

Ben's Patient Boat

Old Ben was a carpenter who had spent his whole life building tables, chairs, and tables. One day, he decided to build a sailboat to sail across but soon realized it was very different from making a chair—it needed more care and patience.

by Spriggleberry Books

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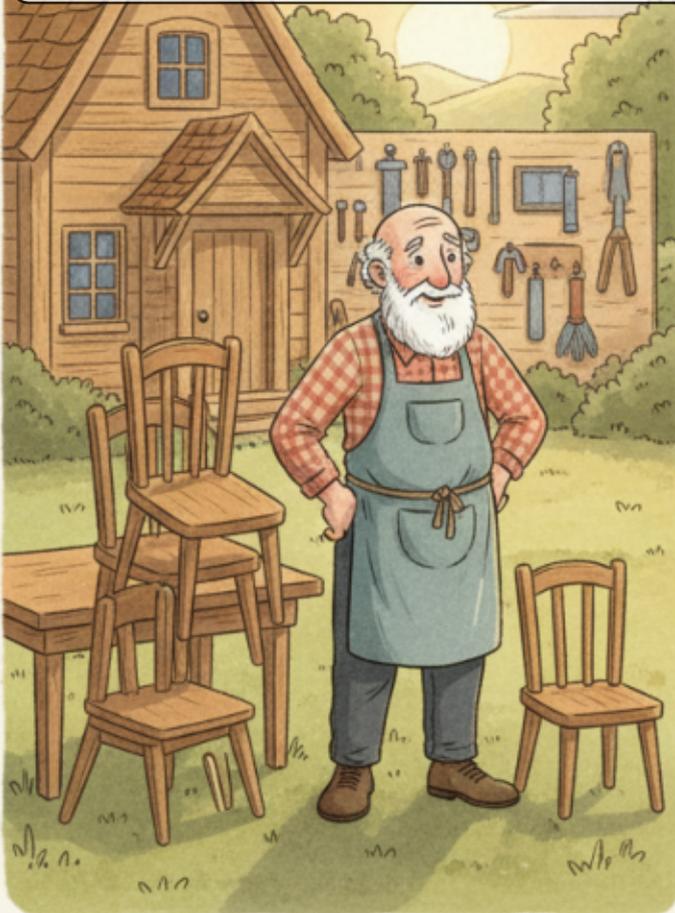
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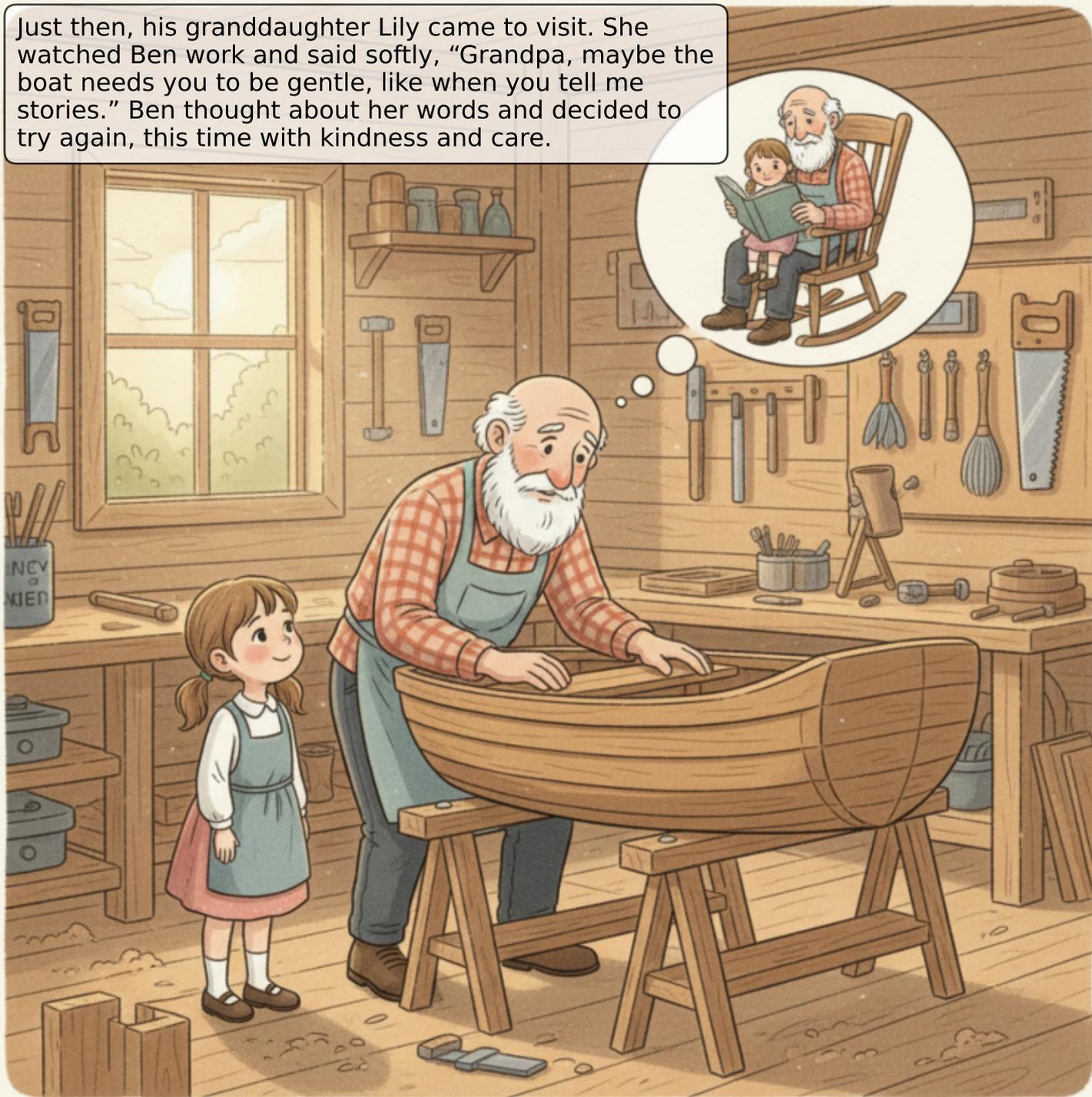
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Ben started cutting the wood quickly, shouting at the nails and rushing through the plans. But every time he finished a part, it didn't fit quite right, or the wood creaked when he touched it. Frustrated, he almost gave up and thought, "Maybe I'm too old to build this boat."

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Just then, his granddaughter Lily came to visit. She watched Ben work and said softly, "Grandpa, maybe the boat needs you to be gentle, like when you tell me stories." Ben thought about her words and decided to try again, this time with kindness and care.



He worked slowly, smoothing every piece of wood and listening to the gentle sounds the boat made as it took shape. When he didn't understand something, he asked his neighbors who were good sailors and listened to their stories about the lake and the wind. The boat started looking more beautiful and strong, glimmering with fresh paint and shining brass nails.



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Finally, the big day came to set the sailboat in the water. Ben and Lily launched it together, and the boat glided smoothly across the lake, catching the wind just right. Ben smiled broadly and said, "I learned the best way to build a sailboat is with patience, a humble heart, and a little help from friends."



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That evening, as the sun dipped behind the hills, Ben and Lily sat by the shore, dreaming of all the adventures waiting for them on the sparkling water. The old carpenter knew that sometimes, the best things are built not with hurried hands, but with a patient heart full of wonder.





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