

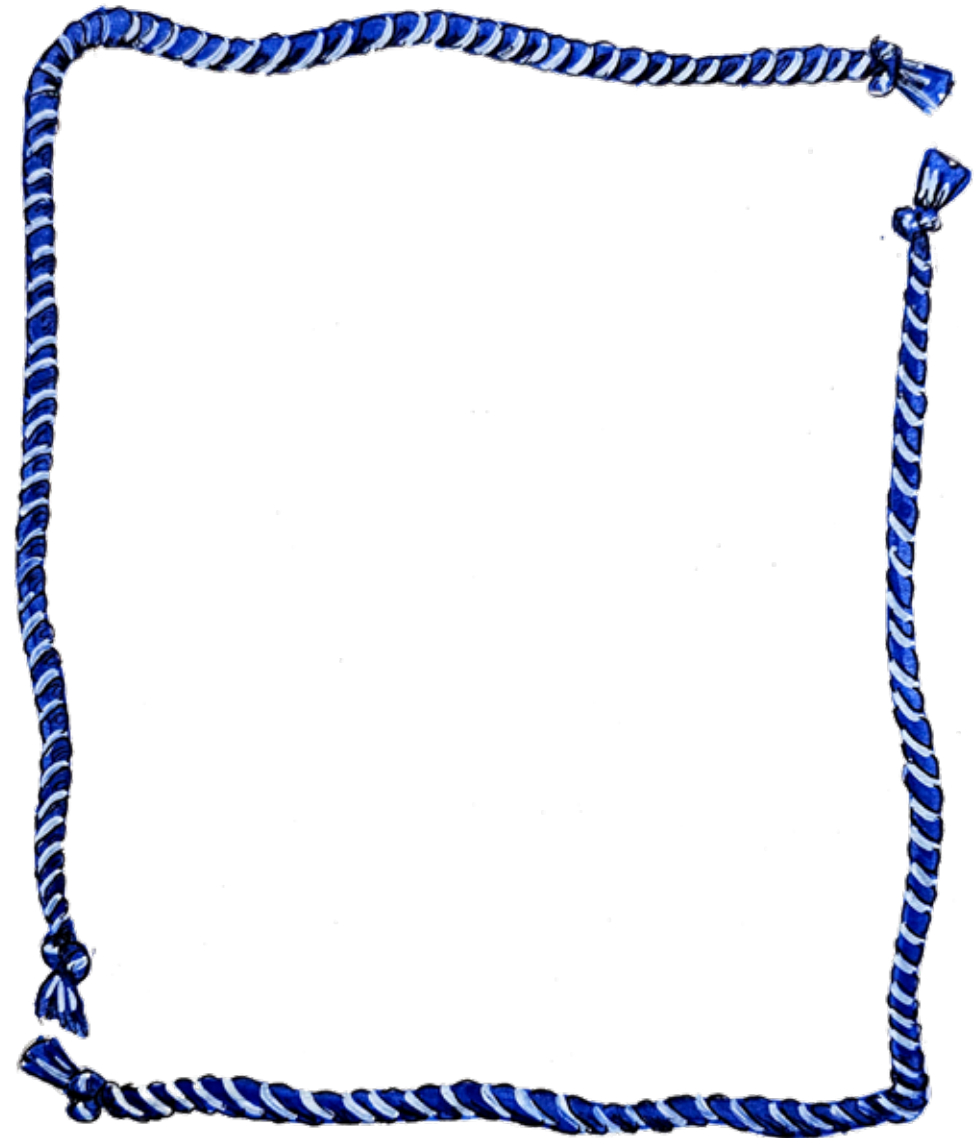
JENNIFER

and the River Adventure



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Jennifer is sitting cross-legged in her treehouse high above a river. She's folding paper boats. Boats that will sail faster than the wind on the stream.



But wait ... what's that sound?
It's a strange voice she doesn't know.

“OH ME, OH MY!”

moans the voice.
Jennifer peeks out the treehouse door.

Down below, an otter is floating on his back. He's holding his tummy with his front paws and rocking side to side.

“WHAT’S WRONG?”

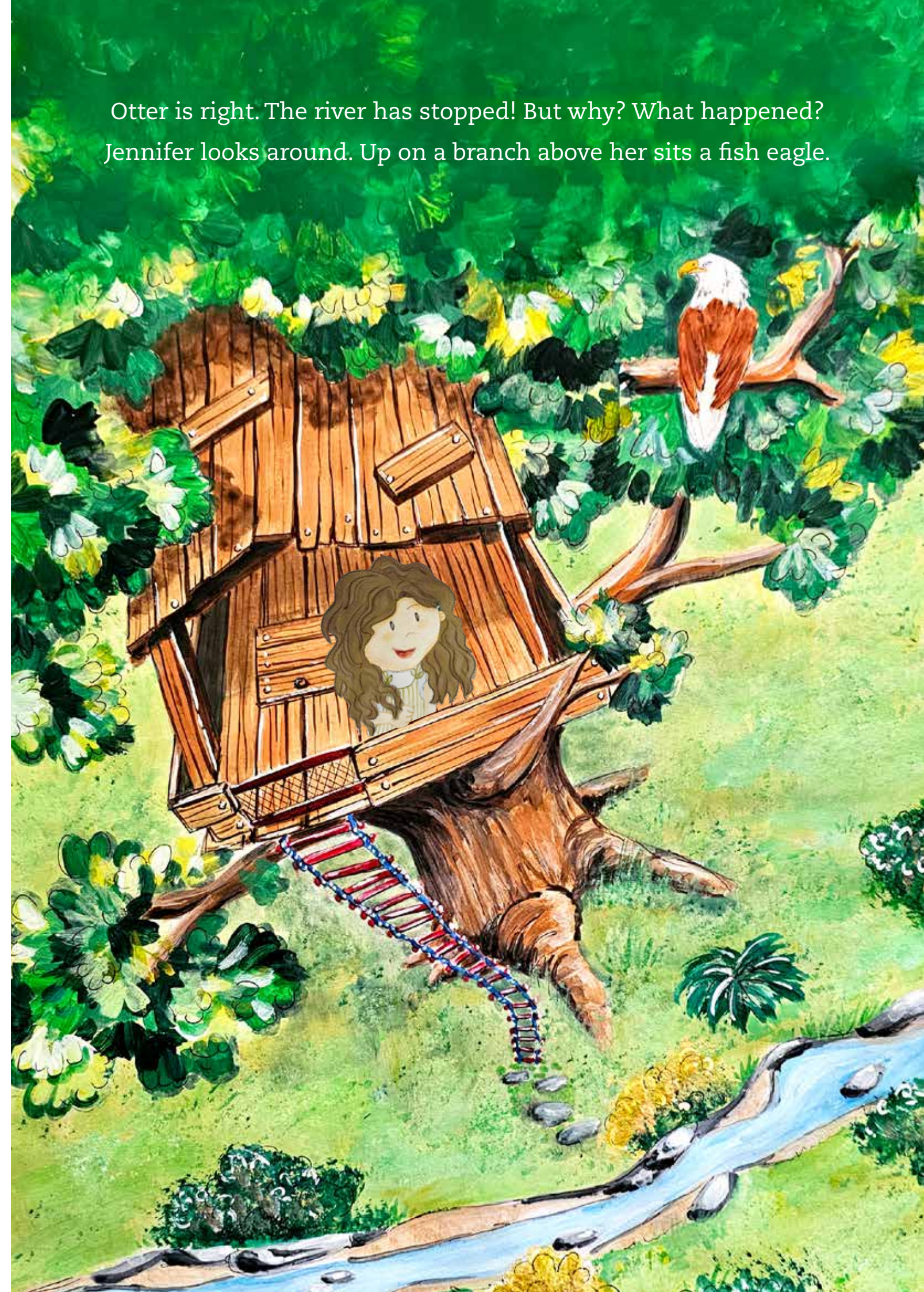
calls Jennifer.



The otter looks up.

“The river’s stopped flowing, and all the fish and bugs are scared and hiding. I haven’t eaten in days. My tummy hurts from hunger!”

Otter is right. The river has stopped! But why? What happened?
Jennifer looks around. Up on a branch above her sits a fish eagle.

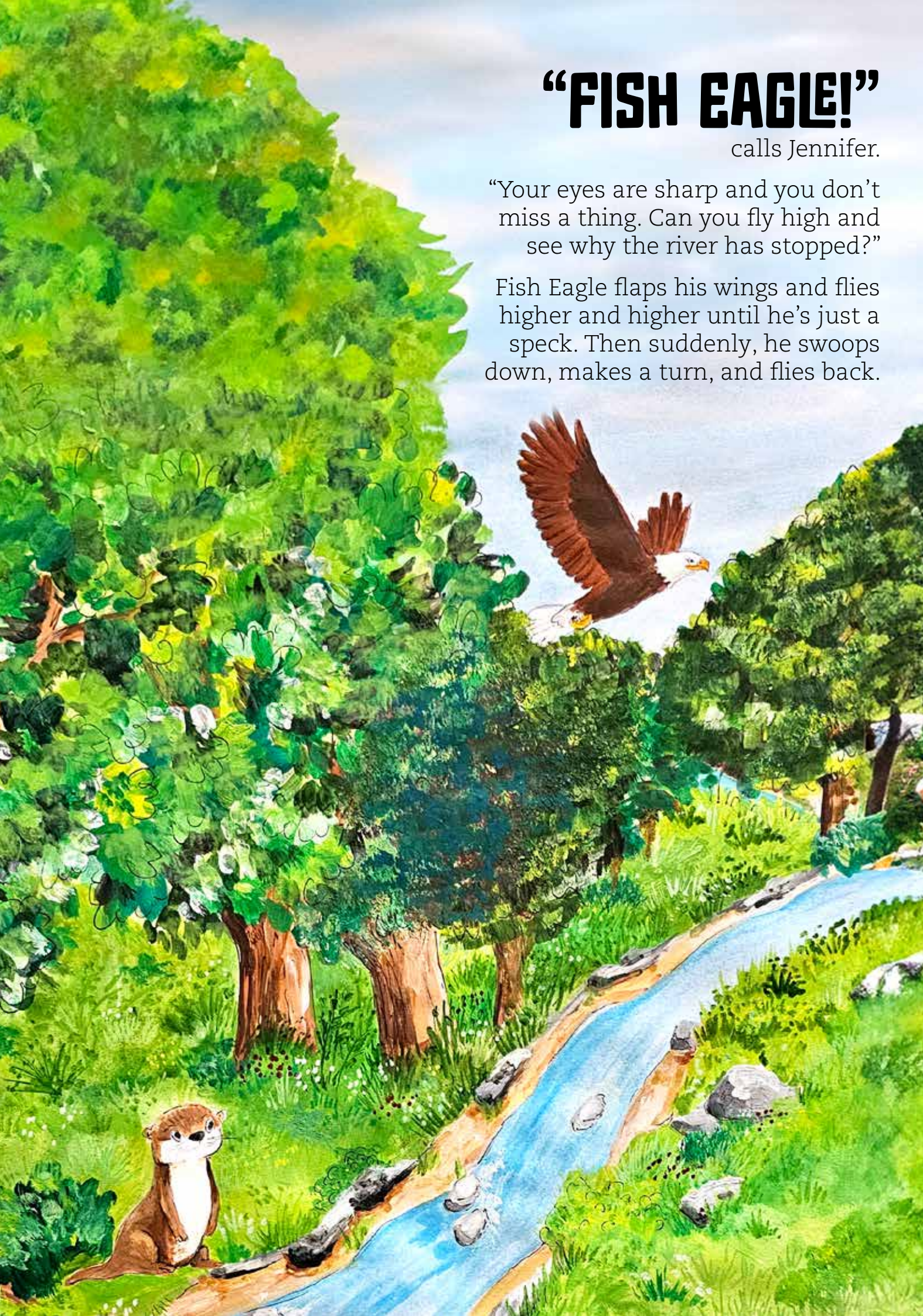


“FISH EAGLE!”

calls Jennifer.

“Your eyes are sharp and you don’t miss a thing. Can you fly high and see why the river has stopped?”

Fish Eagle flaps his wings and flies higher and higher until he’s just a speck. Then suddenly, he swoops down, makes a turn, and flies back.



“A big tree trunk is blocking the water,” he reports. “It’s made a dam behind it.”



Jennifer climbs down the rope ladder right away, and Otter swims to the riverbank.



They run along the edge of the river until they find the big trunk lying across a narrow part of the stream.

“Mmm...” says Jennifer, rubbing her chin. “What now?”
She looks around and picks up a sturdy stick.

“Maybe we can roll the trunk away with this.”



Together, Jennifer and Otter push the stick under the trunk and lean on it with all their might...

**WIGGLE
WIGGLE
WIGGLE ...**

But no, the trunk doesn't move.
“Push harder!” says Jennifer. They do, and...



Jennifer and Otter grab each other tightly and jump back.

“O-Otter, d-do you see what I see?”
Jennifer stammers.

WHOOOSH! KAPLOOSH!

Suddenly, the trunk shakes and rumbles!

“Y-YES!” shouts Otter.
“It’s not a trunk... it’s... it’s...”

“A CROCODILE!”



Jennifer jumps back another step,
pulling Otter with her.

Just in time!

Crocodile's jaws snap wide open, then snap shut with a loud

CLAP!
CLAP!



Jennifer wants to run. Back to
the treehouse where it's safe.
Far away from the crocodile
and her sharp teeth. But...

GRUMBLE-RUM-RUM!

Jennifer looks at Otter.
“Otter, was that your tummy?”

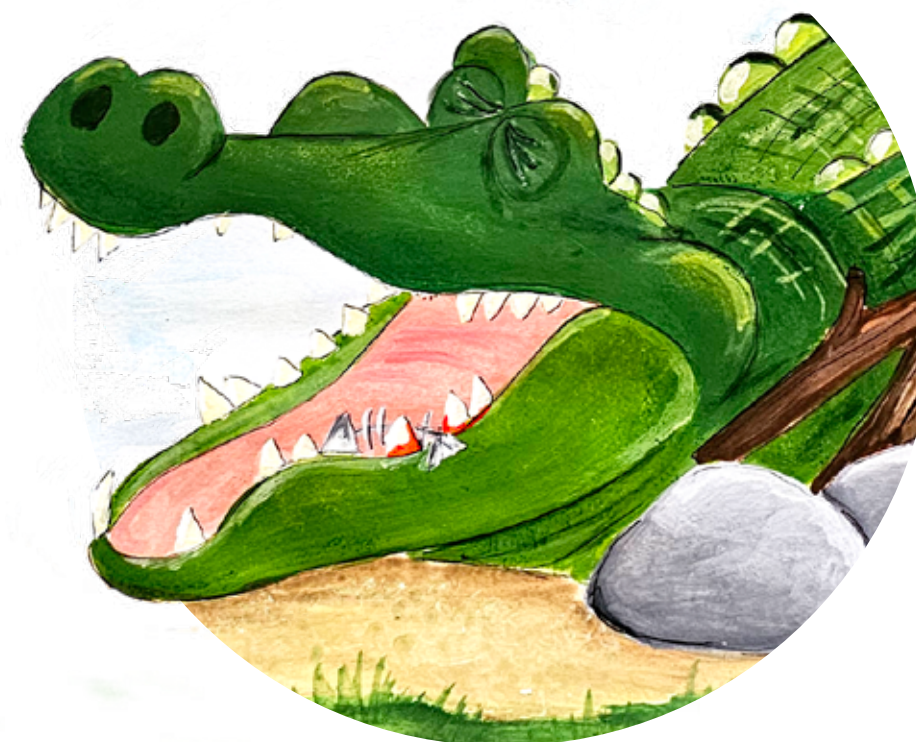
“Yes, it was! I'm really, really hungry!”



Jennifer knows she can't run away. She needs a better plan. So she takes a deep breath and steps forward.

"Why are you blocking the river, Crocodile?" she asks bravely, even though she's shaking all over.

"Look!" Crocodile opens her mouth wide. Rows of sharp yellow-white teeth gleam in the sunlight, making Jennifer's tummy twist. But one tooth, right in the middle, is red and swollen.



"I have a terrible toothache!" growls Crocodile. "And no one will help me. Everyone's too scared. I didn't know what else to do. So I decided to block the river until someone comes to help."

CLAP-CLAP!

Her jaws snap again.





Jennifer scratches her head. She wants to help the crocodile, but she doesn't want to end up in her belly either.

"What shall we do?" she asks out loud.

"I can help!" calls Fish Eagle.

"How?" asks Otter.

Everyone thinks... and thinks...

Then Jennifer gets an idea.

"I know! Fish Eagle, you can tickle Crocodile's nose with a feather. Otter, when she laughs and opens her mouth, put a stick between her jaws. Then I'll look at her tooth."



Jennifer is shaking just thinking about it, but she knows she must try, even if she's scared.



Fish Eagle flies up, swoops down, and tickles Crocodile's nose with the tip of a feather.

Crocodile giggles and laughs, opening her mouth wide.

In a flash, Otter slips a stick between her jaws, and Jennifer peeks inside.

“A-HA!” There's a fish bone stuck between your teeth,” Jennifer says.

She wiggles it loose and pulls it out. Otter removes the stick and they both jump back, just in time!

Crocodile's jaws snap shut again.



For a moment, everything is very, very quiet.

Crocodile doesn't move. But what's that rolling down her scaly cheek?
Jennifer and Otter look at each other, worried.

“CRO-CROCODILE?”

stammers Jennifer. “Did we hurt you?”


Crocodile gives a big, wide smile. “No, not at all! That's a happy tear!”
she cheers. Then she splashes her tail and swims away.



Jennifer nudges Otter.

“LOOK!”

The river is flowing again!”



Otter dives straight into the water, looking for a fish or a bug, and Jennifer runs back to the treehouse. It's time for the paper boat race.

“Come on!” she calls over her shoulder.

She grabs the paper boats and runs to the starting place where Otter and Fish Eagle are waiting.



But who's that swimming back with a **CLAP-CLAP?**

“Crocodile?”

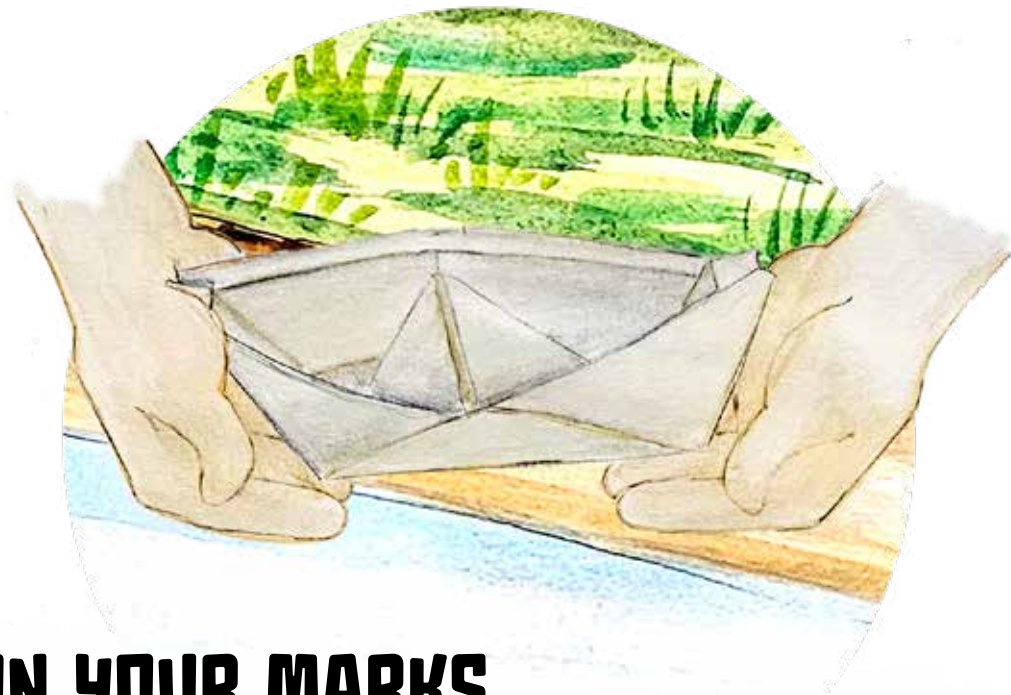
calls Jennifer.

“Do you want to join the race too?”

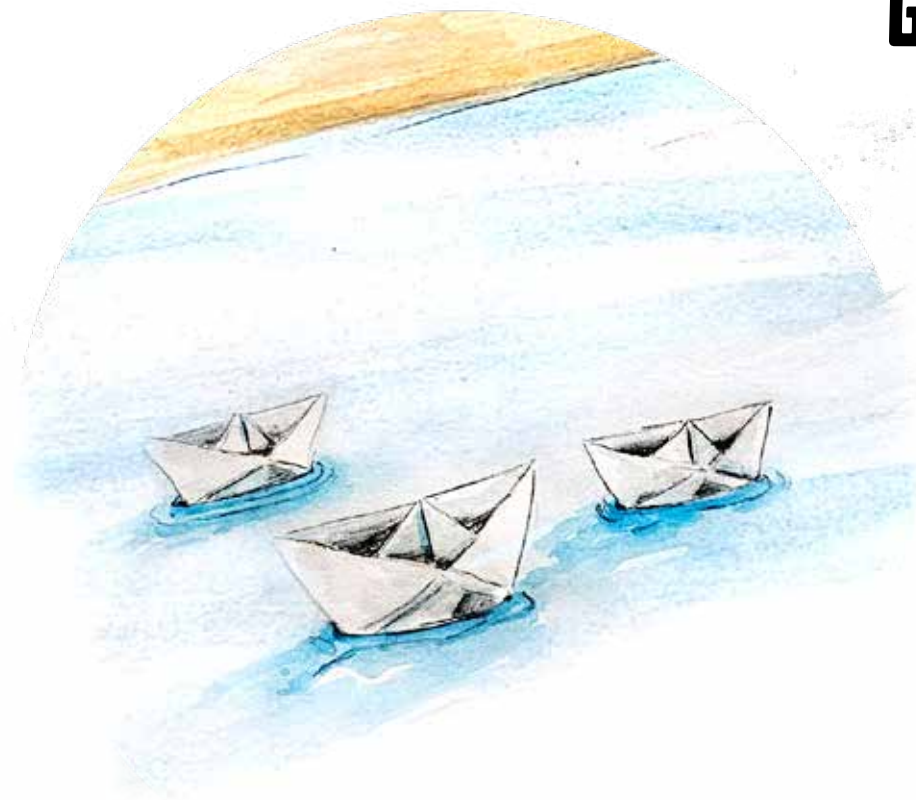
“Not today,” she says. “I just came to say thank you. My tooth feels so much better!”

“Whew... that’s good,” says Jennifer, letting out a big breath. “If you like, you can stay in the water and watch which boat wins.”

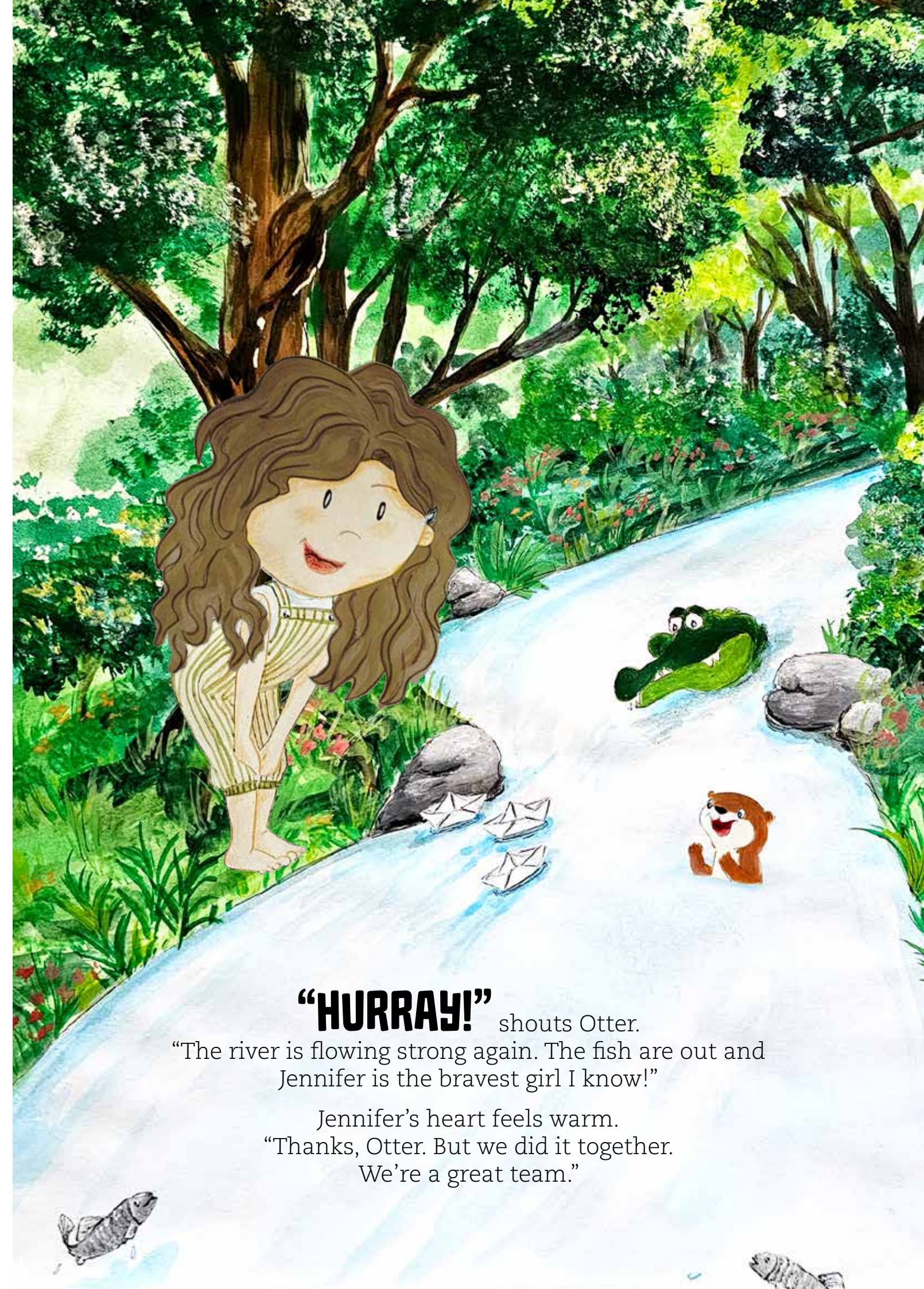
All the racers stand at the edge of the river with their paper boats in front of them.



**“ON YOUR MARKS...
GET SET...
GO!”**



Just then, the wind blows in, and the boats skip across the water, splashing as they go. They catch the stream and sail away. First one leads, then another.



“HURRAY!” shouts Otter.

“The river is flowing strong again. The fish are out and Jennifer is the bravest girl I know!”

Jennifer’s heart feels warm.

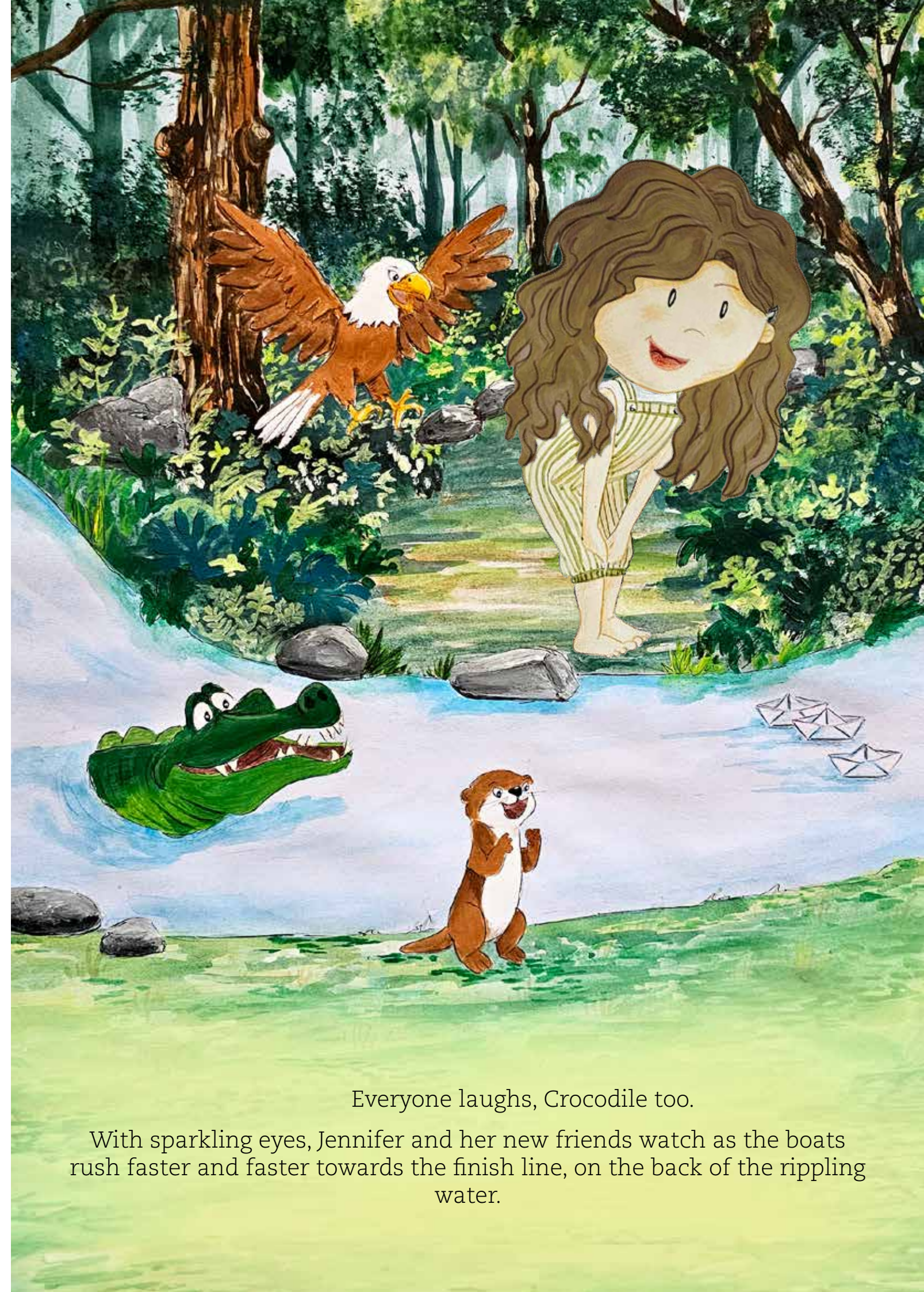
“Thanks, Otter. But we did it together.
We’re a great team.”

Otter wipes a tear from his cheek.



“And now?” asks Jennifer.

“Just a happy tear, that’s all,” Otter sniffles.



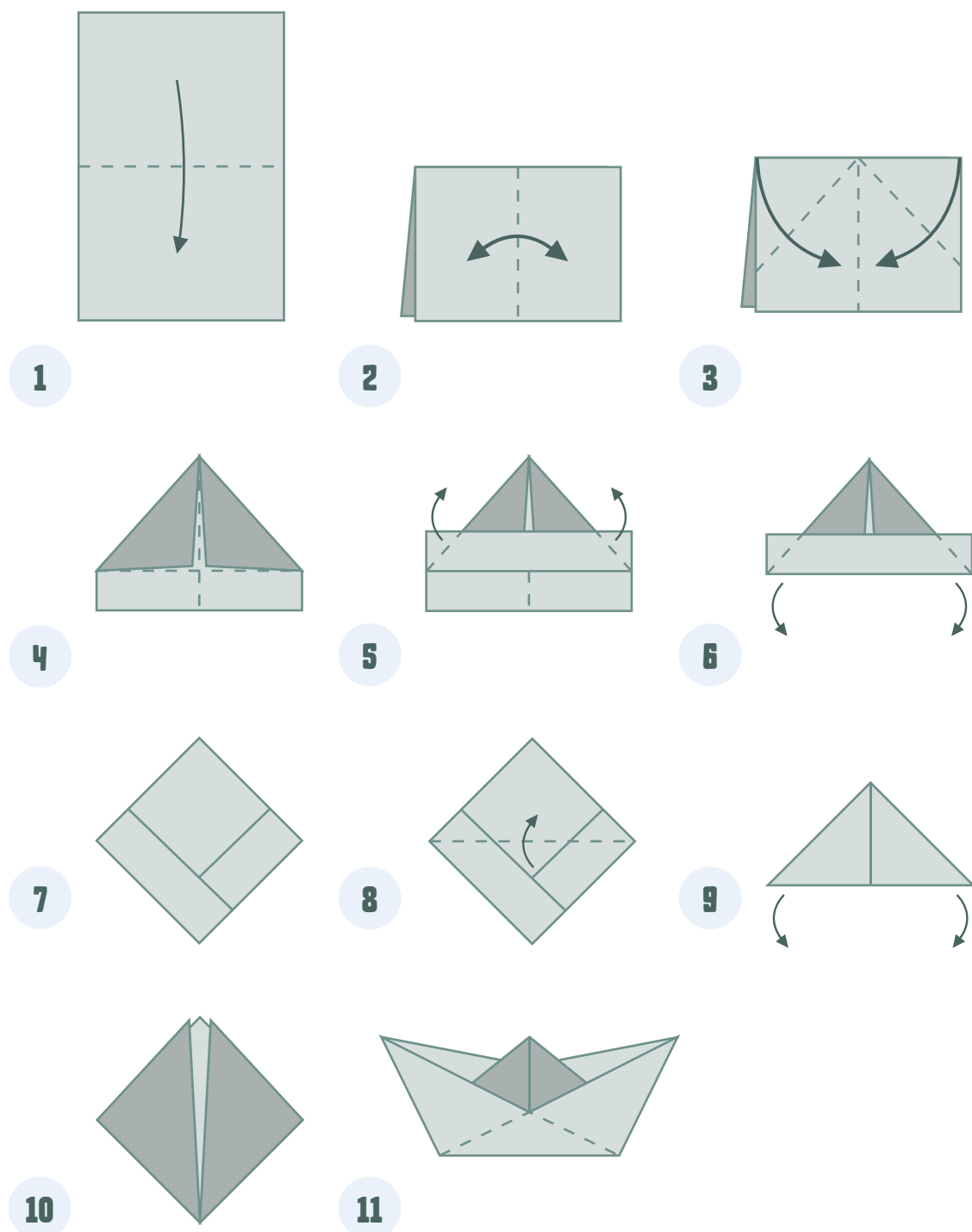
Everyone laughs, Crocodile too.

With sparkling eyes, Jennifer and her new friends watch as the boats rush faster and faster towards the finish line, on the back of the rippling water.



The End

Fold your own paper boat...





When the river suddenly stops flowing,
Jennifer, Otter, and Fish Eagle go on a brave
adventure to find out why.

But what they discover is not what they
expected at all... and it will take a lot of
courage to fix the problem!

An exciting story full of friendship,
teamwork, and a paper boat race.

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