

OLLIE'S

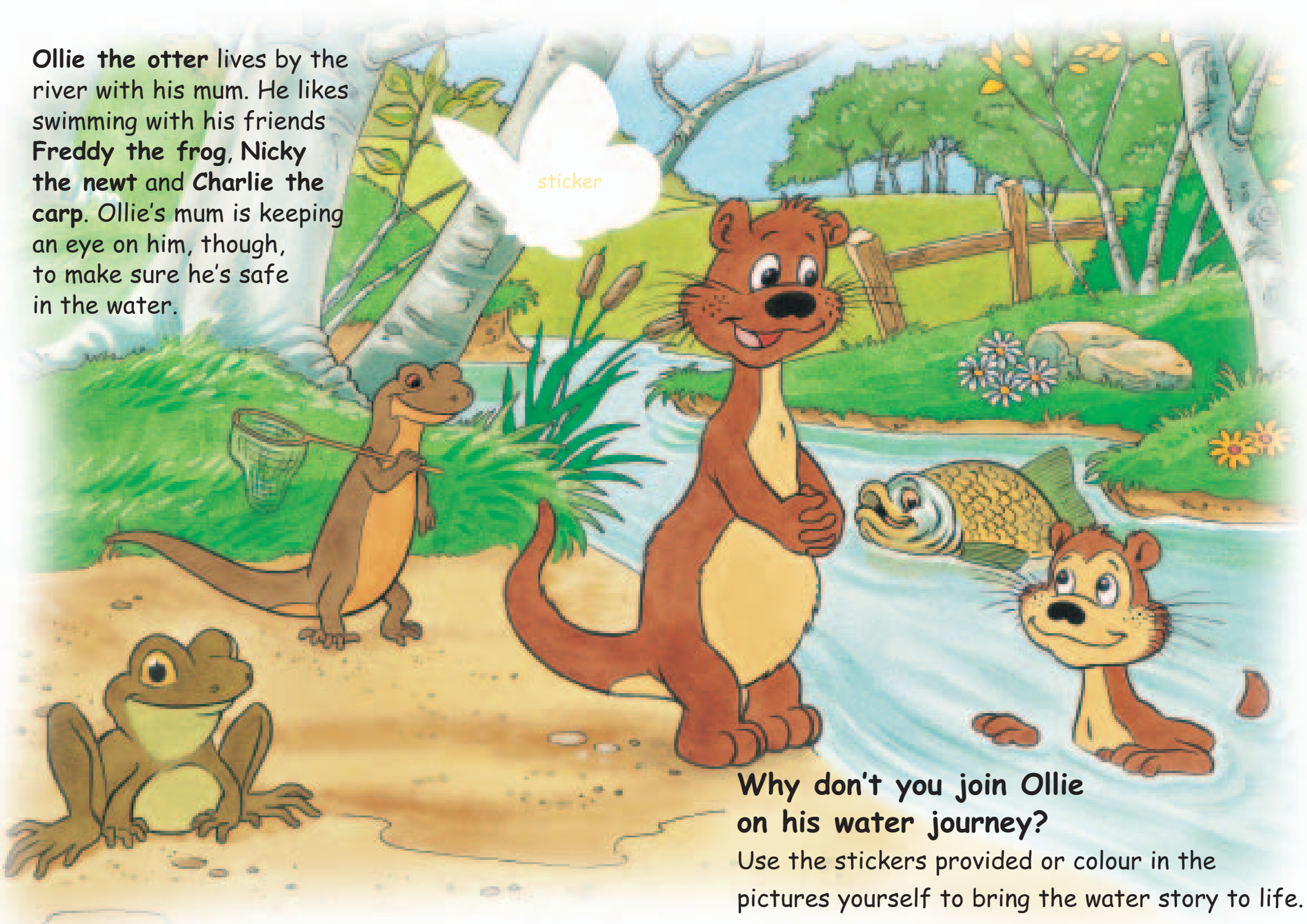


GREAT

WATER

ADVENTURE

Ollie the otter lives by the river with his mum. He likes swimming with his friends Freddy the frog, Nicky the newt and Charlie the carp. Ollie's mum is keeping an eye on him, though, to make sure he's safe in the water.



Why don't you join Ollie on his water journey?

Use the stickers provided or colour in the pictures yourself to bring the water story to life.

Ollie likes playing in water but where does it come from, he wonders? He asks mum. She spots her friend, **Ben the Water Man**, checking a big pipe further up the river.



"Hi Ben," she says.

"Ollie wants to learn all about water, can you help?"

"Of course" says Ben, "Come with me on a water adventure."

Ben takes them to the water works and makes a cup of tea, filling the kettle from the tap. Ben tells Ollie that the lovely clean tap water is taken from the river in which he lives.



"What happens to the river water when it gets here?" asks Ollie. "We clean it so that it is safe to drink straight from the tap" says Ben.

"Where does the water in the river come from?" Ollie asks Ben.

Ben tells him that clouds are made of drops of water.

This water falls as rain when the clouds are too full and lands

in our rivers and the sea. Then, when the sun shines, it warms up the water and makes a kind of steam.

This steam floats back into the sky where it soon makes more clouds. When these clouds get too heavy with lots of water, it rains again. Ollie says, "So, the water keeps going round and round?"

"Yes, Ollie, this is called the water cycle," Ben explains.



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As well as taking tap water from the river, Ben tells Ollie that the water company takes water from big caves deep underground after rain has slowly dripped into them through the ground.

They also build big bowls to catch the rain when it falls. "That way we have enough water to send to everyone's home," he says.



Ben tells Ollie that these "bowls" are called reservoirs.

"What else are reservoirs used for?" Ollie asks. Ben tells Ollie that they are used for lots of fun things too, like sailing, fishing and bird watching. But the water is very deep and cold so it isn't safe for children to swim in, he warns.



Ben washes up - he doesn't like to waste water so uses the bowl and just enough water to do the job.

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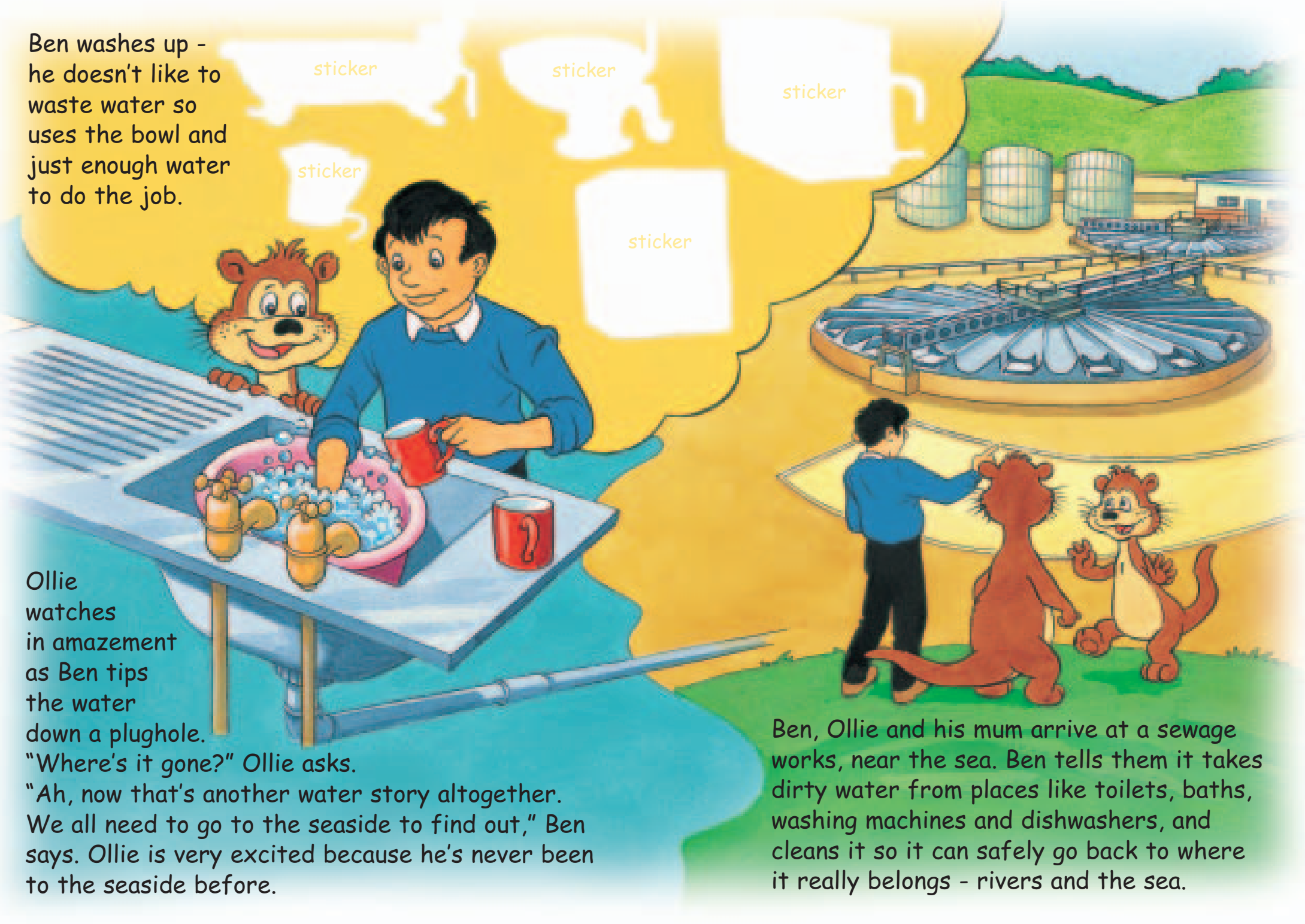
Ollie watches in amazement as Ben tips the water down a plughole.

"Where's it gone?" Ollie asks.

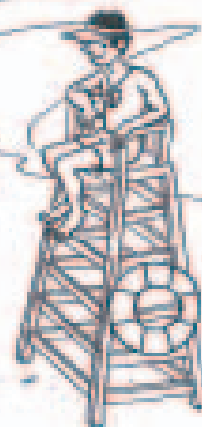
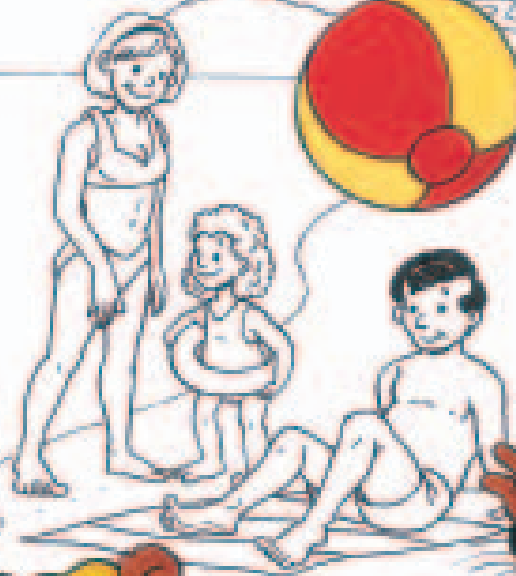
"Ah, now that's another water story altogether.

We all need to go to the seaside to find out," Ben says. Ollie is very excited because he's never been to the seaside before.

Ben, Ollie and his mum arrive at a sewage works, near the sea. Ben tells them it takes dirty water from places like toilets, baths, washing machines and dishwashers, and cleans it so it can safely go back to where it really belongs - rivers and the sea.



Down at the beach Ollie notices lots of children swimming in the sea too. "But they're not as good as me," he tells Ben. "You're right Ollie. That's because you're an otter. Children need to have swimming lessons to make sure they stay safe in the water."



"What happens when you've cleaned the water?" Ollie asks. Ben points as far out as Ollie can see. He tells Ollie that out there is the end of a very long pipe which takes the cleaned water far away out to sea.

"We also put cleaned water back into the rivers too," Ben says.

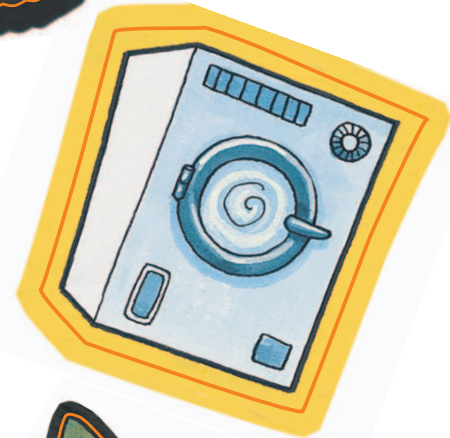
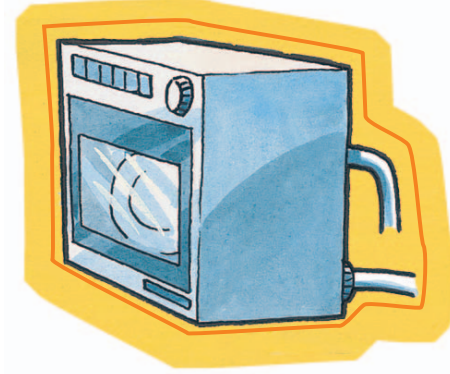
Back at the river, Ollie and his mum wave goodbye to Ben. Freddy the frog, Nicky the newt and Charlie the carp are excited to see Ollie.

And because it is nearly bedtime, even Oscar the owl has come out to see what Ollie's been up to.



"What an amazing day I've had," Ollie says when he sees his friends, "I can't wait to tell you all about my great water adventure."

Ollie's sticker sheet





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