



The Map's Missing Star

A story for Oliver

TuckBook

The main character of this story: **Oliver**

“The route is broken!” Oliver cried. He bent over a parchment map spread across the old attic chest, his tousled brown hair nearly tickling the ink. In his blue pyjamas, he traced a shining golden line with one careful finger. The line began at a drawing of the attic chest, curled past a little staircase, and ended at a plump reading chair. But just before the chair, it stopped beneath an empty star-shaped space. “I want to finish the map,” said Oliver, “and follow it to my favourite reading place.”





Dad, who stood beside him in a green cardigan, lifted the silver lantern from the chest. Inside its glass belly, a moonstone glowed with pale, pearly light. It was not a fire lantern at all. When Dad tipped it gently, the moonstone's glow slid across the map. "Perhaps the map has left us a clue," he said. His clean-shaven face crinkled into a thinking smile.

Oliver squinted. The stair symbol had three tiny gold dashes beside it. The red backpack symbol had one fuzzy-looking red mark. The chair had a silver dot like the moonstone. "The stairs come first," Oliver decided. "Dad, will you come on the expedition?"





“Captain Oliver leads,” said Dad. He carried the lantern, and Oliver tucked the parchment map under his arm. Together they went down the indoor stairs, Dad close behind him. At the third step, Oliver stopped so suddenly that Dad nearly bumped his cardigan into him. Three gold dashes were painted on the map, and three brass tacks gleamed along the stair rail. “One, two, three,” Oliver whispered. On the third tack, something red was caught in the groove: a tiny curl of fuzzy felt.





Oliver held the red curl beside the map. It matched the fuzzy red mark exactly. “The backpack!” he said. He hurried only as far as Dad’s hand could reach his shoulder, then marched into the upstairs hall, where the red backpack waited on its hook. It looked ordinary, except for one strap that had a loose red thread sticking out like a mouse’s whisker.



“May I search?” Oliver asked. Dad nodded, setting the lantern on the floor where its moonstone made a bright puddle of light. Oliver opened the backpack’s zipper. Inside were a pencil case, two crumpled paper airplanes, and his favourite book, The Moon Whale. Under the book lay a flat felt star, yellow on one side and red on the other.



Oliver lifted it by one point.
“It is the missing star!” Then he noticed something else: a little silver dot was sewn into its centre. Just like the dot by the reading-chair symbol. “The star goes on the map,” he said, “but the silver dot tells us where the map ends.” He kept the felt star safely in his palm, grabbed The Moon Whale with his other hand, and led Dad toward the reading corner.





At the chair, Oliver laid the parchment map across Dad's knee. The empty star-shaped space was waiting at the end of the golden route. Dad held the map's corners flat, but he did not place the star. Oliver turned the felt star yellow-side up, lined up its five points, and pressed it into the space. Click. A hidden bit of gold thread beneath it caught the moonstone glow, and the route shone all the way from attic chest to chair.





“Completed by Captain Oliver,” Dad announced. Oliver climbed into the reading chair, with Dad settling beside him. He opened *The Moon Whale* to the first page while the finished map rested on the little table nearby, its golden route leading exactly where it should. The moonstone lantern glimmered once, as if it had been waiting for the story to begin.





Good night, Oliver.



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After the story



WHAT THIS STORY IS ABOUT

Oliver and Dad follow a moonstone-lit parchment map through their home to repair its missing star. Their gentle indoor expedition ends in the reading corner, where a favourite story is ready to begin.

TALK ABOUT IT AFTER READING

After reading, ask: “Oliver, which moment felt the warmest or bravest today?”

AND TOMORROW...

The next morning, a tiny silver dot appears on the map beside a drawing of the cupboard under the stairs.





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Oliver and Dad follow a moonstone-lit parchment map through their home to repair its missing star. Their gentle indoor expedition ends in the reading corner, where a favourite story is ready to begin.

5 minutes of reading



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