

1.The Lantern Boy

Every year, the small town of Riverhill held a big Lantern Night Festival. Children made colorful lanterns and carried them through the streets. Some lanterns were shaped like stars. Others looked like animals or flowers.

Tommy, a quiet boy who loved drawing, wanted to make the best lantern this year. He saved paper, collected bamboo sticks, and worked every afternoon after school. His mother watched him cutting, tying, and painting. “You’re working very hard,” she said. Tommy smiled shyly.

But three days before Lantern Night, something terrible happened. A strong wind blew through the window and knocked the lantern off the table. The frame broke, and the painted paper tore into pieces. Tommy stared at the floor. His chest felt tight. He wanted to cry.

The next day at school, his friends talked excitedly about their lanterns. “Mine is a dragon!” “Mine is a spaceship!” Tommy stayed quiet. His friend Lily noticed and asked, “Are you okay?” Tommy told her everything.

Lily thought for a moment. “Let’s make a new one together,” she said. She gathered their classmates, and soon five children were helping—cutting bamboo, gluing paper, and painting bright colors. Tommy guided them, and the lantern slowly took shape.

On Lantern Night, Tommy held a glowing lantern shaped like a phoenix. People stopped and stared. “What a beautiful lantern!” they said.

Tommy whispered, “I didn’t make it alone.”

Lily smiled. “That’s why it’s special.”

The sky was filled with light that night, but Tommy felt something brighter inside his heart—friendship.

2. Milo and the Forest Lesson

Milo the mouse lived in a quiet corner of the Greenleaf Forest. He loved exploring, but he often rushed through everything—running too fast, talking too quickly, and making mistakes that worried his mother.

One sunny morning, Milo decided to look for the Golden Acorn, a forest treasure that many animals believed brought good luck. “I’ll find it before lunchtime!” he said proudly.

Milo raced through the forest. He bumped into a rock, slipped on wet leaves, and almost fell into a stream. “Slow down,” warned Oliver the owl. “The forest teaches only those who pay attention.” But Milo didn’t listen.

After running for a long time, Milo stopped in a deep part of the forest. He looked around. Trees stood tall and close together. Shadows covered the ground. He had no idea which way he had come from.

Milo’s heart started to beat fast. “I’m lost...” he whispered.

Just then, Oliver flew down from a branch. “Still rushing?” he asked gently. Milo lowered his head. “I should have listened.”

Oliver guided Milo to sit on a rock. “Take a breath. Look, listen, and think.” Milo closed his eyes. He heard water flowing, birds singing, and wind brushing the leaves. Slowly, he noticed a familiar path—the one near his favorite berry bush.

“Thank you!” Milo said.

Oliver nodded. “The forest is full of lessons. The first one is slowing down.”

Milo walked home carefully, paying attention to every sound and sight. He didn’t find the Golden Acorn that day, but he found something better—patience.

