

THE YARNFIRE CHRONICLES / SEASON ONE



A Star Between Stations

AN ILLUSTRATED READ-ALOUD COMPANION

Sample edition / Original illustrations / yarnfire.com

A Star Between Stations



An original read-aloud companion

The Yarnfire Chronicles / Season One. Read pages 2-4 before playing. Pages 5-6 contain the two possible endings: save them until after the game. Page 7 belongs to your crew.

At the last platform

The station clock had no hands. Instead, a tiny moon moved around its face. When it reached midnight, a train the color of deep water slid out of the fog.

An invitation

Mara stood beside the open door, holding a lantern. "There is room," she said. "There is always room for travelers who are willing to notice one another." Inside, the windows reflected stars that were not in the sky.

Read together

If this train stopped near your home, what one small thing would you bring aboard?

The empty place on the chart



A quiet problem

The train moved without a jolt. Tea trembled in porcelain cups. Above the carriage door hung a chart of constellations. One little circle was empty. Mara looked at it for a long moment.

The conductor asks

"That star guides us to the dawn station," she said. "Without it, we can keep moving, but we will not know when we have arrived." Nobody shouted. Nobody blamed the sky. The passengers drew their chairs closer.

Three travelers

One offered to look carefully. Another offered to connect what they found. A third promised to listen before touching the controls. Their skills were different, which made them useful together.

A question for the room

When has someone noticed something small that helped you?

Three ordinary wonders



The table by the window

On the table sat a compass, a folded ticket and a cup of tea. The compass glittered with frost. The ticket carried a message in narrow handwriting. In the tea, three points of light appeared, vanished and returned.

Two paths

At one end of the carriage, a door led to the engine room. At the other, stairs climbed to the observatory. Both paths belonged to the same train. The passengers did not need the same first idea; they needed a choice they could explain together.

Pause the reading here

Play The Midnight Express. Inspect all three objects before choosing a route. Keep pages 5 and 6 closed until your group has made its final promise.

Our prediction

What do you think the missing star needs?

Ending A: the homecoming



SPOILER / Read after choosing the sky

The little star had not been stolen. It had hidden inside the compass, away from the cold. When the passengers found it, its light shivered like a candle in a doorway.

The promise

"You can guide us," they told it, "and then we will help you home." At dawn, they opened their hands beneath the observatory roof. The star rose slowly, as if learning to trust the air again.

A place in the sky

Its constellation brightened. Through the windows, every traveler could see the dawn station. Mara touched the brim of her cap. "A good journey," she said, "sometimes ends by letting someone go." One light above the train winked twice.

After the last line

What helped your crew decide to return the star? What does a good welcome home feel like?

Ending B: the lantern keepers



SPOILER / Read after choosing the train

The little star had hidden from the cold inside the compass. It could show the train the way, but it did not want to travel alone again. The passengers listened.

The promise

They lined a lantern with a soft scrap of velvet and hung it in the observation carriage. The star curled inside it. Its light warmed the seats, the window frames and the hands resting on the table.

A place aboard

At the dawn station, a new traveler hesitated at the door. The lantern brightened. "There is room," the passengers said, before Mara could speak. The train had gained a guide. The crew had made a home.

After the last line

What did your crew do to make room for one another tonight?

The next page is yours



Give the star its name

Write the name your crew chose and the story behind it.

A postcard from the train

Imagine the next passenger. What do they carry? What might they need? Write a few lines together, taking turns adding a sentence.

Carry one thing forward

Choose one phrase from tonight to bring to your next gathering. The next seasonal worlds are planned; your handwritten story can continue now.
