



# Together

By the GOGN picture book team

Open Innovation  
Award Winners



Together

GOGN picture book team

## About the book

This picture book is for young children and adults alike. It can be read and explored together. The story is about three friends who went on an adventure down the river to build a playground. On their way they meet other animals who seem to put obstacles in their way. Read the story to discover what happens next.

The story was written and illustrated by a group of individuals from different parts of the world who worked together online over 6 months. They also had the help of many other educators from around the world who generously contributed their ideas and the characters of the story also originate from their contributions. All committed to creating a socially just world where education is available to all. Values such as sharing, collaborating and helping others are central to this mission of what is called open education and will help towards achieving the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goal 4, "Quality Education for All"  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>

Some may recognise other stories and fairytales in this story. The illustrations are a remix of details of exhibits from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, available under CC0 and new illustrations.

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## The picture book team

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**Hélène Pulker** @HelenePulker, Senior Lecturer in French, The Open University, UK, open practitioner, teacher trainer, language materials developer, researcher in open and distance education, Co-author of the picture book story.

**Penny Bentley** @penpln doctoral student at the University of Southern Queensland. She co-authored this story with the team.

**Paola Corti** @paola5373, Project Manager at METID, Politecnico di Milano (Italy) and OE Community Manager at SPARC Europe. She co-authored this story with the team.

**Verena Roberts** @verenanz, Adjunct Assistant Professor with the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary & Instructional Designer with Thompson Rivers University. She co-authored this book with the team.

**Gino Fransman** @ginofransman Academic Developer and #OpenEdInfluencers' Project Leader at Nelson Mandela University (South Africa), OE4BW project author/ mentor and advisory board member & Open Advocacy champion. He co-authored this story with the team.

**Ody Frank** @ody\_frank, Sixth-Form animation and game design student. Ody co-illustrated and designed the book.

**Bryan Mathers** @bryanmmathers Founder, Visual Thinkery. Bryan provided mentorship to the illustrators.



One, two, three friends are on an adventure to build a playground.





What a **BIG** bucket you have!

All the better to collect water with!

**MY** water!  
**MY** water!  
Go away!  
Go away!

One, two, three friends move on without delay.



What a BIG web you have!

All the easier to stop you with!  
MY water! MY water!  
Go away! Go away!





Ok, ok, ok!



One, two, three friends move on without delay.









What a BIG mouth you have!

All the better to eat you with!



MY water! MY water!  
Go away! Go away!

Then suddenly...



...it gets darker and darker...



and the waves get bigger and bigger. They splash and they crash.





Oh no!

Help! Help!

Help!



Help!



Hold on! I've got you!



Help! Help!







Watch!  
Watch!  
Big wave!  
**BIG** wave!

I'll get it!



That was so close.







One, two, three, four, five, six friends build a playground.





Look!

# Details of Rijksmuseum exhibits available under CC0 used in this book



**The great wave at Kanagawa**

Katsushika Hokusai

1829 - 1833



**Tile panel from the ...**  
anonymous

1725



**Pecking rope, in roll**

anonymous

1590 - 1596



**Adolf and Catharina Croeser, known**

...  
Jan Havicksz. Stone

1655



**Box with year 1696**

anonymous



**A pitcher of beer**

anonymous

1800



**Seal bag Johan de Witt**

anonymous

1600 - 1700



## We would like to thank

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*"That was a great story."*

What did you like the most?

*"When they became friends. They became friends because they saved each other. Go away go away... I would never do that to my friends, not even to people I don't know. We have to be friends with everyone, in case we need them and they need us."*

Phaedra Maria Chatzidamianou, a 6-year-old girl

