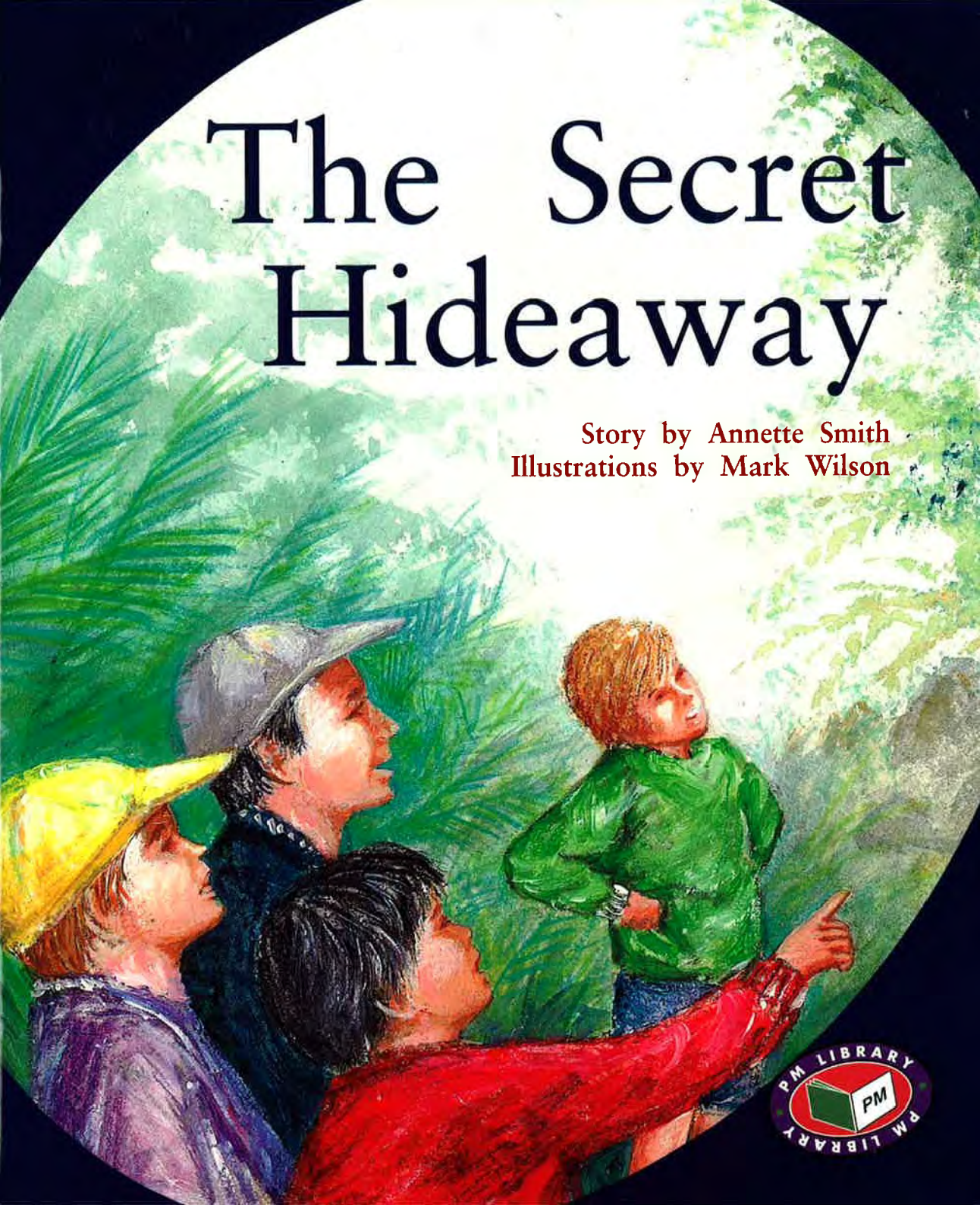
The Secret Hideaway

Story by Annette Smith
Illustrations by Mark Wilson

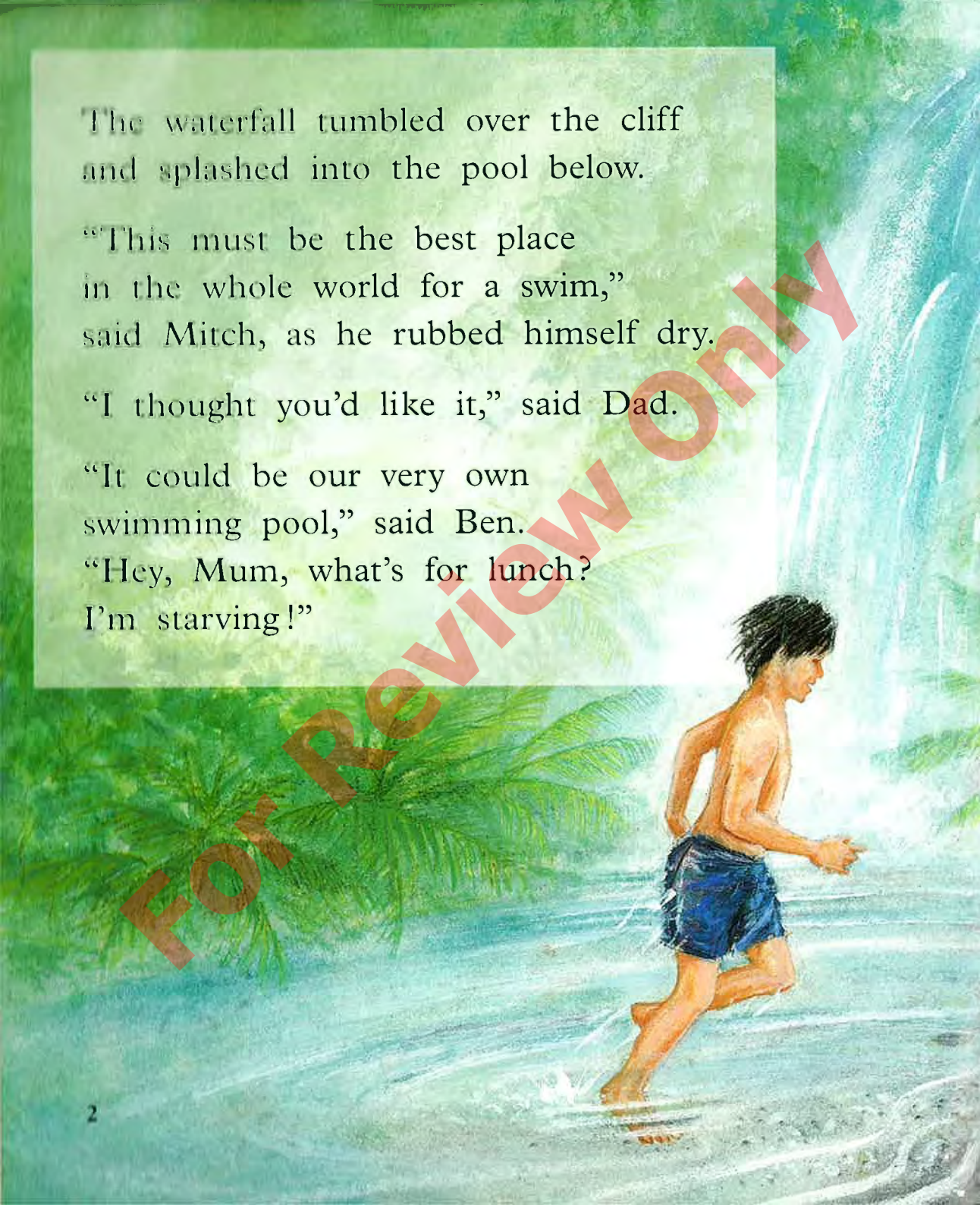


The waterfall tumbled over the cliff and splashed into the pool below.

"This must be the best place in the whole world for a swim," said Mitch, as he rubbed himself dry.

"I thought you'd like it," said Dad.

"It could be our very own swimming pool," said Ben. "Hey, Mum, what's for lunch? I'm starving!"



For Review Only

"So the long walk through the valley this morning was a good idea after all," laughed Mum,
opening one of the backpacks.

They all lay back against the warm rocks, eating their sandwiches and throwing little pebbles into the water.



For Review Only

After a while, Dad said,
"It's time we went.
We must be back at the cabin
before dark."

"You're right," said Mum,
looking at her watch.

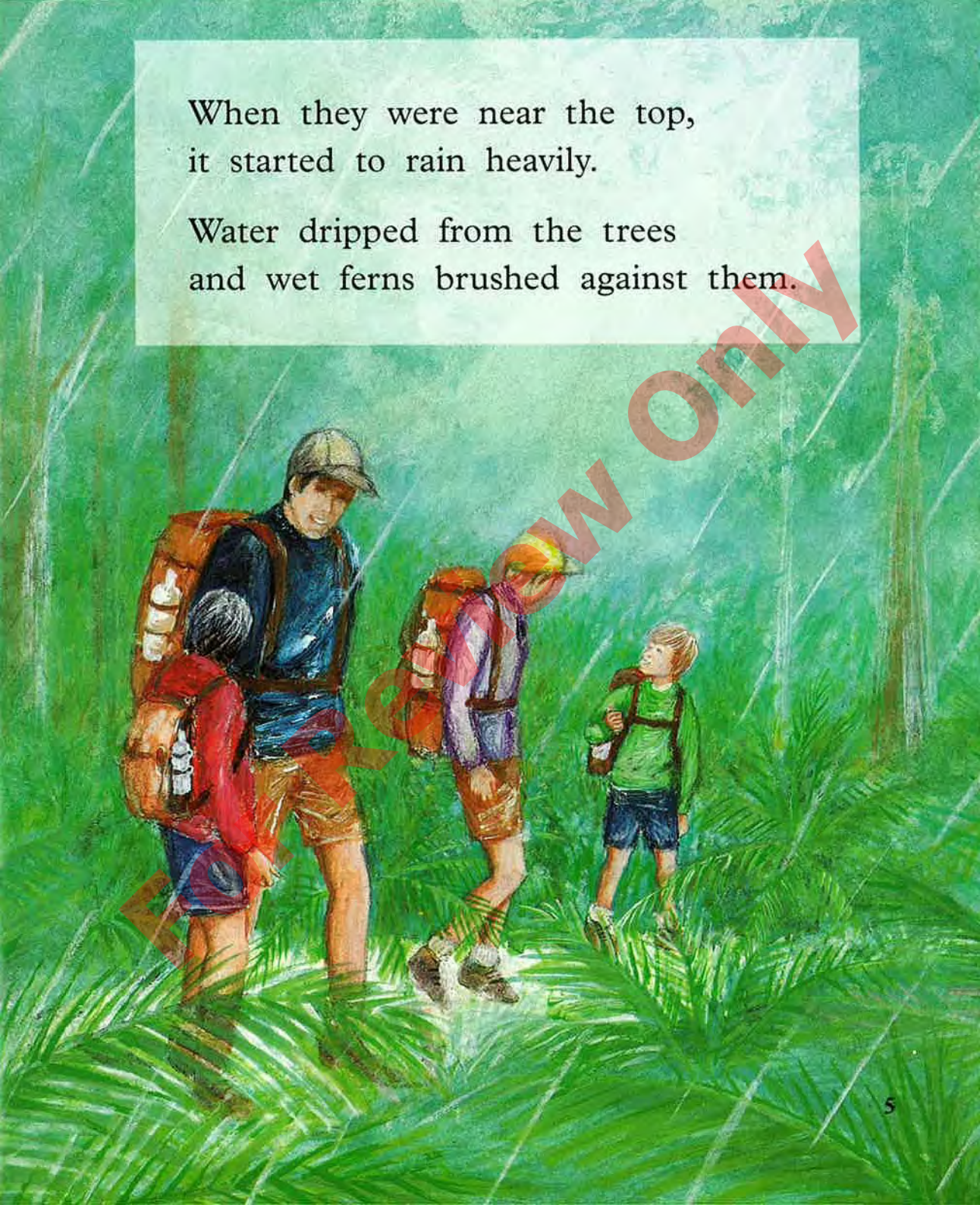
Mitch and Ben pulled on their boots
and helped pack up.

They followed the bush track
that went down through the valley
and over a hill.

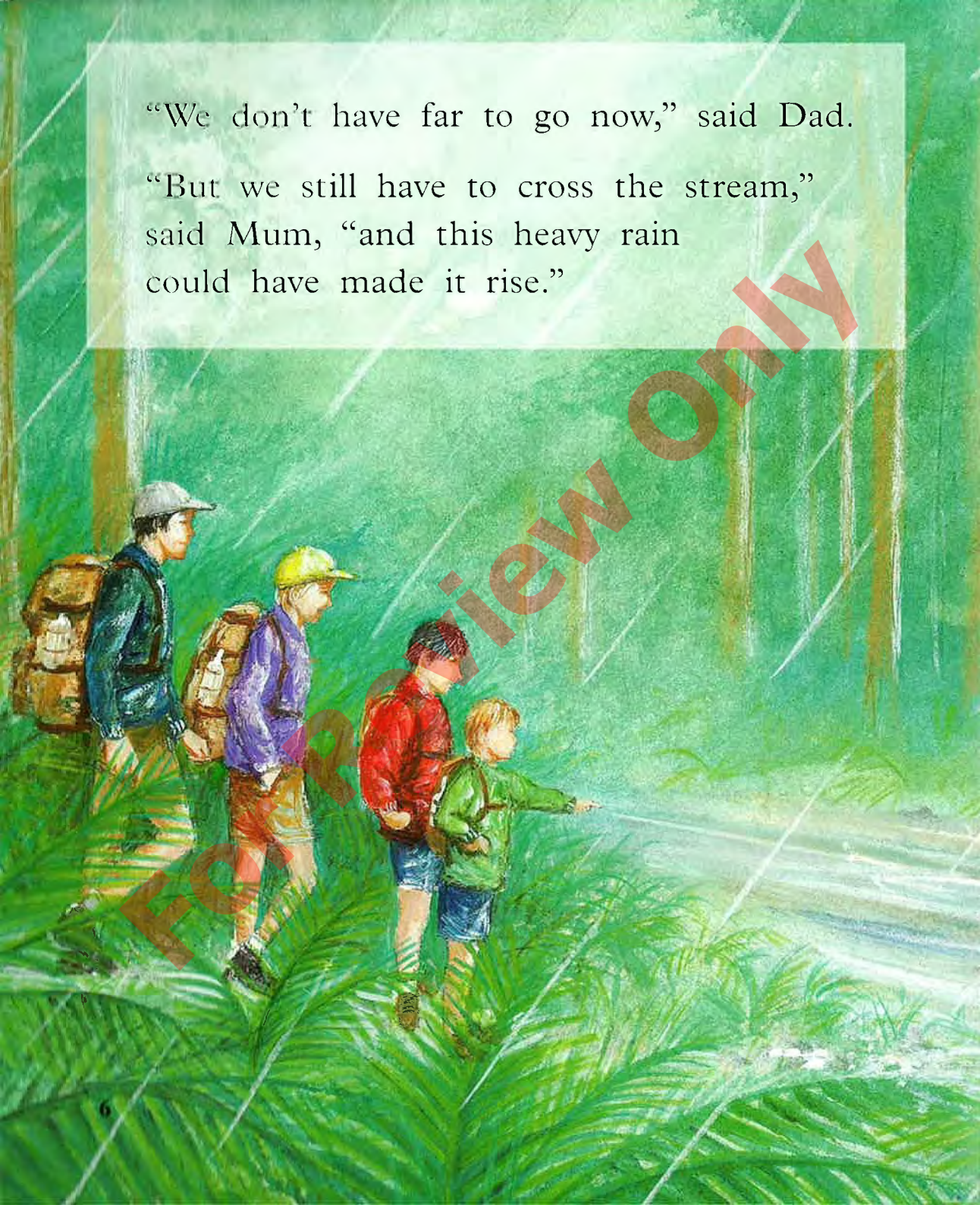
For Review Only

When they were near the top,
it started to rain heavily.

Water dripped from the trees
and wet ferns brushed against them.



For review only



"We don't have far to go now," said Dad.

"But we still have to cross the stream," said Mum, "and this heavy rain could have made it rise."

For Preview Only

Soon they could hear
the stream rushing below them.

"Look how fast the water's flowing,"
called Ben.

"It's all brown, too," said Mitch.
"I can't see the rocks now."

"It must have rained very heavily
further up the valley," said Dad.
"It's going to take a long time
for it to go down."

For Review Only