Orla and the Library Table

A little asking can make room for everyone.





Orla wanted to finish her map of favourite places. Her paper was long. Mum suggested the library's big worktable, where there would be room for coloured pencils.



Tess was already at the table, reading a book. Orla sat at the other end and unrolled her paper. It slid past the pencil pot, right towards Tess's page.



Orla stopped the roll. Her pond needed more ripples. Her park needed more trees. But the bakery she wanted to colour was right beneath Tess's book.



"Could you move your book?" Orla asked. Tess looked up. "I need somewhere to read it." Orla looked around. The other tables were busy. This table belonged to both of them.



Mum sat down. "What space do you each need?" she asked. Orla studied her enormous paper. Tess opened her book flat and rested her hands beside it.



"Would this much be enough?" Orla asked, pointing to a clear part of the table. Tess nodded. It was enough for a small picture. Orla's map was not small.



Then Mum folded one end of the paper back. Orla folded it again. Soon the long sheet had four broad sections. Only one section needed to lie open at a time.



Orla added ripples to the pond. Then she turned the folded paper and drew trees in the park. The map still belonged together. She was working one part at a time.



A corner kept springing up. Tess offered a big paper clip from her reading notebook. It held the folded edge neatly. "Your map is becoming a book," she whispered.



Orla coloured the bakery and traced the winding roads. She left little gaps where the roads met the folds. Later, she could open the sheet and join everything carefully.



When Tess finished her chapter, Orla asked if they could spread the map out. Tess helped hold one end. The roads met, and the town appeared.



Orla folded her map before putting it away. Tess opened her book again. There had been room for a story and a whole town, once they had asked and planned together.



The end

What space did Orla and Tess each need?

How did folding help?

What could you ask before using a shared space?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

An original MimoMango story. First edition, 2026.
Story and illustrations created with AI assistance.
Designed for reading together, ages 4-7.