#3

Making Paperboats With Papa



Oishi Peso-Smart Kids Series

Words by May Tobias Papa

Art by Beth Parrocha Doctolero



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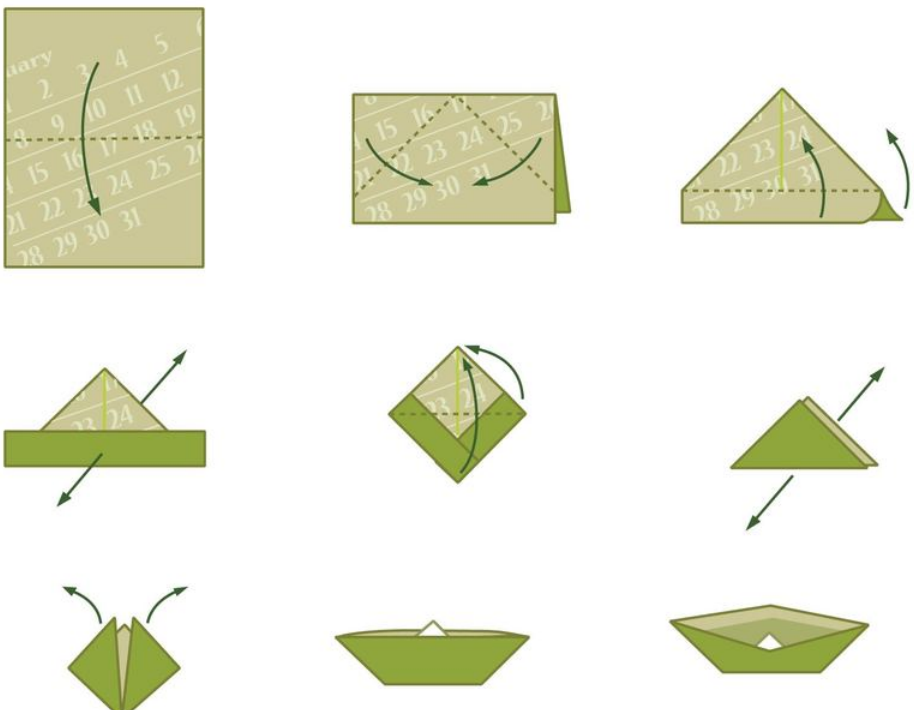


It had been raining all week.
We heard on the radio that there was flooding in many areas.
So Papa, Mama, and I stayed home.




We had nothing to do.

Then, Papa said, "Why don't we make paper boats?
I'll show you how."




"Now, Carlo, this is the best part," Papa winked.
"They cost nothing to make.
When I was a young boy, we bathed in the rain
and played with paper boats in puddles!"


Cool, I thought. The rain and the paper boats.
And Papa playing with me this wet Saturday morning.
I can't remember
having this much fun!


"If the rains do not stop, the water will soon get inside the house," Mama called out to us.

Papa answered back, "If it does, we may have to move to higher ground."



In no time, water began seeping in through the gap under the door.
"Mama, take care of packing clothes.
I'll get the food, water, and medicine," Papa said.



As Mama was busy packing, I grabbed my school backpack.
I thought I would also bring some of my favorite toys.
But I couldn't take much because it was already filled with my books and notebooks.





It was so hard to choose because there was so little time.
Which to bring---Major Max, or the robot?



The Wizardry board game is too big.
It won't fit in my bag.

My learning computer or my toy train set?



It had taken me so long to put together my collection of race cars!





And my dinosaurs!



And,
how about the Kool Science books
Papa and Mama got me for my last birthday?

The water was rising too fast. I couldn't think!
I tried to pack everything inside my school bag but I could not zip it all the way up.





"Hurry, Carlo," Mama said.

But in my panic I failed to strap on my backpack properly,
and so it tumbled and fell---
into the dirty water that now reached up to my knees.

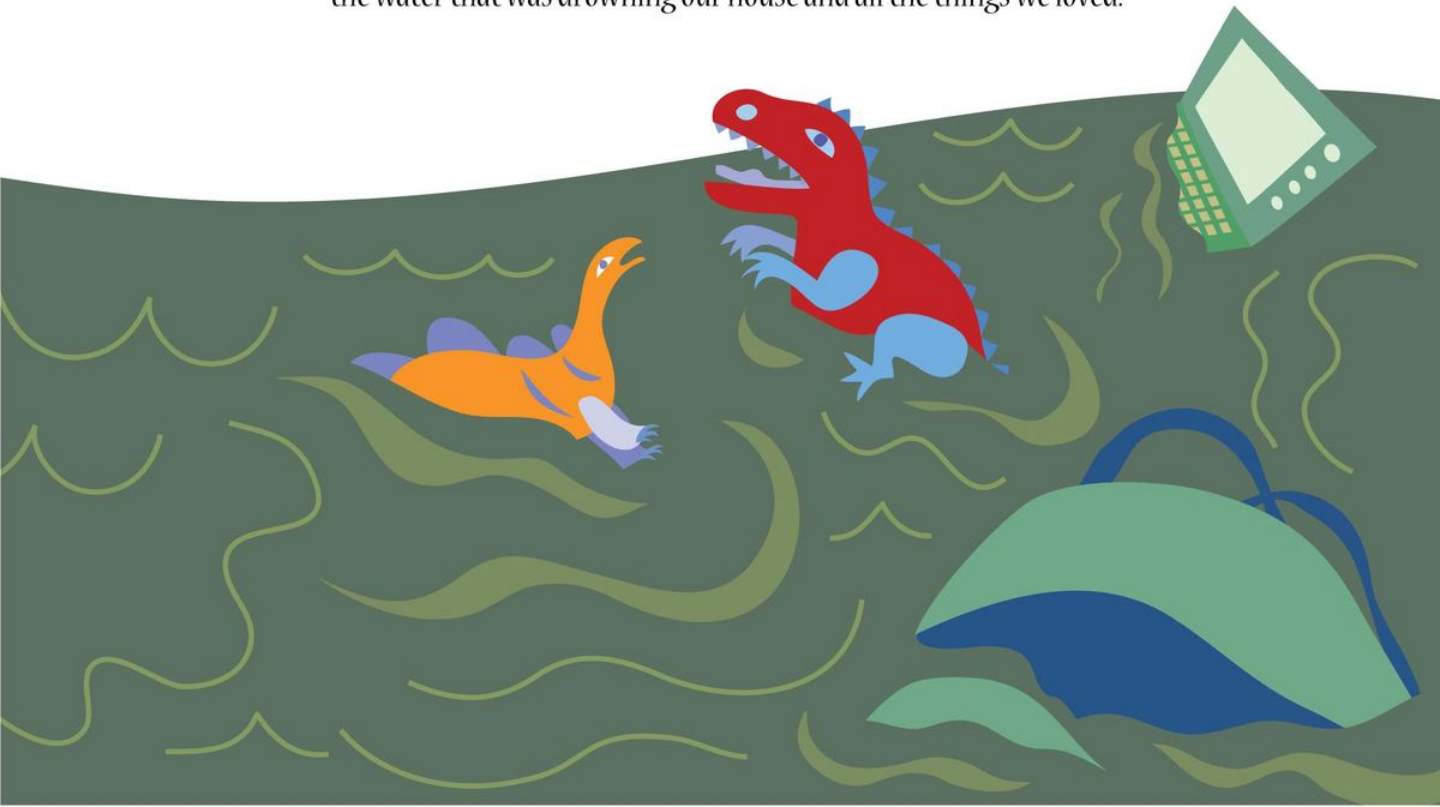



My heart stopped for a moment.



I felt like crying.

I hated the rain, that Saturday morning and
the water that was drowning our house and all the things we loved.

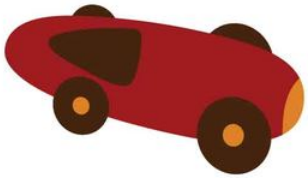





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Papa, Mama, and I carefully waded out into the street
with just two bags containing all that we could take with us.


I turned to look back at our house, and could not believe what I saw---
some of our paper boats that morning were still floating on the water!
September
1 2 3 4 5
Hardware
1 2 3

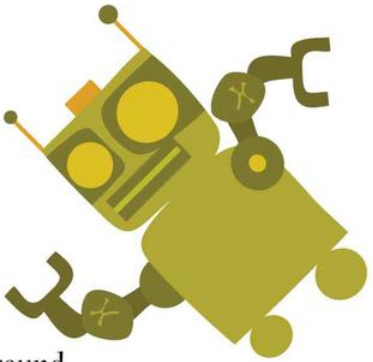




Suddenly, I didn't hate the rain, that Saturday morning, and the water as much.

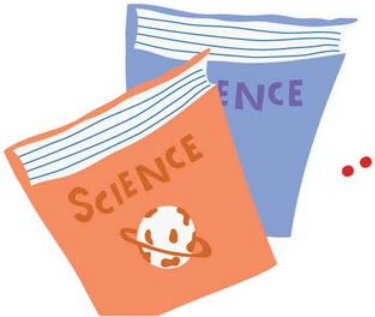


When my Major Max,
my robot,
my Wizardry board game,
my learning computer,
my toy train set,
my collection of race cars,
my dinosaurs,
and my set of Kool Science books were still around,



I was happy to have them.











Now that they are gone,
I think I do not really miss them as badly.

Papa said, "Don't look back, Son.
It will take time, but we can always buy again the things we lost."

"It's okay, Papa," I said. "I've got everything I need---you and Mama.
But, can we make paper boats again?"


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Will you be ready to give up your toys, anytime?

The survivors of Typhoons Frank (2008) and Ondoy (2009) had little time to decide as the floodwaters rose and drowned their material possessions. They realized that not everything could be saved. That, in trying to save everything, they risked more, even their lives.

Many people discovered with surprise how very calmly they accepted their losses. For some there was even the feeling of relief---of letting go of things they had in excess.

More importantly, the experience has compelled them to go back to basics and simplify their lives.

In a well-known fable, the grasshopper spends idle days under the sun
while the ant works to store up food for the coming rainy days.
When the rains come, the ant's hard work pays off
while the grasshopper finds itself dying of hunger.

Oishi presents Peso-Smart Kids Series---a series of books on financial education for kids.
It takes inspiration from the lessons taught by the diligent and wise ant.

Don't miss
"Little Miss Didi Match-a-Lot",
the fourth book in the Oishi Peso-Smart Kids Series.

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