The Otter's Floating Invitation

A message needs a reliable journey.

A short story to enjoy together



Read slowly. Pause to enjoy the pictures and the words.

The Otter's Floating Invitation

READ TOGETHER

Otter folded an invitation into a paper boat. "I shall send it across the pond," he told his dad. Dad looked at the water. "How will you make sure it reaches Hedgehog?"

Otter considered the wind, the reeds and the fact that Hedgehog lived behind a fence rather than in the pond. The delivery plan had several important problems.

They kept the paper out of the real pond. At home, Otter tested a spare paper boat in a shallow tray with Dad. It floated for a while, then its edges became soggy.

"My invitation might turn into porridge," Otter said. He unfolded the dry invitation and put it in an envelope instead. Dad helped him write Hedgehog's name clearly.

The Otter's Floating Invitation

READ TOGETHER

They delivered it together through the proper letterbox. Hedgehog opened the door just as they finished. "A boat party?" she asked, reading the picture. Otter nodded enthusiastically.

At the party, they floated toy boats in a supervised water tray and dried the floor afterwards. Hedgehog's invitation stayed safe on the table, nowhere near the water.

Otter had still enjoyed his boat idea. He had simply given the message a better way to travel. An invitation, he decided, was most useful when its guest could actually read it.

LET'S TALK

Why did Otter change the way he delivered the invitation?

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