

# The Sound We Could Not Name



**Listening** · clubs, families & camp groups

A mysterious sound on a homemade recording sends a group comparing what each person noticed.

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

For their town sound project, the club recorded a minute in the square. Back inside, they recognized the fountain, a bicycle bell, and someone dropping a spoon. Then came three soft knocks, a pause, and one more knock. Nobody remembered hearing them outdoors. “A woodpecker,” said Max. “A loose shutter,” said Sal. Lina thought it sounded like a person.

#### READER 2 / PASS THE STORY

They replayed the minute. Max listened only for wings. Sal listened for wind. Lina watched the window as if the answer might pass outside. Each repetition seemed to strengthen a different theory. Their facilitator asked them to describe the sound without naming its source. Four knocks, they agreed. Hollow. Close. A scrape afterward. Now they had something shared to work with.

#### PAUSE TOGETHER

How could they compare theories fairly instead of listening only for evidence that supports their own?

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

### READER 3 / PASS THE STORY

They drew where everyone had stood. Near the recorder, Sal had been holding a cardboard collection box. Max remembered a gust scattering their permission slips. Lina remembered Sal catching the papers against the box. Sal looked down at her hands. She tapped the empty box three times, paused, then tapped once more. The room went quiet.

### READER 4 / PASS THE STORY

The sound was close, though not perfectly identical. They labeled it “probably the collection box” and kept that uncertainty in their final project. Beneath the recording they displayed their three original guesses. At the exhibition, visitors enjoyed making their own. Max still looked for a woodpecker when they returned to the square. This time he heard a shutter too, and the fountain, and the small sounds of his friends beside him.

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

# After the last line

1. Why did describing the sound help?
2. What is useful about saying “probably” when you are not certain?
3. When have two people noticed different parts of the same moment?

## A SMALL THING TO DO TOGETHER

Sit quietly for twenty seconds, then each name a sound you noticed. No recording is needed; compare observations without ranking them.

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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