# How to Keep an Owl Dry in the Rain
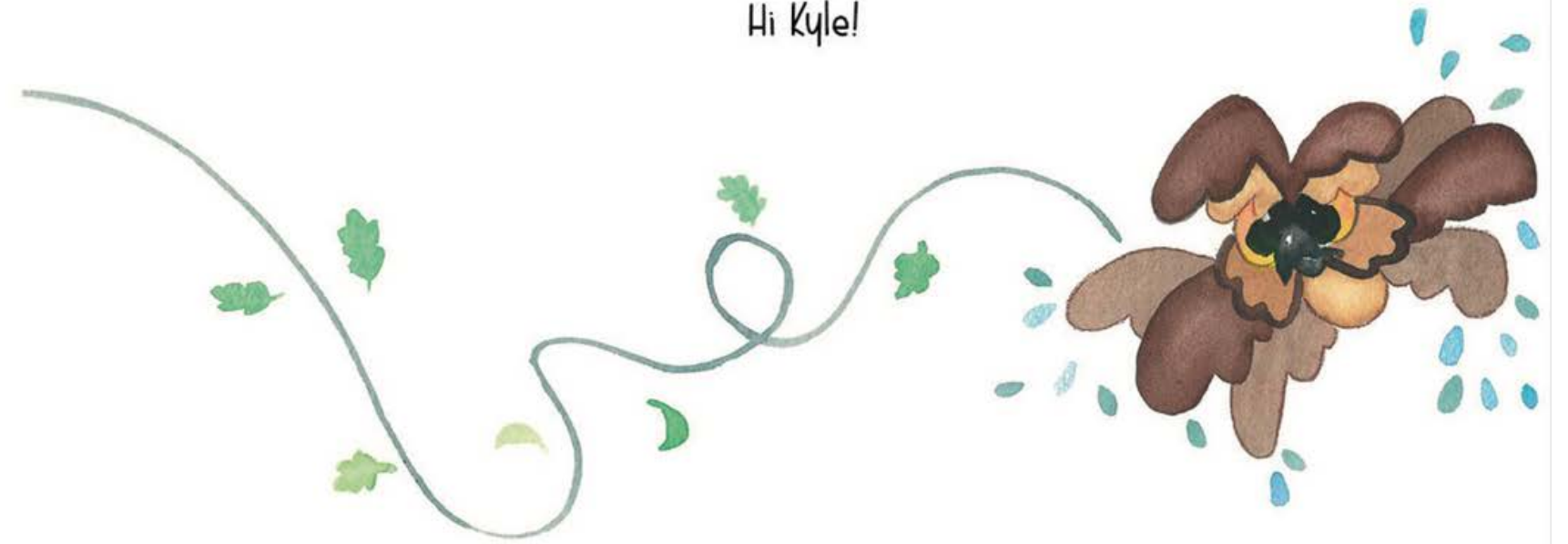
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To my wonderful husband, kids, family, friends, and

colleagues who tolerate my shenanigans.

Hi Kyle!

One rainy day, three children play in the forest.

Connor is hunting for worms.

Cailin is jumping over puddles.

Hannah is carting her mud pies.

## Hoot! Hoot!

The children find a small brown owl sitting alone on a fence post.

The owl's feathers are soaked. Water drips off its curved beak. The shoulders are hunched over and the scrawny feet shiver with cold.

The children stop their play and their eyes open wide.

"What is wrong little owl?" asks Cailin.

The bird sighs and replies,

"Oh Children, I am usually very happy. I love flying through the gentle breeze when the sun is shining. I enjoy soaring through the woods from dusk to dawn."

"But I do not like this rain at all. My feathers are heavy and wet. Water is dripping off my beak. My feet are cold. I wish I could stay dry when it rains."

"I'm sorry, little owl. I don't like being cold and wet either," says Cailin.

"Maybe we can help you!" says Connor.

"Come on, let's think about how we can help this owl stay dry!"

Connor shares a **solution**.

"Maybe a scuba suit will keep your feathers dry?"



Hmmm...

"But a scuba suit will cover your feathers in a way that you will not be able to fly through the forest."

Cailin shares a **second solution.**

"What about a pirate hat?
Or a tennis visor?

Hats and visors will keep
water from dripping down
your beak!"

Hmmm...

"But a pirate hat will
trap the water and

a tennis visor will protect
the beak, but not the rest
of the feathers!"

Hannah shares a **third solution**.

"Surely a tent will work and you will be protected from the rain!"

"But if you leave the tent you will be soaking wet again. You will have to stay in the tent whenever it rains."

Hmmm...

Connor shares a fourth solution.

"I think an umbrella would be great!
You can carry one of those anywhere!"

Hmmm...

"But you cannot open and close an umbrella
very easily with your owl wings."

Cailin shares a fifth solution.

"A raincoat! We can give the owl one of our raincoats!"

Hmmm...

"But raincoats are made for humans and will not fit you very well."

Hannah shares a **sixth solution**.

"I love Cailin's raincoat idea, but we need to think of raincoats in a new way."

Owlfits for a Rainy Day

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She exclaims, "We can design one just for owls!"

"We will draw some pictures of our ideas in the mud and pick the best design. Then we can create it for real!"

Connor, Cailin, and Hannah draw many designs in the mud.

They talk about which design are better than others and why.

Finally, they decide on a final raincoat design and show it to the owl. The owl happily hoots and hops from foot to foot.
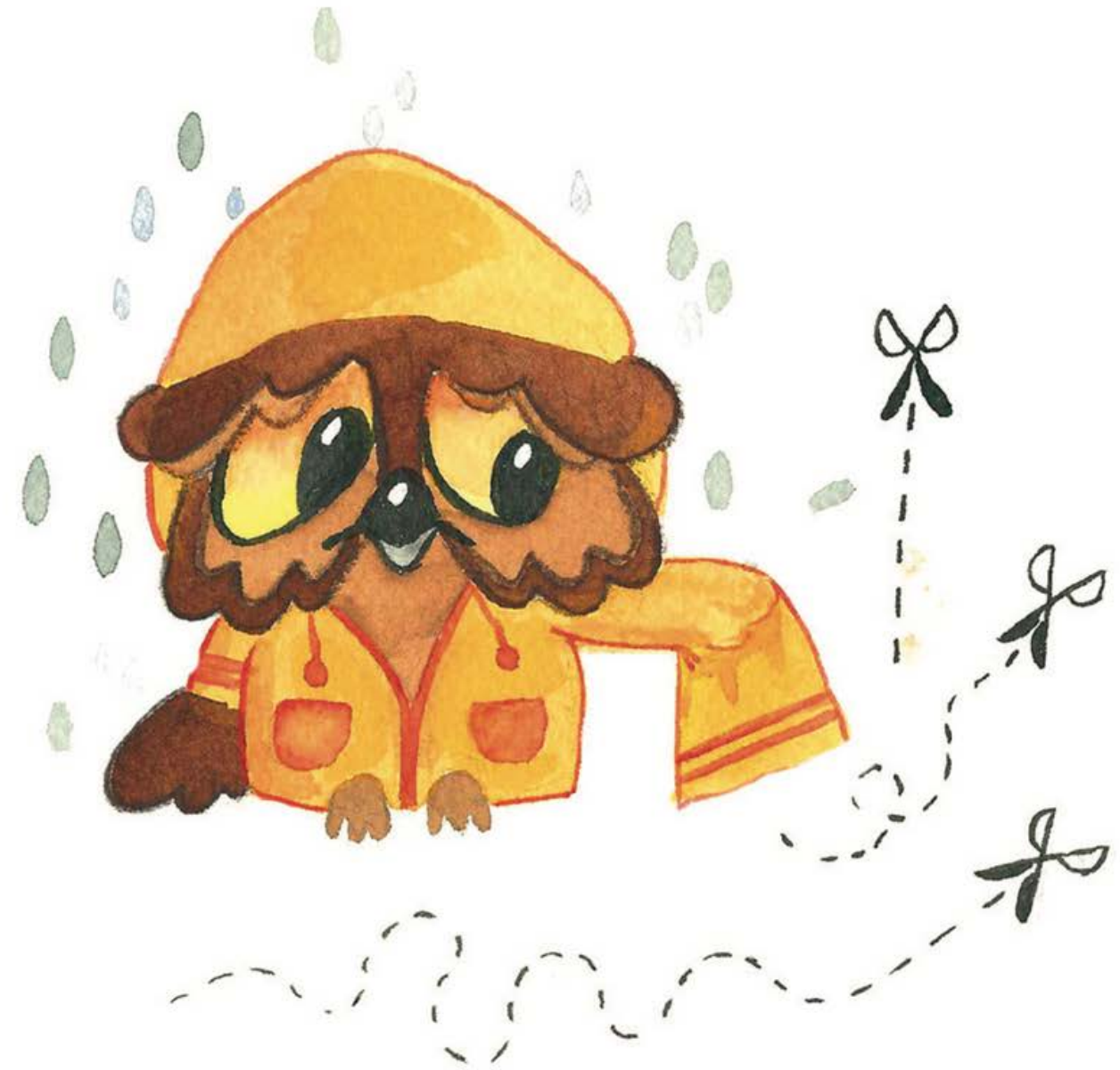
The children gather an old yellow raincoat, some fishing line, and scissors.

It takes a lot of work and there are some mistakes along the way, but Connor, Cailin, and Hannah work together to create a raincoat for the owl.

At times, they go back and ask the owl questions or test the raincoat to make sure the bird can take it on and off with its little owl feet and the sleeves are not too long.

"We did it!"

"We **innovated** a raincoat for the owl!"

With this raincoat, the little owl can be dry in the rain!

The owl can also fly, and see clearly, and take the raincoat on and off with ease.

This is truly a raincoat designed for an owl!

"Thank you, Children! I am so lucky to have friends like you. I wanted to be dry in the rain and by working together you designed a solution that solves my problem!"

The children hug the owl and wave goodbye.
The owl flies away in the new raincoat.

With no friend to help, Connor returns to hunting for worms.

Cailin stands in puddles.

They do not yet see a flock of rain-soaked owls approaching.

Oh my goodness Hannah!

New coats here

**Dear Families and Educators,**

In our scientifically and technologically-driven world, it is critical for our future citizenry to possess the capabilities to solve real world problems for others. This is certainly not a new concept and the message has echoed in education for generations, but we continue to struggle on how to actually implement this.    Design thinking- a process for solving problems- can be a useful tool for students.

**The steps of the Design Thinking Model are:**

1) Empathy                4) Prototype

2) Define a Problem       5) Test

3) Ideate

The structured approach to problem-solving in this book is based off of Stanford's Design Thinking Model, created by the Standford.d School. The Design Thinking Model supports students as they build the cognitive thinking processes (critical thinking and creative thinking) to solve real world problems and develop a growth mindset of stewardship.

Ask the students to think about these design thinking stages as the book characters go through them to solve a problem for an owl. And then ask the ultimate question... how would you keep an owl dry in the rain?