

ola, Boris and their new friends





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Pomysłodawcy i kierownicy zespołu/ Project originators and leaders

Justyna Ziółkowska, Wydział Psychologii we Wrocławiu, Uniwersytet SWPS

Dariusz Galasiński, Centrum Interdyscyplinarnych Badań nad Zdrowiem i Chorobą, Uniwersytet Wrocławski

Opracowanie graficzne/Graphic design

Rebecca Scambler

Ilustracje/Illustrations

Paula Metcalf

Zespół autorski/Authors

Justyna Ziółkowska

Dariusz Galasiński

Koło Psychologii Klinicznej, Wydział Psychologii we Wrocławiu, Uniwersytet SWPS/

Clinical Psychology Club, Faculty of Psychology in Wrocław, SWPS University:

Aleksandra Cieloch

Marta Emirsąjtów

Oliwia Malińska

Michalina Mazurek

Jakub Michalik

Julia Odelga

Małgorzata Skrońska

Gabriela Sorsa

Anna Stachowiak

Anna Szołomycka

Paulina Woźny

Nadzór kliniczny/Clinical supervision

Karolina Matczak

Tłumaczenie/Translation

Olga Barabasz-Rewak (UA)

Natalya Didenko (RUS)

Konsultacja językowa/Language consultation

Tomasz Piekot

Konsultacja akademicka/Academic consultation

Marta Głowacka

Adela Barabasz

Tomasz Grzyb

Z wdzięcznością odnotowujemy instytucjonalne wsparcie Rektora Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, prof. dr. hab. Przemysława Wiszewskiego oraz Dziekana Wydziału Psychologii we Wrocławiu Uniwersytetu SWPS, dr. hab. Tomasza Grzyba, prof. SWPS.

We gratefully acknowledge the institutional support of the Rector of the University of Wrocław, Prof. Przemysław Wiszewski and the Dean of the Faculty of Psychology in Wrocław of SWPS University, Prof. Tomasz Grzyb.

Odnotowujemy również pomoc, którą otrzymaliśmy od następujących osób i instytucji:

We also acknowledge assistance and support from the following persons and institutions:

Izabela Bancewicz-Mikulewicz

Polskie Stowarzyszenie Psychologii Społecznej

Agnieszka Matusiak

Iga Pękala

Eva Duda

Magdalena Witkowicz

Dear Ukrainian friends!

No matter where you come from, and how difficult your journey has been, we want you to feel at home here. That's why we offer you and your children a story you're holding in your hands. Ola and Boris, its characters, come to a new country and try to deal with the situation they find themselves in. The children become familiar with new people and places, eventually coming to grips with the world around them. We would like you to follow in their steps, we would like the new country to be a good place for you. We hope you will feel safe here.

We thank all those who worked on the story, the authors, the illustrators, those who printed it, coordinated the work. We are convinced we all can change the world for the better. If, after meeting Ola and Boris, others - Andriy, Lisa, Bogdan, Iryna, Taras, Yulia and all other Ukrainian children- will smile and feel safer, the world will be a better place.

Dear parents, please read the story of Ola and Boris with your children.
Let the little characters guide your children in the new reality.

Prof. Przemyslaw Wiszewski,
Rector of the University of Wrocław

Dr Tomasz Grzyb,
Dean of the Faculty of Psychology, SWPS University, in Wrocław



They have arrived.

'Psssssssss' the locomotive hissed and stopped.

It's time to get off the train.



Mum, Ola and Boris are taking out their luggage—mum has a small suitcase. Boris and Ola have the backpacks they used to take to school. Ola still has her friend, a stuffed toy named Fluffy, with her.

Boris also took something with him, but he doesn't want to tell anyone what it is.



The station seems huge to the children, it is difficult to look around—there are people rushing from left and right. Lots of people get off the train.

Ola squeezes her mum's hand tightly. She has many questions: Where are we going? Where are we going to live? Is this the end of the journey?

She sees Boris looking around and decides to start exploring the new place herself. The children notice some people smiling at them.

Maybe it won't be so bad?

Tired, they enter a large room. There are even more people here. It is noisy. There are boxes with food and clothes on the floor and tables.



Mum says she's not hungry, but Ola and Boris are already drinking the juice and eating the snack bars they were given.

Boris goes to get another portion, and although Ola pretends to be angry she's happy that he hasn't forgotten about her share.

Finally, they get to the car. Asia and Marek are waiting for them.

‘Welcome.’ says Marek.

‘Get in,’ Asia adds, invitingly. ‘We are going to our home.’

Ola and Boris look at each other, a bit worried, but they see Mum smiling and get into the car.

Boris is interested in the silver Toyota they are in.
It's the same as the one his uncle has.



Ola is listening to Asia and Marek talking in the new language. She is surprised to hear that every now and then she understands the words. She sighs with relief—if she meets some kids, they might be able to understand each other.



 The car starts moving. During the ride, Ola and Boris look around. The streets, cars, buildings, shops—everything looks the same as where they are from. They finally arrive.

The blocks of flats look like the ones on their estate. They have several floors. There is grass, hedges, and narrow pavements. Further away, there is a playground. Ola looks at the children playing for a while, worried if she would make any friends here.

‘I’ll always have Fluffy.’ she thinks, homesick.

Boris doesn’t look as if he is worried about anything. He has already run to the playground to check out the slide.

‘Come back, Boris!’ Mum calls, ‘We have to go.’

Marek opens the door to the staircase and they all take the lift to the seventh floor. Asia quickly turns the key in the lock and says:

‘Come in. This will be your home for a while.’

The flat smells of cake. They sit down in the kitchen. Mum is smiling, but the children can see tears coming to her eyes. Asia hugs Mum and says that they will be ok.





The next day, Boris really wants to go to the playground.

'OK' says Mum, and looks at Ola.

'No! I don't want go. I want to stay at home!' Ola says with a trembling voice.

'Let's go to the playground. Boris will go on the slide for a while and then we'll go back home,' Mum decides.

Ola agrees, as she is a bit curious herself, but then she sits on a bench next to mum.

She starts to get bored watching Boris climbing the slide over and over again, taking turns with the other children.



She starts to kick little stones under the bench, when a ball rolls under her feet.

'Can you pass it?' the boy asks.

Mum nods. Ola kicks the ball.

'Will you play with us?'

Ola doesn't answer, she looks down and feels a little shivery.

Mum says they have to go back now, but maybe they can play together another day.





Phew, thinks Ola. But then she thinks it would be nice to meet that boy again.

‘See you tomorrow! I’m Michal!’ the boy shouts, and runs to his friends.

‘And I’m Ola’ she whispers.



On the way home, Boris jumps up and down, talking about the slide.

'It was very big and very fast! Mum, can we go back there tomorrow, please?'

'And what do you think? Would you like to come back?' asks Mum, looking at Ola.

'Hmm.... maybe' she answers, but she's not sure. 'Maybe there will be that boy with a ball...' she thinks.

Ola couldn't sleep that evening. She could feel a strange excitement and couldn't wait for the next day.



The next morning, Mum, Ola and Boris go for a walk.

They walk through strange streets and see houses, shops, a pharmacy, and even a restaurant.

Everything looks the same as it does at home, except for the letters. But Ola has seen them before and told Boris how they all sound.

‘Everything here is so strange’ says Boris, sadly.

‘How come?’ asks Mum, ‘What about the sparrows on the fence? You know them.’

‘You can understand a lot, too’ adds Ola.

‘Well, I guess it’s sort of an adventure’ agrees Boris, much more confidently. ‘We are like real travellers and explorers! We discover new places! Like in fairy tales!’ he shouts with excitement.

‘You’re right’ Mum agrees. ‘We’re just like real explorers. And now, who’s going to be first to the playground?’

Boris, like a true explorer, sets off right away. Even Ola, who had been unsure until then, shyly follows him.





Days passed. Sometimes they went for walks, sometimes they stayed at the playground.

Ola started playing football with Michal, who she had met before, and with his friends, Kazik and Kamilka. Boris started playing with Ania, Nina and Mateusz.

After some time, Mum said that soon Boris would go to nursery and Ola would go to school.

‘Will there be any toys?’ asked Boris.

‘Of course,’ said Mum, ‘And what do you think, Ola?’

‘I’m not sure yet, but maybe Michal and the others will be there. I already know them well’ she said.

‘Yes, Kamilka goes to that school. But remember, you’ll meet new friends there.’

Ola wasn't so sure, she was afraid of going to school. But she knew that a lot had changed since she came here. She was not so scared anymore and she was much better at getting along with others.

Boris was getting better at learning new words too. He even said that he no longer sleeps with the amber he once found on the beach. Even Fluffy, Ola's toy, would sleep alone more and more often.

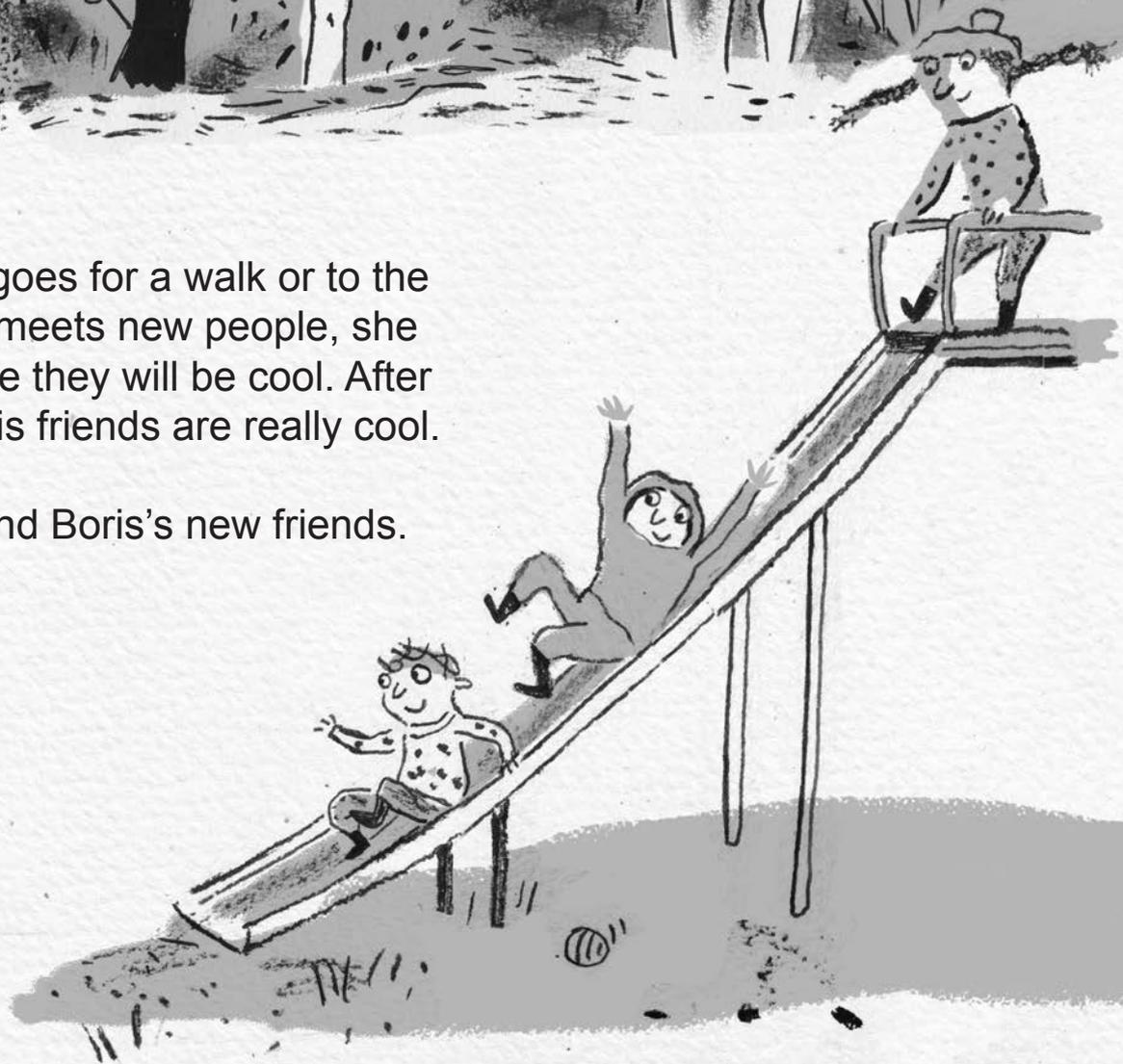
Ola's curiosity takes over and she feels less afraid. What will her class look like? Who will her teacher be? Who will she sit next to? Will she be able to manage the reading and writing?

She did well in Ukrainian, but now she will have to learn another language.



Now, when she goes for a walk or to the playground and meets new people, she thinks that maybe they will be cool. After all, Michal and his friends are really cool.

These are Ola and Boris's new friends.



оля, Бориско та їхні нові друзі



Bajka „Olga, Borys i ich nowi przyjaciele” to wynik charytatywnej pracy ponad 20 osób. Powstała z potrzeby serca i w odruchu solidarności z obywatelami Ukrainy, którzy z powodu wojny zostali zmuszeni do opuszczenia swojego kraju.

Казка «Оля, Бориско та їхні нові друзі» -- це результат благодійної праці більше, ніж 20 осіб. Вони написали цю казку, керуючись голосом серця та на знак солідарності з громадянами України, які були змушені покинути свою країну через війну.

Сказка «Оля, Боря и их новые друзья» — результат благотворительной работы более 20 человек. Создана по призыву сердца и в знак солидарности с гражданами Украины, которые были вынуждены покинуть свою страну из-за войны.

The tale ‘Olga, Boris and their new friends’ is the result of voluntary work of over 20 people. It arose out of a heartfelt urge to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people who had to abandon their country because of war.



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