

THE RAINHAT

ONCE THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL who wanted to go outside to play. But her mother wouldn't let her, because it was raining so hard. The little girl didn't want to play inside, because all she had to play with was one piece of paper. So she took the paper and folded it, and folded it, waiting for the rain to stop, but it didn't stop, so she folded the paper some more, and she made herself a rainhat, and put it on, and went outside anyway.

When she got outside, she saw a house burning down, and she wanted to help put out the fire. So she took off her rainhat, and folded it, and folded it, and made herself a firefighter's helmet. Then she went to help put out the fire. She poured on water, and poured on water, until the fire was all out. But the rain kept coming down, and she poured on so much water beside, that there was a flood.

The little girl wanted to go sailing on the flood. But the flood had covered up lots of things, and the little girl couldn't see them, so she ran right into a car and broke the bow of the boat. She turned the boat around and went right on sailing. Then she ran into a house, and broke the stern off the boat, but she was a brave little girl, and she went on sailing. Then she ran into a library, and broke a hole right in the middle of the boat. Well, with a hole right in the middle of the boat, what happened? The boat sank. But the little girl didn't drown, because she was wearing a life jacket.

*Here is an exception to an otherwise reliable rule: Never ask a question during a story, you will always get an irrelevant reply. But somehow this question always (knock wood) elicits the right response.

