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The Firefly Night



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A Night Wonder

When the stars came out, the leaf-map glowed lime green. "Tonight's wonder only comes in the dark," said Uncle Bo. Everyone took a torch, and off they went down the wooden walkway.





No Fireflies

They reached the pond and shone their torches all around. Leaves. Water. A big log. But no fireflies. Not one. "Where are they?" asked Sami.

GRRUMP!

Then, from the dark, came a big deep sound. GRRUMP! GRRUMP! Sami hid behind Uncle Bo. Tuki puffed up every feather. "A monster!" said Sami.





Lights Off

Uncle Bo knelt down. "Fireflies are shy of torches," he said softly. "To see them, we must sit in the dark." Sami did not like the dark. Not one bit.

Click

Sami held Lina's hand. He took a big breath. Click. He turned his torch off. Now it was very dark, with only the leaf-map's soft green glow. Sami sat very still, and waited.





The Forest Twinkles

Blink. One tiny light. Blink, blink. Ten lights! Then the whole forest twinkled, and the fireflies flashed all together, on and off, on and off. "Some fireflies flash at the same time," whispered Uncle Bo. Sami held his breath.

The Tiny Monster

GRRUMP! The sound came again, right by Sami's knee. On a lily leaf sat a frog no bigger than his thumb, puffing its throat like a bubble. "You're the monster?" giggled Sami. Then a firefly landed on Tuki's beak, and Tuki went cross-eyed.





A Firefly Drawing

Back at the station, Sami drew the firefly night with his crayons: dark blue, with lots and lots of little yellow dots. He put it on the wonder shelf. "I sat in the dark," he said, "and the dark was full of lights."

THE END

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