Jelly

A Box for Tomorrow

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Why might someone save a small box?
2. What could the ribbon tell you?
3. What reminds you of a friend?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Mina carried a small box to school.
It had a lid and a green ribbon.
She held it close with both hands.
Ben saw it beside her school bag.



At lunch, Mina sat near Ben.
She told him she was moving away.
Her family had packed most of their things.
Their truck would leave that evening.



Ben put his sandwich on his plate.

He looked down at the table.

"Will you come back to our school?"

Mina shook her head very slowly.



"I will go to a new school."
Mina turned the box toward Ben.
"I made something for you to keep."
She pushed it across the table.



Ben reached for the green ribbon.

Mina put a hand on the lid.

"Wait until tomorrow to open it."

Ben looked at her and nodded.



"What will you do tomorrow?" he asked.

"I will wake up in our new home."

Mina put the box beside his bag.

"You can open it at breakfast."



After lunch, they went out to play.
Ben walked to the old oak tree.
Mina used to meet him there.
Its branches made a wide patch of shade.



Today, they watched a leaf fall.
It turned twice before it landed.
Mina picked it up by the stem.
Ben found a smaller leaf nearby.



They walked back when the bell rang.
The box was still beside his bag.
Ben put it in his top pocket.
He pulled the zipper closed.



At the gate, Mina waved to Ben.
Her dad waited beside the path.
Ben held his school bag tightly.
He waved until they turned the corner.



At home, Ben took out the box.

He set it on the kitchen table.

Dad looked at the green ribbon.

Ben told him what Mina had said.



Ben wanted to lift the lid.
He could feel something move inside.
He put the box by his breakfast bowl.
Then he left it there overnight.



The next morning, Ben came downstairs.
The box waited beside his bowl.
He ate a piece of toast first.
Then he pulled one end of the ribbon.



Three things lay inside the box.

There was a dry oak leaf.

A flat stone lay beside it.

A blue paper boat was under both.



Ben lifted the leaf by its stem.
He held it up to the light.
Its shape looked like a small hand.
He thought of the tree at school.



The stone was smooth and gray.
One side had a stripe of white.
Ben ran his thumb over the stripe.
He knew he had seen it before.



He looked closely at the blue boat.
It had a short bent corner.
Mina always folded her boats that way.
But why had she saved this one?



Dad set a glass beside Ben.

"Do they remind you of anything?"

Ben moved the leaf to one side.

"The leaf is from our tree."



Ben turned the stone over again.
A white line crossed its other side.
He remembered a game by the sand.
Mina had used that line as a road.



He lined up the three things.
The leaf stood for the oak tree.
The stone stood for the sandbox.
He still had to place the boat.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. Why did Mina give Ben the box?
2. When did he open it?
3. What did the leaf remind him of?
4. Where had Ben seen the stone?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. Where might Ben have seen the boat?
2. Why did Mina save all three things?
3. How could Ben share what he finds?
4. Share a prediction with a partner.



Ben looked out at the bright sky.
He remembered a day of hard rain.
He and Mina had stayed inside.
They had folded boats after lunch.



Their boats had needed some water.
They did not take them outside.
Their teacher brought a shallow bowl.
She set it on the art table.



Ben had folded a green boat.
Mina had folded a blue one.
Her bent corner had stayed above water.
That was where the blue boat belonged.



Ben pulled a sheet from his drawer.

He drew the oak tree on it.

He added the sandbox by the path.

Inside the school, he drew the art table.



He set the leaf by the tree.

He placed the stone in the sandbox.

The little boat went by the table.

Now he could see all three places.



Dad sat down beside the drawing.
"Did you play there on one day?"
Ben pointed to the three little pictures.
"We played there on many days."



He told Dad about the oak tree.
They made houses under its branches.
Some houses were made of fallen leaves.
They used twigs to make the doors.



He showed Dad the stone next.
Its stripe made a road in the sand.
Ben and Mina built tunnels by it.
They moved small cars over the top.



Last, Ben lifted the paper boat.
He told Dad about the bowl.
Both boats had stayed up that day.
Mina had let him steer hers.



Ben looked at his drawing again.
He wanted Mina to see it too.
Dad brought his phone to the table.
He took a picture of the map.



Dad sent it to Mina's dad.

Ben put the three things away.

He left the drawing beside the box.

Then he went outside for a while.



Later, Dad called Ben back inside.
Mina had sent a picture too.
It showed her new bedroom window.
There was a tree outside the glass.



Ben looked at its bright leaves.
They were not shaped like small hands.
He asked Dad to read her words.
"I found a new place to play."



Ben thought of his own three places.
He wondered what else Mina would find.
He drew another tree on fresh paper.
He gave it leaves like hers.



He left room beside the new tree.
Maybe there would be a path there.
Maybe Mina would find a good stone.
Ben could draw those places later.



On Monday, Ben saw Max at school.
He showed Max the drawing of their tree.
Max found the sandbox on the map.
Then he pointed to the art table.



Ben told Max about Mina's box.
They walked to the tree at lunch.
A small twig lay on the ground.
Ben used it to make a door.



Max brought over two dry leaves.
They made a roof above the door.
Ben thought Mina would like that roof.
He drew it beside the tree that night.



Ben set the drawing beside the box.
He lifted the green ribbon again.
There was room for another small thing.
He placed the new drawing inside.



One map held three places they knew.
One drawing showed a place far away.
Ben put both papers under the leaf.
Then he closed the lid with a smile.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. What place did the boat stand for?
2. Why did Ben make a map?
3. What did Mina show from her new home?
4. Why did Ben save a second drawing?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. What small thing reminds you of a place?
2. What do you like to make with friends?
3. How can you share a place far away?
4. How could you welcome a new friend?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Draw a Place to Remember

Draw a place you like to visit.

Add one thing you would keep from it.

My place is _____

I would keep

_____



The End

Thank you for reading.

A small thing can hold a big memory.

What would you put in a box?

