MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

Ana's Christmas Star Lantern



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Stars in the Windows

On Ana's street in the Philippines, Christmas came early. By December, star lanterns glowed in almost every window. Red stars. Blue stars. Big gold stars. Every evening, Ana counted them. But one window had no star at all. Her own. "Lola," she asked, "can we make a parol?"





Five Bamboo Sticks

The next morning, Lola brought thin bamboo sticks and a ball of string. She tied the sticks together into a star, point by point. Ana held each one very still. "One, two, three, four, five points," she counted. The bamboo star was as light as a leaf.

A Crooked Point

Then came the paper, red and yellow and crinkly. Ana spread on the glue and pressed the paper down. Smooth, smooth. But one point came out crooked and wrinkly. Ana frowned. "Lola," she said, "my star is wrong."





Every Star Is Different

Lola held the star up to the light. "Every parol is a little bit different," she said, "just like every family." Ana gave the two long paper tails a little shake. Swish, swish! They swayed and danced, and Ana began to smile.

The Star Lights Up

That evening, Lola hung the parol in Ana's window. She switched on the little light inside. The star glowed red and gold, as warm as a hug. And the crooked point glowed too. "Oh!" said Ana. "It's beautiful."





Maligayang Pasko!

Ana and Lola stepped outside to look. All along the street, stars shone in the windows, big ones and small ones, blue and green and pink. And there, in the middle, was theirs. The neighbours waved. "Maligayang Pasko!" they called. That means Merry Christmas. "Maligayang Pasko!" Ana called back.

Goodnight, Star

At bedtime, a soft red glow lay across Ana's ceiling. It came from her very own star. "Goodnight, star," whispered Ana. Lola tucked the blanket around her. Outside, the stars on the street kept glowing, and Ana fell asleep in their light.



THE END

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