Jelly

The Lights Across the Lake

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Where have you seen reflections?
2. What might light look like on water?
3. What could change as you walk?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Ben walked beside the lake with Mum.
Mina and her dad came too.
The sky was growing dark blue.
Lights shone on the opposite shore.



A row of lamps stood by a cafe.
Their reflections stretched across the water.
Ben saw long golden lines below them.
Small ripples broke the lines apart.



They followed the wide lakeside path.

Ben looked across the water again.

The golden lines seemed to move with him.

He stopped beside a wooden bench.



"Are those lights following us?"

Ben pointed toward the water.

Mina stopped beside him to look.

The lamps still shone by the cafe.



Dad asked which lights Ben meant.
Ben pointed below the far shore.
"Those long ones on the lake."
Mum pointed to the actual lamp posts.



The posts stood beside a red cafe roof.

None had wheels or moving parts.

Ben watched them for a moment.

Their bases stayed in the same places.



"Maybe a boat has more lights."

Mina looked along the dark water.

There was no boat near the reflections.

Dad kept everyone on the fenced path.



They stood behind the lakeside rail.
Mum chose one lamp to watch.
It stood beside the cafe door.
Ben found its golden line below.



Dad stood near the left end of the bench.

Mum stayed at the right end.

Ben stood beside Dad to look.

Mina waited with Mum by the rail.



"Where does the bright line point?"

Dad asked from Ben's place.

Ben traced it through the air.

It seemed to come toward his feet.



Mina looked from Mum's different place.
Her golden line seemed nearer her.
Ben could not see through Mina's eyes.
He asked to stand beside her.



They swapped places beside their parents.

Now Ben looked from the right.

The bright water seemed to have shifted.

The lamp stayed beside the cafe door.



Mina looked from Ben's old place.
She pointed toward a different bright strip.
"It looks different from here."
Dad watched the fixed lamp with her.



Ben walked back left beside Mum.

He kept his eyes on the lamp.

The lamp did not leave its post.

Its shining path seemed to turn again.



They stopped away from other walkers.

Dad brought a small notebook out.

Ben drew the lake as an oval.

Mina added the cafe across it.



They marked one lamp by the door.
Ben drew two spots on their shore.
One was left of the bench.
The other was near its right end.



Mum drew a line from each spot.
Both pointed toward the same lamp.
"We looked from different places."
Ben followed the lines with his finger.



A breeze made ripples on the lake.
The gold reflection broke into little pieces.
Some flashed bright and some went dark.
Mina watched from behind the rail.



"The water is moving too."

She pointed to the small waves.

Dad nodded toward the changing surface.

"It reflects light toward our eyes."



He kept his explanation short.

The lamps shone onto the rippled water.

Bright patches sent light to each person.

Moving changed which bright patches they saw.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What seemed to follow Ben?
2. What stayed beside the cafe door?
3. What changed when they swapped places?
4. What did the breeze do to the water?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What might a return walk show?
2. How could they track the same lamp?
3. What would a moving duck show?
4. What else should their drawing include?



Ben looked at his two shore spots.
"So one golden road is not a thing."
He waved a finger above the drawing.
"It is the light we see."



They tried walking the other way.

The adults stayed beside the children.

Ben looked over his shoulder briefly.

The reflection seemed to move back with him.



Then they stopped beside the same bench.

Ben found the lamp by the door again.

It was still in its original place.

The cafe roof had not moved either.



Mina checked a second lamp nearby.
Its reflection also changed as she walked.
The first lamp had not been special.
She added another dot to the drawing.



A duck crossed a patch of gold.
Its body really moved over the lake.
Ben watched it pass a dark post.
The duck went from one side to the other.



"That duck changed its place."
Ben pointed from the post to the duck.
Mum watched the moving bird with him.
The lamp remained beside the cafe.



Mina drew the duck on their page.

She added a short arrow behind it.

Ben left the lamp dot still.

Their drawing showed two different changes.



They sat on the bench for a rest.
Mum poured warm drinks from a flask.
The lights broke gently on the ripples.
Ben watched without walking for a while.



The bright patches still flickered and shifted.

The breeze was moving the water.

Ben held his cup with both hands.

"Not every change came from our feet."



Dad pointed to their observation page.

They had changed places on the path.

The water had changed shape as well.

The lamps had stayed where they were.



Mina added tiny waves inside the oval.

Ben drew footprints beside the two spots.

They kept both clues on the page.

Mum put the flask back in her bag.



On the way home, they passed a shop.
Its window showed Ben's reflection.
He walked beside Mum and looked.
The reflected boy moved beside him.



"That surface is much smoother."

Mum pointed to the flat glass.

Ben could see his shirt clearly.

The lake had broken the light into pieces.



They did not stop in the doorway.
They watched from the clear pavement.
Mina lifted one hand beside Dad.
Her window reflection lifted its hand too.



At home, Ben opened the notebook.
He drew the cafe lamp more carefully.
He added the bench on their shore.
Mina's wave marks stayed in the middle.



He told Max about the lake next day.

Max looked at the two viewing spots.

"Did you walk to the far shore?"

Ben shook his head beside the drawing.

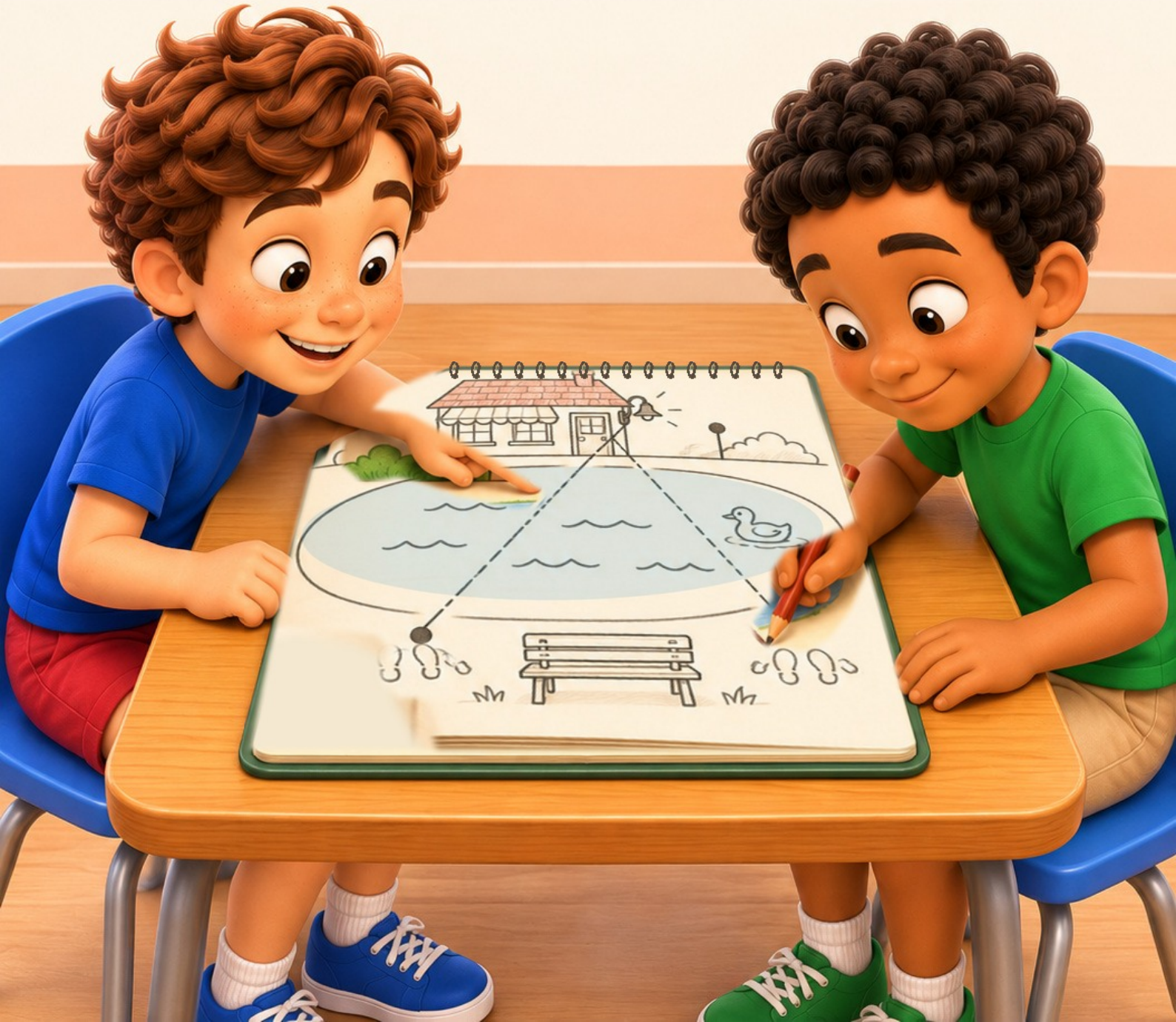


"We stayed on our side."

He pointed to the fixed lamp dot.

"We checked it against the cafe door."

Max traced the two lines toward it.



Ms. Lee found a photo of a lake.
It showed lamps and bright broken lines.
Ben could point out both kinds of light.
The real lamps stood above the water.



He left the drawing in his notebook.
It reminded him where they had looked.
There was room for another lake visit.
He wanted to watch on a calmer evening.



That weekend, Ben returned with Mum.
He stopped beside the familiar bench.
The cafe lamps were just coming on.
He looked at the shore before the water.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. What stayed fixed on the far shore?
2. Why did they mark two viewing spots?
3. What made the reflections flicker?
4. How was the duck different?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. What fixed object could help you check?
2. How could you compare two views?
3. What does a smooth window reflect?
4. What could you observe next time?



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 Places to Look

Draw a light and two viewing spots.

Show something that stays in place.

I looked from _____

The light stayed _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

