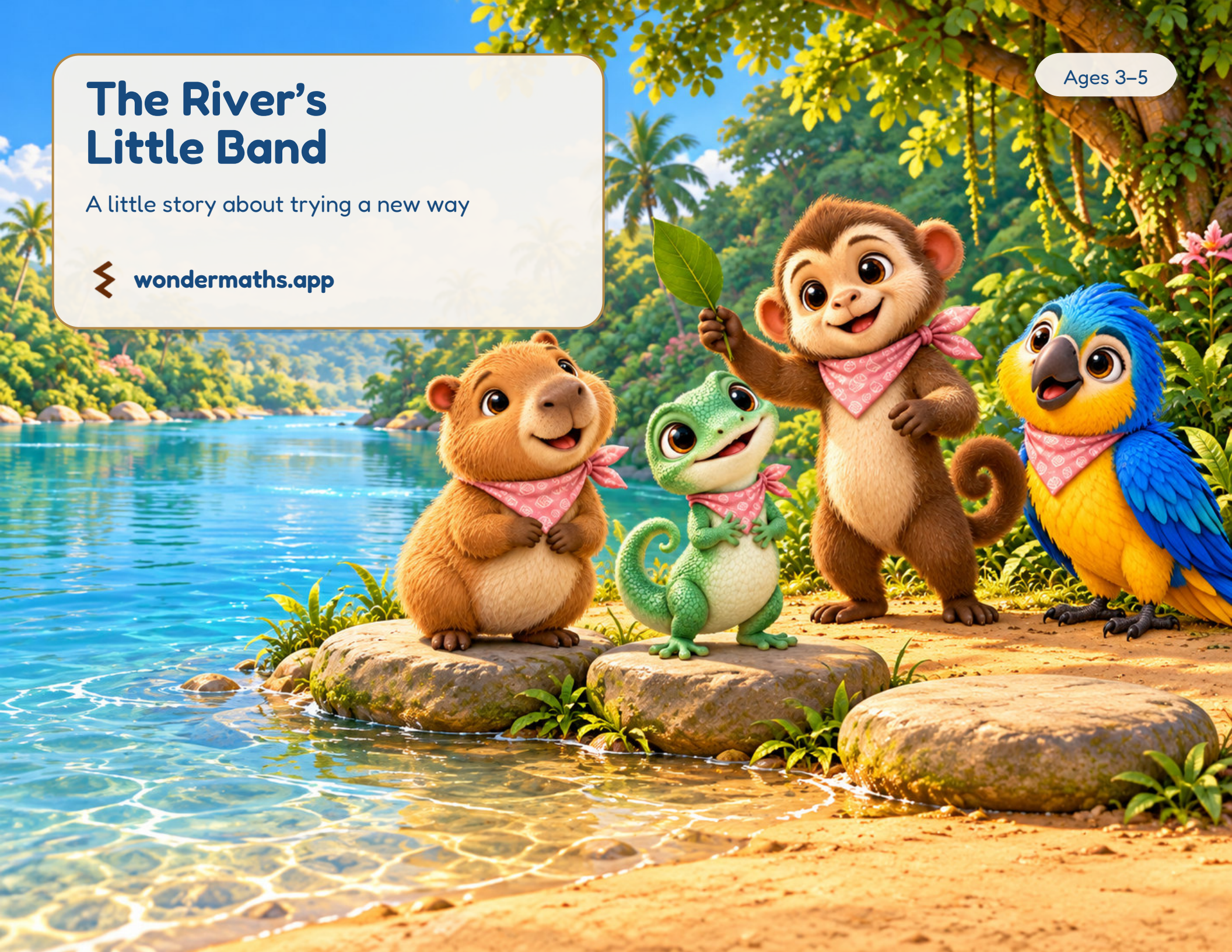
The River's Little Band

A little story about trying a new way

Ages 3–5



wondermaths.app



Tap, tap. Scritch! The little capuchin stopped conducting. That scritch was not in the song. Come close, little one. I am Ori, and our story begins beside the Great River. The capuchin had invited Capybara and Gecko to a concert on the wide, dry stones along the bank. Every friend would tap a little welcome with their feet. "I want to hear everybody's hello," the capuchin told Aro. "Together! A little band!"



Aro settled on the bank beside the monkey. "Then I will be your audience," Aro said. "My ears are ready." The capuchin held up a leaf for a conductor's flag. Capybara and Gecko crowded onto the same flat stone. Two other stones waited beside it. The capuchin waved the leaf. Capybara tapped. Gecko tried to tap too, but their feet were squeezed together. Instead of two little hellos, the band made one long shuffle.



"Maybe we need smaller taps," the capuchin said. "Teeny, tiny taps. Like a pea walking." The friends tucked their feet closer. They tapped very softly. The shuffle became softer too. But Gecko still had no room to lift a foot. Aro leaned close to listen. "I can hear the trying," Aro said gently. The capuchin's leaf drooped. Small was not the part that needed changing.



"Then I will wave faster," the monkey decided. "That will get our song going!" The leaf went swish-swish-swish. The feet shuffled faster. Capybara stopped tapping, and Gecko sat down. Now nobody had a little hello.



The capuchin lowered the leaf. There was room beside the band, but not between the friends. The monkey looked from the crowded stone to the two empty ones. "I changed the taps," the capuchin said slowly. "But I did not change where we were standing." Aro waited. The little monkey turned the leaf over, as if there might be another idea on the back. "Change one little part. Try again."



This time, the capuchin pointed to an empty stone. Gecko stepped onto it. Capybara stayed in the place that already felt comfortable. The third stone stayed empty. The capuchin checked the friends instead of waving the leaf. Capybara stretched a foot. Gecko stretched a foot. Neither bumped the other. "Change one little part. Try again," the capuchin whispered, and lifted the leaf.



Capybara tapped a welcome. Gecko answered. Each little sound had room. The capuchin's shoulders relaxed, and the leaf began to sway. "There you are!" the monkey said. "I can hear both of you. You each needed your own place!" "And nobody had to make their hello smaller," Aro answered.



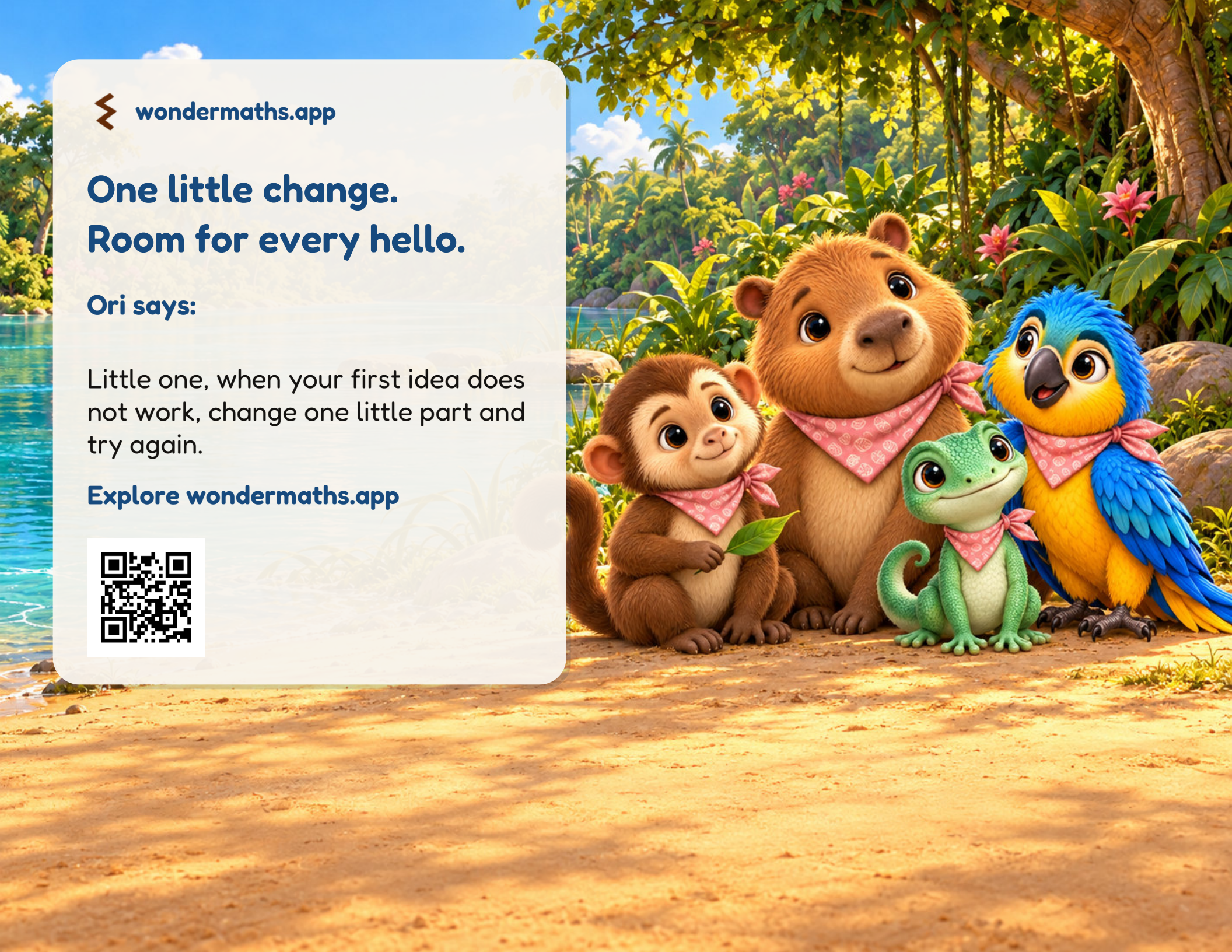
The friends tapped again, slowly this time. Tap. Tip. Tap. Tip. The capuchin conducted from the bank. Nobody needed the extra stone. Everybody already had a place. Just then, between the taps, the river made a tiny bloop.



The capuchin held the leaf still. There was the quiet little sound that had been hiding underneath all that shuffling. "Oh," the monkey whispered. "The river brought a hello too." Aro did not clap over it. The friends left a little space between their taps, and the river bubbled once more.



"Change one little part. Try again," the capuchin said, with a smile in every word. The leaf dipped for the last note. The little band was finished, and all the friends rested together on the warm bank. Little one, when your first idea does not work, change one little part and try again.


wondermaths.app
One little change.
Room for every hello.
Ori says:
Little one, when your first idea does not work, change one little part and try again.
Explore wondermaths.app