

Chapter 7

The next morning, Viv walked to school with her mom. They found Miss Jam sitting at her desk. "Hello, Miss Jam," said Mom.

"Good morning, what can I help you with?"

"Viv would like to tell you how she feels about her school work and ask for your help," said Mom.

Viv told Miss Jam that she felt bad when she was told to slow down. She told Miss Jam that she was not trying to rush through her work.

"I spend lots of time reading, so I can read fast. I don't think that I need to learn my letters again to read or write a story. And I enjoy math problems that are harder than adding simple numbers," Viv said to Miss Jam.

She looked up at Miss Jam and said, "I want to challenge myself. Can you help me find ways to learn *new* things?"

"I did not know that you felt that way, Viv. We will work together to help you learn something new every day," said Miss Jam. "I can speak to the class about how we all learn at different speeds and need different work."



"And that we are *all* good at different things," added Viv. "Thank you, Miss Jam."

She felt better as she sat at her table. When Luna came in, she told her what Miss Jam has said.

"Great," said Luna. "Now we can work on harder math problems together."

Viv and Luna could not wait until lunch so they could talk about the riddle with the rest of the kids. When lunch finally came, they sat down together at a big round table in the lunch room.

"I found out that there is a dragonfly called the Emerald Dragonfly that is in danger," said Viv.

"In one of my science books, it said that dirty water could be a danger to some insects and animals. The dragonflies can't live in water that is bad. Some lakes and ponds are getting sick from too many sprays to kill bugs called *pesticides*," said Kai.

"I bet that is it! Our lake may be sick," said Grace. "Is that the danger that Odie was talking about?"

"I don't know, but let's find out after school," said Niko.

After school, the kids met at the lake. They called for Odie. He did not come right away.

"Odie," the kids called. They put their hands in the lake and let the water slip through their fingers.

"The lake doesn't *look* sick," said Luna. Just then Odie landed on Kai's head.

"Hi Odie!" said the kids. "We think we know the answer to your riddle. We think you are saying that the emerald dragonfly might be in danger because the lake is sick. Is that right?"

A dragonfly with big green eyes landed on Grace's arm.

"It's beautiful!" said Grace. It had a shiny green body with yellow stripes and four long wings.

Odie flew straight up from Kai's head to the water and wrote,

This is Emmy, an emerald dragonfly.

She lives here with a group or swarm of dragonflies.

"Are they in trouble?" asked Luna.

Odie wrote,

They may have to leave the lake soon.

We may all have to leave.

The lake is getting dirty and we can't live in dirty water.

"Oh no," said Viv. "That is what we thought!" She turned to the others and said, "We have to help them. We can't lose our new dragonfly friends!"