

(4) The Lantern Festival Surprise(480 字/F-K Scale 4.2)

In the quiet town of Willow Creek, a girl named Lily was getting ready for the Lantern Festival. Every year, families met by the river to light lanterns, make wishes, and watch them float into the night sky. The town square was always full of music, laughter, and colorful lights.

Lily had seen the festival before, but this year was special. She would make her own lantern. "I want mine to shine the brightest," she said to her grandfather. He smiled and gave her a box filled with paper, glue, string, and sparkles.

She spent all day building her lantern. It was shaped like a star with gold and silver edges. Inside, she wrote a message: "Be kind, be brave." She folded the paper, glued each part, and checked it carefully. Her fingers were sticky, but she didn't mind. The message was from her heart.

That evening, the town square was filled with people. Lanterns of every shape and color hung between trees and booths. Red, blue, green, and yellow lanterns danced in the breeze. The smell of sweet buns and roasted corn floated through the air. A band played cheerful music while children played games and ran around in circles.

Lily walked toward the river, carrying her lantern carefully. Just as she reached the lighting area, she noticed a small boy sitting alone near the fence. His eyes were full of tears. Beside him was a crumpled lantern, its frame bent and torn. Lily walked over and gently asked, "Are you okay?" The lanterns swayed gently, and children pointed at their favorites. Lily could feel the excitement building as more people gathered near the water, ready to let their dreams fly into the sky. The lanterns moved

in the breeze, and children smiled as they looked up at the sky. Lily felt excited as people walked toward the river to let their lanterns go.

The boy sniffled. “I dropped my lantern. It broke, and now I can’t make my wish.” He looked down, sad and quiet.

Lily smiled and said, “Would you like to light one with me?” The boy looked surprised. He nodded, and Lily helped him tie his wish to her lantern. They walked to the river together.

“Ready?” Lily asked. The boy gave a small smile, and together they released the lantern into the sky. It floated upward slowly, glowing softly in the dark. The golden star shimmered as it joined the other lanterns, carrying two wishes instead of one.

People around them clapped, and even strangers paused to admire the beautiful lantern. Lily’s grandfather placed a hand on her shoulder. “That was a kind thing to do,” he said. Lily nodded. “It felt right,” she answered.

From that night on, people in Willow Creek remembered Lily’s lantern. It was not the biggest or brightest, but it showed everyone that sharing kindness is a beautiful thing.