

The Last Lantern Home



Trust • camp cabins & scout circles

A cabin prepares a welcome for another group, and discovers that helping includes listening.

Four reader parts. About 2–4 minutes of reading, or 12–20 minutes with discussion and the closing activity.

Free preview booklet. Read together or pass. Home-print edition; this is not a bound-book order.

READER 1 / PASS THE STORY

Rain canceled the evening trail walk, so Cabin Seven decided to make a welcome path inside the hall. They lined up battery lanterns from the door to the supper tables. Ari wanted a grand entrance, with every light flashing. Bo wanted signs. Tess tested a lantern, then quietly turned its flashing setting off. Nobody noticed; everyone was busy making the hall impressive.

READER 2 / PASS THE STORY

The visiting cabin arrived wet and tired. Their leader stopped just inside the doorway. One child covered their eyes. Another could not tell which way the bright line led because it curled around three chairs and a pile of bags. Ari rushed forward to explain the beautiful route. Tess asked a different question: “Would you like it quieter?” The child nodded.

PAUSE TOGETHER

How could Ari respond to Dev without making a promise he cannot keep?

There is no single right answer. Hear each other before continuing.

READER 3 / PASS THE STORY

They stopped the flashing lights. Bo made a single arrow, large enough to read from the door. Ari moved the bags and straightened the path. It looked much less spectacular. The visitors walked in easily. One of them, Dev, set down a lantern that had stopped working. “I wanted to help too,” he said. Ari nearly promised to fix it, though he had no idea how.

READER 4 / PASS THE STORY

Instead Ari asked Dev to help choose places for the working lanterns. Dev put one beside the coat hooks and another near the water jug. At supper, no one praised the entrance. They found their coats, poured their drinks, and sat together. Ari watched the room for a while. Then he moved the last lantern to the empty end of the table, where there was space for two more bowls.

Take a breath. Then turn the page for your conversation.

After the last line

1. When did the welcome become useful rather than impressive?
2. How can we find out what help someone actually wants?
3. Which quiet job makes our own gatherings work?

A SMALL THING TO DO TOGETHER

Name an often-unnoticed helpful job. Offer to share one at the next gathering; no one has to volunteer.

Host notes: Invite four readers, rotate in pairs, or let one person read it all. Listening and passing count.

Suggested for ages 8+ with a facilitator who has previewed the story. Discuss the characters rather than your own life whenever you prefer.

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