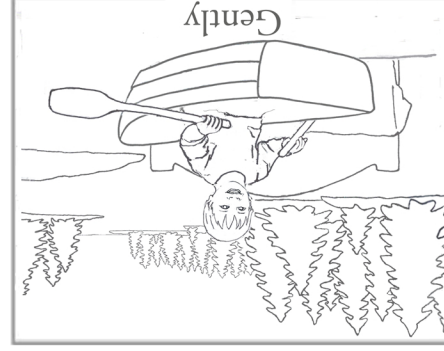


story Row
Row
Row
Your Boat

Row...
NOT FAIR! She was stuck babysitting for NO MONEY! In return her mom got rides to work and once a week to the grocery store from their neighbour, Susan. Through the window she could see other kids her age - going places - having fun.

... row.
THIS SUCKS! Same time, same place, night after night, the same story, over and over again, until she wanted to scream from sheer boredom and frustration. It was driving her CRAZY! She longed to read something - anything different.



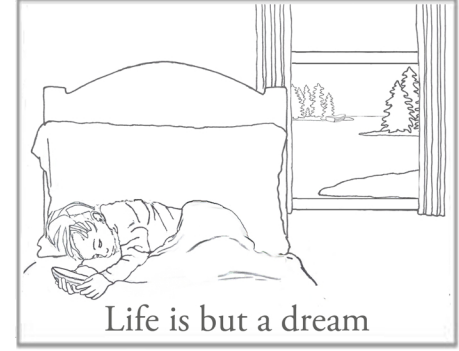
... down ...
It would be so easy. Hop into a boat and let it carry you away. You wouldn't have to row very hard if you were going downstream. Her mother wouldn't approve. She didn't like people who took the easy way out - like Dad - drifting away.

... your boat.
The kid was so upset she had to call his mother to calm him down. Susan was really nice about it and told her that it was just a phase every kid goes through. Because so many things are new to them; they need to know a few things will stay the same.

Merrily ...
And she wanted to go too - anywhere but here. Yesterday her teacher told the class that people used to travel all over this country by boat because there were no roads, no railroads before there were even horses. They did it so it was possible.

... merrily.
She imagined rowing past fields and forests; towns and cities. Rowing down rivers then across lakes. Animals all around her, birds in the sky, fish in the water. Maybe a friendly dog to keep her company. She'd row until she reached the sea.

... merrily. *ily*
She would see new places, new new people and have adventures. Everything would be different. Maybe find her father. Before they moved, she'd overheard her grandmother say he'd enlisted and gone overseas.



Row, row ...
I still have family even if I can't be with them right now. I've seen grandma at the Mall. She keeps smiling at me even when my mom walks past her. When I'm older I'll go to the Mall and meet her. And Susan is nice and she told me I'm really good with kids.

