

beating, for he heard the woman say to the owner: "Do you suppose we could borrow the Little Yellow Rowboat for the summer so that Jason could learn to row and so he could have fun around the islands?" The Little Yellow Rowboat hardly breathed for a few moments. Then he heard the Kitchens say: "Of course. We'd be happy to have Jason use it." "Oh happy, day," the Little Yellow Rowboat thought. "How wonderful to be needed again!" In a few moments strong hands were pulling and tugging at the Little Yellow Rowboat, and soon the boat was out from under the cabin and sitting on top of the big boat to be taken to Coney Island where Jason lived. The little Yellow rowboat smiled all the way across the water to Jason's island, but that was only the beginning of his adventures.

Chapter Two • A NEW COAT

At Jason's island the Little Yellow Rowboat heard Jason's grandpa say: "I guess we really ought to give the little boat a new coat of paint before we put him into the water, don't you think so?" Jason said "yes", and ran to the boathouse where he knew there was some grey paint for the bottom, some yellow paint for the sides and the inside of the boat. This time the Little Yellow Rowboat didn't mind when he was turned over on his nose again while Jason and his grandpa painted his underside a beautiful pearl grey colour. Then came the yellow, bright like the sun – even brighter – inside and outside. They put new grey paint on the seats, and then sanded and painted those beautiful red oars. A new rope was put into his nose to tie him to the dock, and an anchor was tied to the boat so it could be dropped out to hold the boat safe in the winds. Jason was so happy, and so was the Little Yellow Rowboat. The paint dried quickly in the winds and under the sun, so the next day everything was ready to put the little boat into the water. Jason helped his grandpa turn the boat over, and then slide it back off the dock into the blue water.

Proud and smiling the Little Yellow Rowboat floated on the waves and smiled up at Jason. It was a tiny little boat with three seats – one in the back, one in the very front, and one in the middle where Jason would sit to row. On each side it had an oarlock into which the oars fitted. Everything was in readiness now for Jason's first rowing lesson.



Chapter Three • JASON ROWS

Jason got into the Little Yellow Rowboat, and sat in the middle seat. Grandpa got in, sat in the back seat, and pushed the boat away from the dock. "Oh," sighed the little boat, "How good it feels to be needed again. How wonderful it feels to have the water slide by me again. How happy I am! I am sure Jason will take good care of me."

Jason grasped the oars. "Put them carefully into the water," his grandpa said. "Now pull them both to your chest at one time."

Jason did so, and the Little Yellow Rowboat leaped forward, laughing. Jason rowed again. The boat jumped forward once more. "Hurrah," shouted the Little Yellow Rowboat. "What fun!"

"Now," said Jason's grandpa, "Do it differently. This time push the oars away from you." Jason did so, and the Little Yellow Rowboat backed up. "Pull one, push the other", said Grandpa. Jason did so, and the Little Yellow Rowboat turned completely around in a little circle. It was almost as if the little boat were dancing, he was so happy to be of help to Jason. "Well, I guess you can row all by yourself now," said Grandpa getting out of the boat at the dock. "Just remember, Jason – every time you go in the boat you must tell me or your grandma, and you must always wear a life vest and take along a pillow that floats in case you fall overboard. Jason knew how important these things were because he remembered the day he and his grandpa had fallen out of the canoe when a strong wind came up. They had life vests and pillows with them, and they were important. The Little Yellow Rowboat said to himself: "I'll never let Jason fall out, you can be sure go anywhere?" asked Jason of his grandpa. "Yes, you can go all around our island, and you can row to other islands if you tell us first where you are going."

"I will," said Jason, happy that he could be the captain of his own ship.

Chapter Four • JASON'S TRAVELS

From that day on, the Little Yellow Rowboat was never happier. He had Jason, and Jason had the little boat. They could go where they wished, and when they wished, always remembering to tell Grandma or Grandpa. One day Jason rowed the Little Yellow Rowboat out to meet larger boats as they traveled through the channel. Then together they could bounce and ride on the big waves that the boats made. They rowed out to meet the "Parry Sound Island Queen", a big boat – a cruise boat – which took hundreds of people for a ride, and which was so big that it made the Little Yellow Rowboat and Jason look like two little bugs next to it.

Jason's friend, Kyle, lived on the next island. Kyle also had a little rowboat. It was painted black and yellow. The two boys, Jason, 6 years old, and Kyle, 11 years old, sometimes rowed their boats together, but at other times they left the little rowboats at the dock and drove around in Kyle's small motorboat named "Kyjak". When the waves were big, it was better and more fun to jump over them in a motorboat, and then Little Yellow Rowboat stayed home, happy, knowing that he would be needed later.

Another day, Jason took his grandma for a ride in the Little Yellow Rowboat. From one island to another they went, giving Grandma an opportunity to see the scenery well, because they moved slowly through the water.

Still another time, Jason and the Little Yellow Rowboat, pushed by the two bright red oars, went for a long trip around another island. It was called Picture Island that used to belong to Jason's Mother. For a while Jason couldn't see his own island, and while he was out of sight he slowed to visit with two friends who were fishing in the deep waters off Picture Island. Pretty soon he moved his boat around the Island and the nose of the Little Yellow Rowboat could be seen by Grandma and Grandpa who were watching for it. But Jason did not come home! Instead, he made the oars take the Little Yellow Rowboat to another island nearby where he pulled it up on the beach and went off to explore for wild animals. But, instead of bears, or mink which he had seen once before, or deer, or foxes, he discovered some beautiful quartz rocks. These sparkled in the sun, and Jason stuffed some of them into his pocket to save and show his grandparents. Another day Jason took a message to Kyle's aunt inviting them to visit his grandparents' island. On each occasion the Little Yellow Rowboat danced happily across the water in response to the good rowing which Jason had learned.

