

BENNY THE HELLBENDER

Don't Dam the Doe!





Narrator



Benny



Brookie



Emory



Charlie



Audio Companion

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE AUDIO COMPANION AND LISTEN
TO THE NARRATOR, BENNY, AND HIS FRIENDS AS YOU FOLLOW ALONG.

www.bennythehellbender.com



Deep in the cool, rushing waters of the Doe River at Roan Mountain State Park lives a very special creature. It isn't a crayfish, a fish or snake.



It's Benny, an eastern hellbender. The biggest salamander in North America! He has slimy, wrinkly skin, a flat head, and tiny eyes. Benny loves to wiggle under big, smooth rocks to stay safe and keep cool. Like all hellbenders, he breathes through his skin, so he needs clean, flowing water full of oxygen to survive.

One sunny day, Benny noticed something was wrong.
“Gurgle, gurgle!” he mumbled as he swam up to his fishy friend,
Brookie the Trout. “Benny, the humans are stacking rocks again!”
Brookie said, flicking her tail toward the riverbank.





Benny frowns and said, "Oh no! If they block the river, the water won't flow right, and we won't get enough oxygen! Our homes will be ruined!" Benny peeks up to see some kids building a rock dam across the river. They don't know that their fun causes trouble for the animals below.





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For Emory Mae and Little Charlie,
Aunt Munk loves you both and I
hope that you both grow up to respect
nature and all that it has to offer.