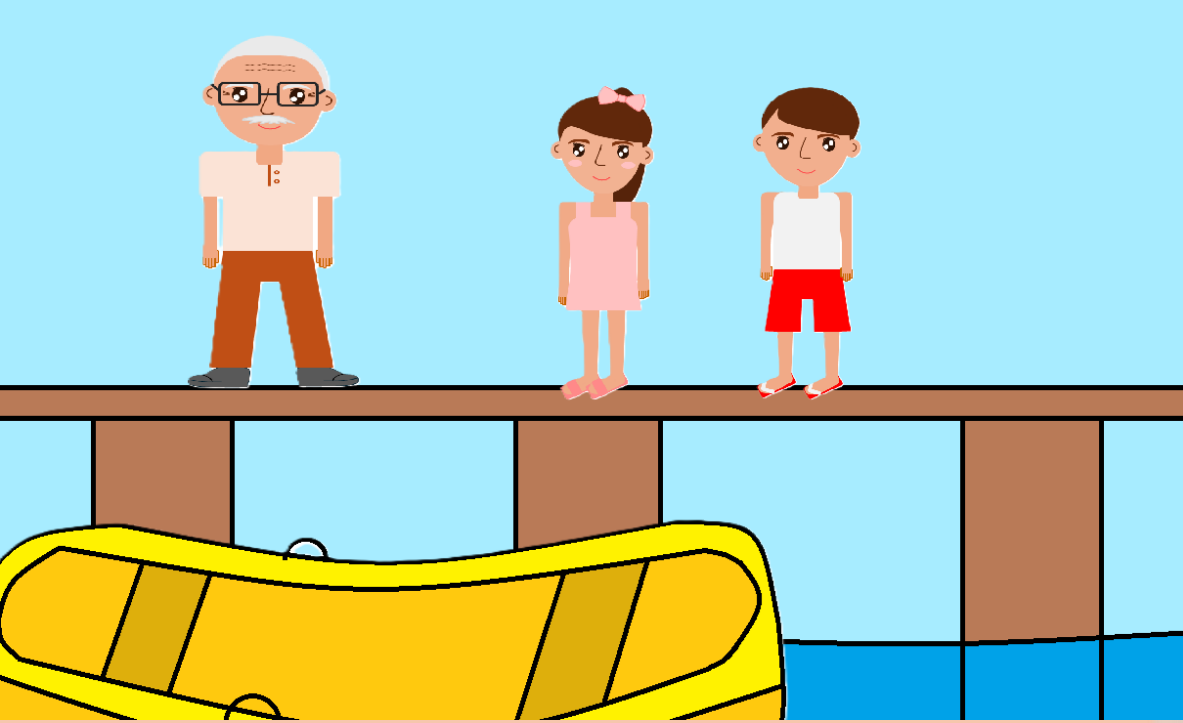
The river started to get thinner, and they came across another forest. It was nice and cool under the shade of the trees, and Lek and Luca felt very relaxed while Grandpa took care of the rowing for a while.

Lek was peering into the trees when she saw something that really startled her.

"Hey Luca, I think you're right, I can see a monkey in that tree over there."

"That can't be right, we must both be seeing things," he said laughing.





After an hour of rowing, they came to a small village with a pier.

"This is where our journey ends," said Grandpa. "It's been a lovely day, but we must stop here and catch the bus back to town." Lek and Luca sighed with disappointment, but they were both tired and secretly wished for bedtime.

The next day at breakfast Lek and Luca sat with Dad while he read the newspaper. He turned a page and Lek and Luca gasped in surprise. On the page was a story about a missing monkey that had just been rescued by the local zoo.

This *must* have been what they'd seen in the forest. What a strange thing to see in the British countryside.



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