Jelly

The Lantern in the Window

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. What can you see from a window?
2. What might make a light disappear?
3. How could you check on a neighbor?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Mina walked home with Mum at dusk.
A small lantern shone across the street.
It sat in Mrs. Lin's front window.
Mina waved toward its warm light.



Mrs. Lin waved from her chair.
Her gray cat slept beside it.
Mina saw them there most evenings.
The lantern made the glass glow gold.



The next evening, the window was dark.
Mina slowed beside Mum on the pavement.
Mrs. Lin's chair stood empty.
The lantern was nowhere in sight.



"Perhaps she has gone out."
Mum looked toward the front door.
Mina watched for the gray cat.
She could not see it either.



At home, Mina drew the lit window.
She added the cat beside the chair.
Then she looked toward the street.
The real window was still dark.



"What if something is wrong?"
Mina brought the drawing to Mum.
Mum sat beside her at the table.
"We can ask her tomorrow."



Next afternoon, they walked over together.

Mina stayed beside Mum at the gate.

Mum rang Mrs. Lin's front bell.

They waited on the dry step.



Mrs. Lin opened the door smiling.
The gray cat stood behind her.
Mina let out a small breath.
"Your window was dark last night."



"We missed your little lantern."
Mum pointed toward the front room.
Mrs. Lin looked back at its window.
"I moved it yesterday afternoon."

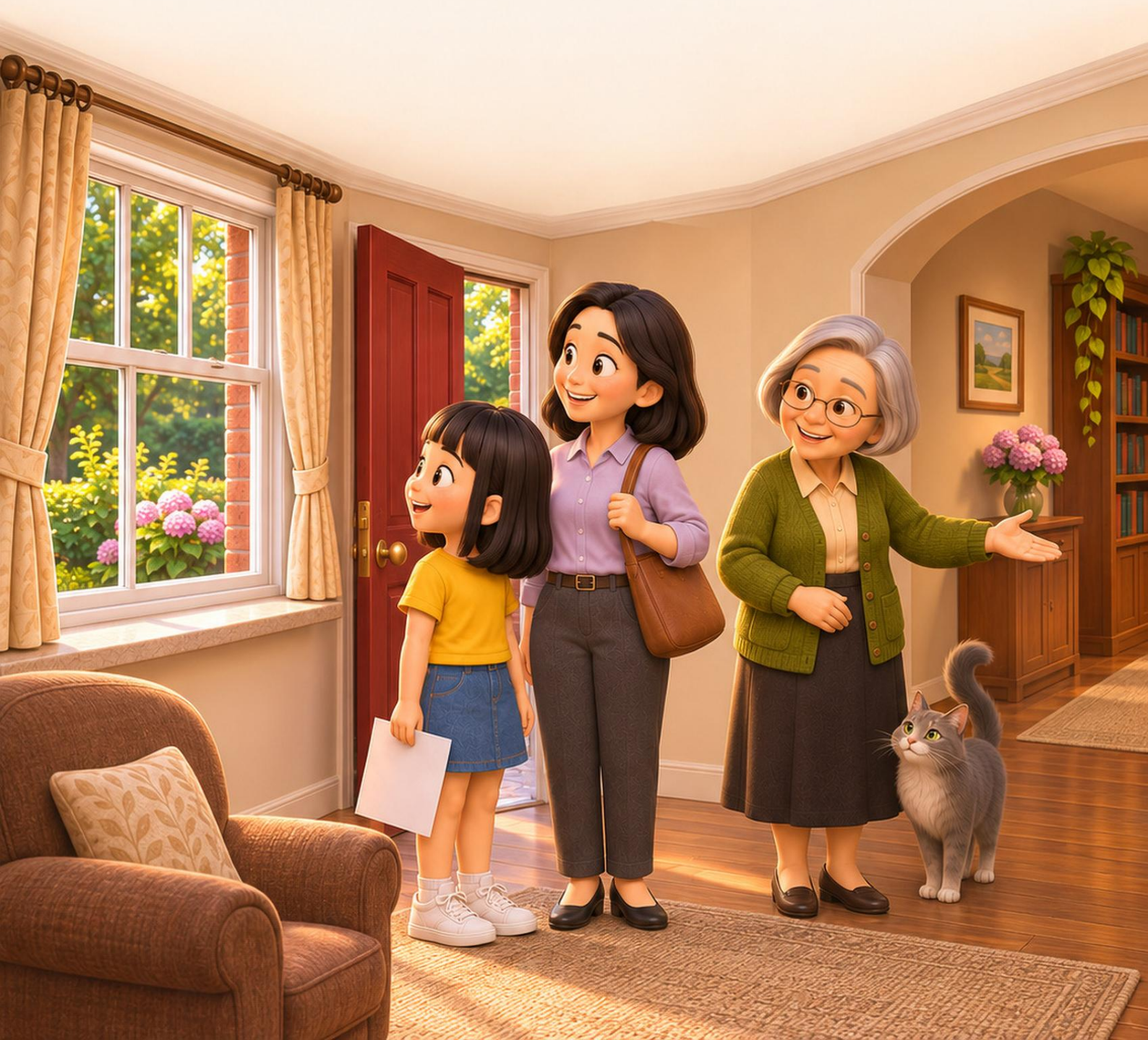


Mina looked past the empty chair.

"Did the lantern stop working?"

Mrs. Lin shook her head gently.

"Come and see its new place."



Mum and Mina stepped inside together.
They followed her through the sitting room.
Another window faced the side garden.
The lantern stood on its wide sill.



Beside it was a comfortable armchair.

A small table held a book.

The cat jumped onto the chair cushion.

Mina recognized the lantern's copper handle.



"This corner is warmer for reading."

Mrs. Lin pointed to the afternoon sun.

"The front window gets a cold draft."

Mina looked at the open book.



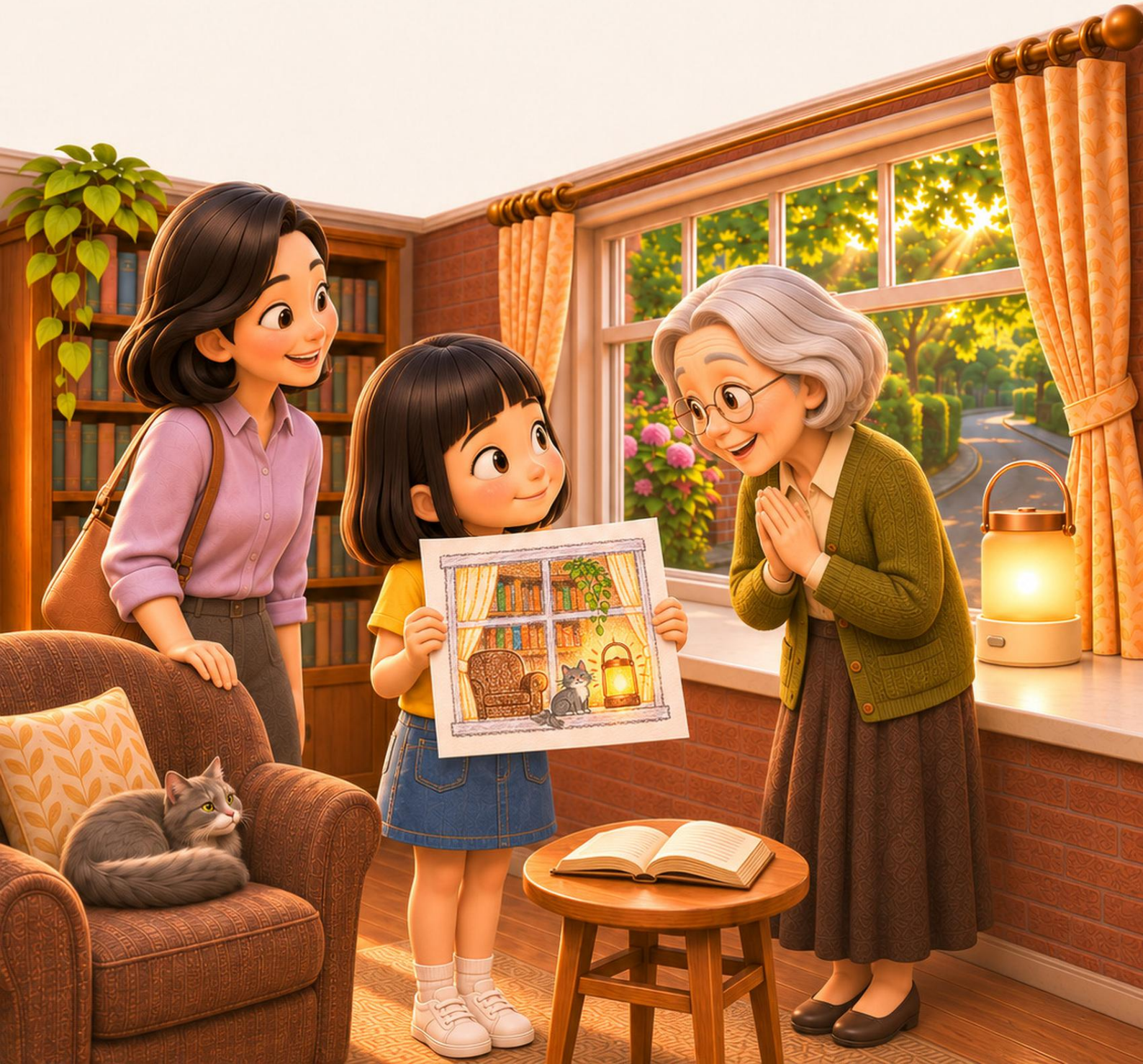
Mrs. Lin switched on the lantern.
Its small electric light glowed gold.
The side window filled with familiar warmth.
The cat curled its tail around itself.



Mina smiled at the bright little lamp.
It had been working all along.
She just could not see it from home.
The side window faced another street.



"I thought you might need help."
Mina held her drawing with both hands.
Mrs. Lin thanked her for coming.
Mum smiled beside the new chair.



Mrs. Lin looked at the drawing.
"You remembered my cat's long tail."
Mina pointed to the old front window.
"I drew where I usually saw you."



Mrs. Lin brought a clean sheet.

She set it on the small table.

Mina drew the wider side window.

She put the lantern near its corner.



The real cat stretched across the cushion.

Mina added its paws to her drawing.

Mum helped hold the paper still.

Mrs. Lin watched from beside the table.



"Which way does this window face?"
Mina looked out toward the garden gate.
Mum pointed to the corner of the street.
Their usual path ran past the front.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What could Mina no longer see?
2. Where was the lantern now?
3. Why had Mrs. Lin moved it?
4. Which way did the new window face?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. Where could Mina see the new light?
2. What could two drawings show?
3. How could a model explain her view?
4. What might stay the same?



They thanked Mrs. Lin and left together.
At the pavement, Mum turned the corner.
Mina looked up from the side street.
There was the lantern in its new window.



The front window had seemed empty.
The side window was bright and warm.
Mina could see both from the corner.
They were part of the same house.



She stopped beside Mum to look.

The cat was a gray curl by the lamp.

Mrs. Lin lifted her hand from her book.

Mina waved back across the garden.



At home, Mina placed both drawings down.
One showed the old front window.
The other showed the wider side one.
She drew a small house between them.



Mum asked about the two pictures.

"What changed between these evenings?"

Mina pointed to the little copper lantern.

"Its place changed, not its light."



Ben visited after school the next day.
He saw Mina's two window drawings.
"Are those two different houses?"
Mina showed him the little house plan.



She drew a line past the front.
That was her usual walk with Mum.
Then she drew a turn at the corner.
That path passed the new window.



Ben followed each line with his finger.
"You could not see around the wall."
Mina nodded beside the drawing.
"I had to look from another place."



They made a paper house on the table.
One window faced Ben's chair.
Another faced Mina across the table.
They placed a yellow block inside.



Ben could see it through his window.

Mina could only see the paper wall.

She moved her chair a little.

Then the yellow block came into view.



"It was there the whole time."

Mina moved back to her first place.

The paper wall hid it again.

Ben looked through his own window.



They swapped places around the table.

Now Mina saw the block easily.

Ben had to lean toward the opening.

They kept the paper house still.



Mum came to see their little house.

Mina told her what they had tried.

Ben pointed to the two window openings.

The yellow block had never moved.



That evening, Mina walked with Mum again.

The front window was dark as before.

Mina remembered the warm side room.

She did not stop at the front gate.



At the corner, she turned her head.
The copper lantern glowed through the glass.
Mrs. Lin was turning a book page.
The cat slept with one paw out.



Mina waved once from the pavement.

Mrs. Lin smiled and waved back.

Then Mina and Mum walked on.

Their own dinner was waiting at home.



On Saturday, Mrs. Lin visited them.

She brought a book about houses.

Mina showed her the small paper model.

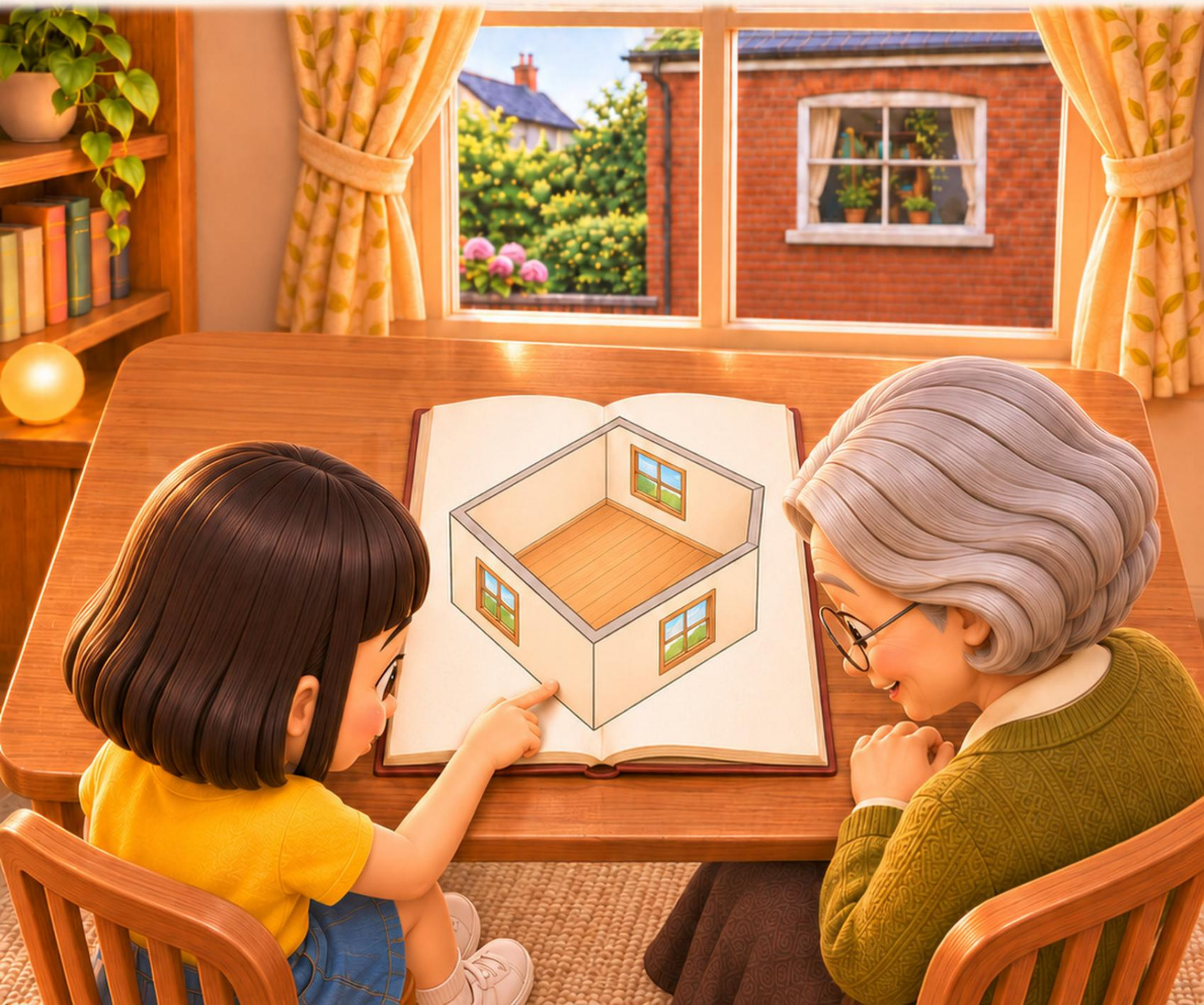
Ben had left the yellow block inside.



Mrs. Lin looked through both windows.
"This one looks like my reading room."
Mina put a tiny paper chair beside it.
The model had a cozy corner now.



They read the house book together.
Mina found a picture with three windows.
Each looked out in a different direction.
She traced the walls around them.



After Mrs. Lin left, dusk filled the street.
Mina set her model by her own window.
Mum switched on their small table lamp.
Warm light fell across the paper house.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why had the front window gone dark?
2. What did the corner view reveal?
3. What did the paper model show?
4. How did Mina check her worry?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. What might be hidden from your view?
2. How could another position help?
3. Who could help you check kindly?
4. What would your model window show?



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 Two Window Views

Draw two sides of a little house.

Put the same lamp in one room.

From here I can see _____

From there I can see _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

