Staying Afloat

by Vita Jiménez
illustrated by Gaia Bordicchia
**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.**

**Comprehension**

**Strategy:** Make and Confirm Predictions

**Skill:** Character, Setting, Events

**Phonics**

Short $u$

**Content Standards**

Social Studies
Geography

**High-Frequency Words**

could, live, one, then, three

Word count: 196**
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This is Sam. This is Sam’s boat. The boat is his house.
Sam likes to live on a boat. He likes to float here and there.
The wind blows. Sam likes to go fast on his boat. Down the river he floats!
Sam sees Bob.

“Hi, Bob,” says Sam.
“What is that?”

“It will be a boat,” says Bob. “Can you help me?”
“Yes,” says Sam. “This will be fun.”

Bob and Sam make the boat.

“Will it float?” asks Sam.

“Yes, it will,” says Bob. “Let’s go!”
“Jump in when I say go,” Bob says. “One, two, three, go!”

Sam jumps in. Bob jumps in. Then the waves jump in!
Bob’s boat is going down! Bob falls out, but Sam can help.
“Thank you, Sam,” says Bob. “You are a good pal.”
“Could you help me again?” says Bob.

“With what?” Sam asks.
“Can we make a new boat?” says Bob.

“Yes,” says Sam. “Let’s try again!”
Retell

Use your own words to retell events in *Staying Afloat*.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Events</th>
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Text Evidence

1. Who are the characters?  
   Character, Setting, Events

2. What does Sam do after Bob falls out?  Character, Setting, Events

3. How do you know this story is a fantasy?  Genre
Is this a house? Yes.
Is this a boat? Yes.
It’s a houseboat!
A houseboat deck is a nice place to sit with friends. What can you do on a houseboat? You can fish. You can cook food and eat it, too. You can even sleep in a bed!
A houseboat kitchen looks just like a kitchen in a house.

This bedroom is in a houseboat.

Make Connections

How is living on a houseboat like living in a house? Text to Text
Fantasy  Fantasy is a story that has made-up characters, settings, and events.

What to Look for  In *Staying Afloat*, the mice talk, wear clothes, and build things. Mice don’t really do these things.

Your Turn

Make up a story about an animal that builds things. What does the animal build? Write down your ideas. Draw a picture to go with each idea.
Characters
How would you describe Sam?

Sequence of Events
What happened first, next, then, and last in Staying Afloat?

Make Connections
Have you ever tried to make a boat? Did someone help you? Did it float?