

# CHAPTER 1

David lived **close** to a river, but he **hardly ever** saw it because he was so busy working. So when Tom came to stay, they would always go and look at the river together.

Tom was David's son. He did not live with his dad. He lived with his mum. David and Tom's mum were **divorced**.

Today's weather was mixed. It was rainy, so they had their raincoats and their umbrella, but the sun was shining as they walked towards the river. When they got close, Tom ran ahead.

“STOP!” said David.

Tom stopped and they held hands as they crossed the road together.

As quickly as he could, Tom ran over to the **railings** to look into the river. David joined him and together they watched the **sparkling** blue water below.

**close** (adjective) near

**hardly ever** (adverb) almost never

**divorced** (adjective) no longer married

**railing** (noun) a metal fence

**sparkling** (adjective) shining



*Tom ran over to the railings to look into the river. David joined him and together they watched the sparkling blue water below.*

“The river is very **wide**,” said Tom.

“Very wide,” agreed David.

“And deep,” said Tom.

“Very deep,” said David.

“And fast,” said Tom.

A swan swam hard to stay still but it was too difficult. It turned around and **floated** away on the **current**.

David laughed. “Yes. Very fast.”

Two ducks swam towards them.

“Oh dear! I forgot to bring some bread with us,” said David, and the hungry ducks swam away again.

“Are there any fish in the river?” said Tom.

“Maybe,” said David.

“Where?” said Tom. “I can’t see any.”

“Maybe they are scared of you,” said David. “Maybe they are hiding.”

**wide** (adjective) having a great distance from one side to the other

**float** (verb) to move easily through air or water

**current** (noun) the movement of water in a river, lake, or sea

Tom looked down deep into the water. “Don’t be scared, little fishes,” he said. “I am your friend!”

David smiled. Then it went dark as clouds covered the sun.

The bright sunshine disappeared, and the sparkling water turned a **dull** grey. It might rain soon.

A boat was coming up the river. It had a driver and two people on it.

“Look,” said Tom. “A boat! Let’s **wave!**”

The boat was about to pass them. Tom climbed onto the railings.

“HELLO!” he shouted, across the water.

The driver honked his horn. HONK! HONK! And the people waved. This made Tom very happy. David waved back and held Tom with his other hand.

“Okay, get down now,” said David.

But Tom didn’t want to get down.

“Why don’t we go up onto the bridge?” said David.

“Yeah!” said Tom as he jumped down.

**dull** (adjective) not bright or shiny

**wave** (verb) to move your hand from side to side to say hello or goodbye

David smiled. They walked along the river and went onto the bridge. When they got to the middle, they looked down into the water. Another boat appeared from under the bridge. The people in the boat waved to them, and Tom waved back happily.

“It’s starting to rain,” said David. “I think it’s time to go home, don’t you?”

“Okay,” Tom said **sadly** as David put up the umbrella.

**sadly** (adverb) unhappily



*Another boat appeared from under the bridge. The people in the boat waved to them, and Tom waved back happily.*

## CHAPTER 2

The rain was getting heavier, and the wind was blowing harder. David held the umbrella over them, but the strong wind **nearly** took it out of his hand.

They ran to the high street where people hid under their umbrellas or went inside shops to avoid the rain. Water poured down from the roofs of the buildings and ran onto the pavements.

The rain poured down the road like a river. Cars drove through it and splashed people. David and Tom **hurried** through the high street and along the **alley** towards home. Tom jumped in the puddles. **SPLASH!**

“Argh!” said David as he pulled Tom away. “You’re getting us wet!”

“We are already wet!” said Tom happily.

David was not happy.

They ran home as fast as they could.

“Quick, get inside,” said David as he opened the front door.

**nearly** (adverb) almost

**hurry** (verb) to go quickly

**alley** (noun) a narrow way between or behind buildings



*David and Tom hurried through the high street and along the alley towards home. Tom jumped in the puddles.*



## Quiz-2

### Choose the correct answer.

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1. That night, we lay out on the grass together and watched the ..... stars.  
a) smoking                      b) dull                      c) shining
2. Look out! There's an emergency road block .....!  
a) ahead                      b) behind                      c) beside
3. They didn't need to paddle the boat because the ..... moved them swiftly on.  
a) blockage                      b) police officer                      c) current
4. Granny ..... us some lemonade and offered us home-made cake.  
a) poured                      b) lifted                      c) picked
5. We ..... to our seats because the show was about to start again.  
a) slowed                      b) hurried                      c) hovered
6. Let's play a game and ..... we are pirates!  
a) judge                      b) disagree                      c) pretend
7. The doctor ..... me to exercise every day for better health.  
a) delivered                      b) advised                      c) accepted
8. He might get hurt, but it was a ..... he was willing to take to save his son.  
a) wish                      b) risk                      c) joke
9. I don't like this sofa. It's ..... to sit in.  
a) old                      b) uncomfortable                      c) cosy
10. The weather forecast ..... of heavy rains tomorrow.  
a) warned                      b) worried                      c) allowed