



# Read-Aloud Everybody Needs Help Sometimes

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Everybody needs help sometimes. Good thing there's a kid like River in the neighborhood.

With his mom, River builds things that help people.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

3



There's a bookshelf on Maple Avenue. It's Mr. Guzman's lending library.

People go there to pick out books to read. When they're done, they return them for others to enjoy.

But last winter, a storm ruined that shelf. Mr. Guzman was sad that people could not use the lending library.

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River was sad, too. He and his mom loved stopping by Mr. Guzman's for a book.

They decided to help build a new bookshelf for Mr. Guzman.

In River's mom's workshop, they figured out the new shelf's measurements. On a big piece of paper, River drew shapes to show how he would build it.

Then River took his yellow wagon to the store to gather materials: wood, nails, and paint to make it pretty.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

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Now it was time to put everything together.

With his mom as his assistant, River followed the plan. First, they cut the pieces of wood to the right size. Then they hammered the pieces together using nails so that it was sturdy.

Once the shelf was built, River painted flowers on it.

6



He couldn't wait to show Mr. Guzman. River and his mom put the bookshelf on the yellow wagon, and he wheeled it to Maple Avenue. Mr. Guzman was so happy. "Now people can borrow my books again!"

After that, River started helping people all over town.

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When Mr. Abbas's cat had kittens, River made them a cozy bed. He built a wooden box, and lined it with blankets!

8



When Edna Peabody's dog, Spot, couldn't get up the stairs anymore, River built a ramp for him.

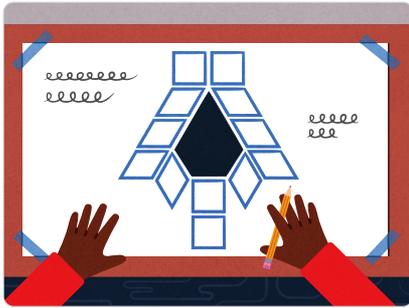
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And don't forget about Mrs. Roy, who loved to feed birds, and listen to them sing.

Thanks to the birdhouse River built, she can hear the birds anytime!

10



The bird house took a long time to build. There were so many pieces to put together! But it was worth the effort to see Mrs. Roy smile.

**Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

11



Then, one day, something terrible happened.

On a walk, River’s famous yellow wagon cracked down the middle!

River started to cry. Without his wagon, how would he help his neighbors?

River’s mom comforted him. “What do we do when we find a problem?”

“We try to fix it,” River said softly.

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Carefully, River’s mom cleaned up the broken pieces. While River slept, she took them to the garage.

She drew up a plan, just like River did. Then she gathered up materials, just like River did. And then, just like River, she got to work.

The next morning, River woke up. He saw his wagon, good as new!

“You fixed it all by yourself?” River asked his mom.

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“No, not all by myself,” his mom said. “I borrowed tools from Mr. Guzman. Mr. Abbas gave me some special glue to help seal the crack. Edna Peabody came by with nails and screws. She even brought a new set of wheels. And the yellow paint is all thanks to Mrs. Roy.”

River was amazed. All these people had helped him. He felt very grateful. It’s true what they say. Everybody needs help sometimes.