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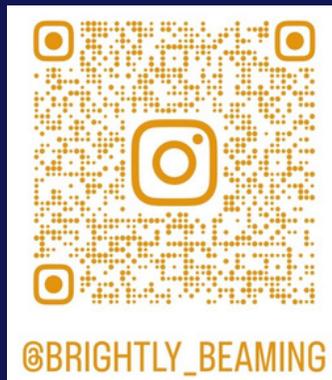


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The Boy and the Star

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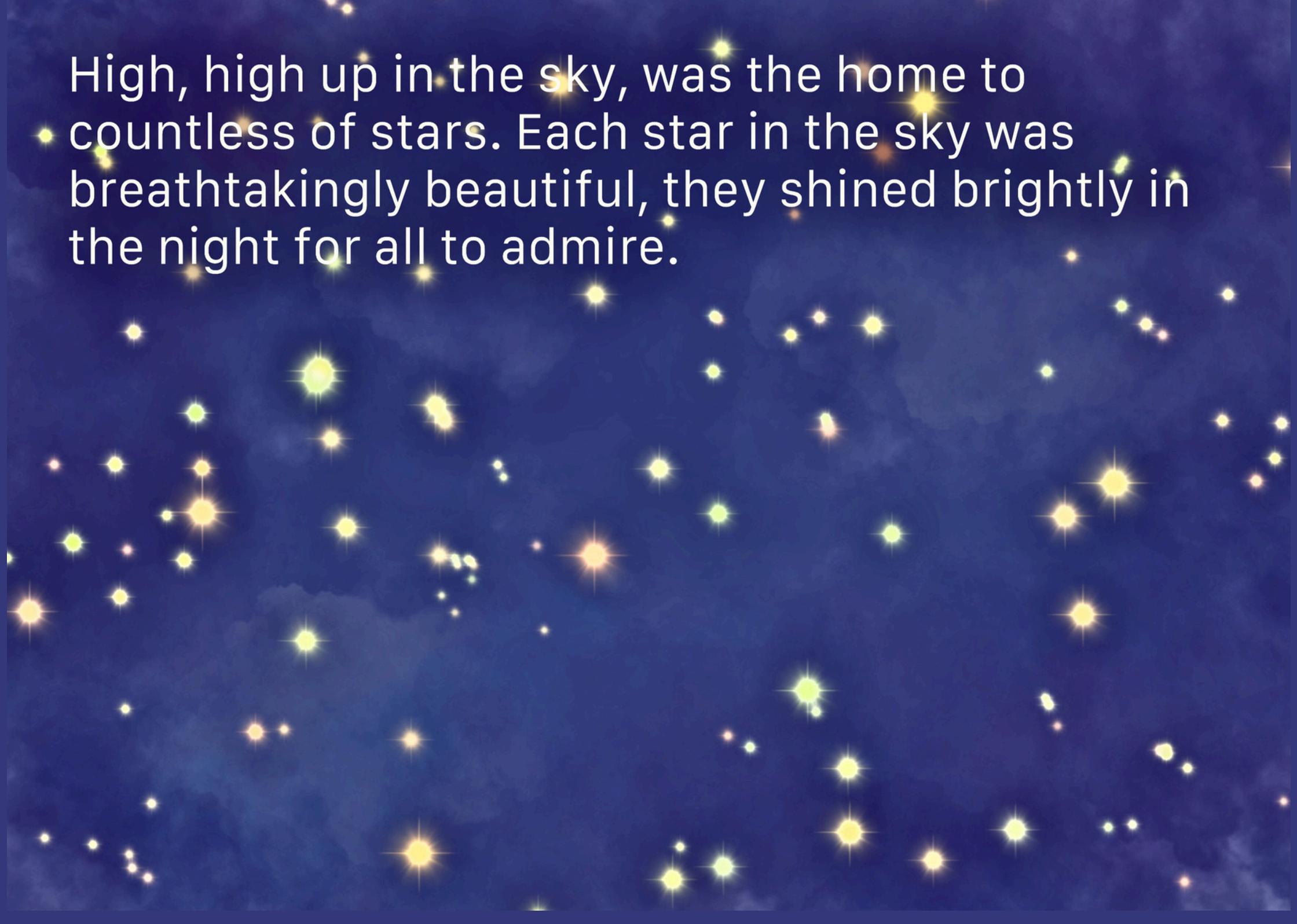
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The BOY and The
The and STAR



High, high up in the sky, was the home to countless of stars. Each star in the sky was breathtakingly beautiful, they shined brightly in the night for all to admire.



All stars were very proud of their beauty as they saw many people admiring them from below.



One star, though, became arrogant. He believed himself to be better and more beautiful than all the rest. Soon, all the stars slowly moved away from him, leaving the star all on his own.



The star didn't care in the slightest, all he wanted was to be the brightest in the sky. So one day, he had tried to outshine the sun.



Outraged, the Sun commanded the moon to punish the star. So, the moon decided to send the star down to Earth.



The star begged the moon to stay as he apologized over and over. However, the moon sent the star tumbling across the sky so fast that the star left a trail of bright light behind.



After a very long time, the star landed on the Earth with a very loud thud. He looked around him and saw it was very dark; he couldn't even see the other stars. The only source of light was coming from a lamp within an old and small shack.



A small boy emerged out of the house and gasped upon seeing the star, he had never seen something so beautiful. The star on the other hand, was terrified and shocked, he had never seen humans so close up before.



The boy immediately asked the star why he was on Earth. The star said he had fallen out of the sky. He had once resided on the highest mountain peak and needed to return quickly.



But, the star said, he didn't know his way around Earth at all. So, he asked the boy to accompany him on his journey in exchange. The boy, still mesmerized by the star, immediately agreed.



The star wanted to set out right away but the boy was very hesitant. He said the star was bright but the dark was more scary. He was scared of whatever hid in the darkness.



The star then hopped onto the prince and emitted a bright light. "With my light to guide you, you shall have nothing to fear."



So, the boy and the star set off on their journey. During their journey the star questioned why the boy was so afraid of the dark.



The boy said that he used to live with his big sister, they didn't know who their parents were. But they had each other and that was enough.



One day though, the sister heard noises coming out from the house and she went to go check it out. However, she never came back. The whole night, the boy peeked through the window but could only see faint shapes in the darkness. The darkness was scary, everything was unknown and it could take anything from him.



After hearing the boy's story, the star then said confidently "with my light, you shall always know where you are headed. Now nothing can escape your eyes." and strived to shine even brighter.



While they were there, the star looked around and saw just how huge the earth was. And from Earth, the stars residing in the night were so small in comparison. There were so many of them yet they were not nearly as splendid the star thought of them to be.



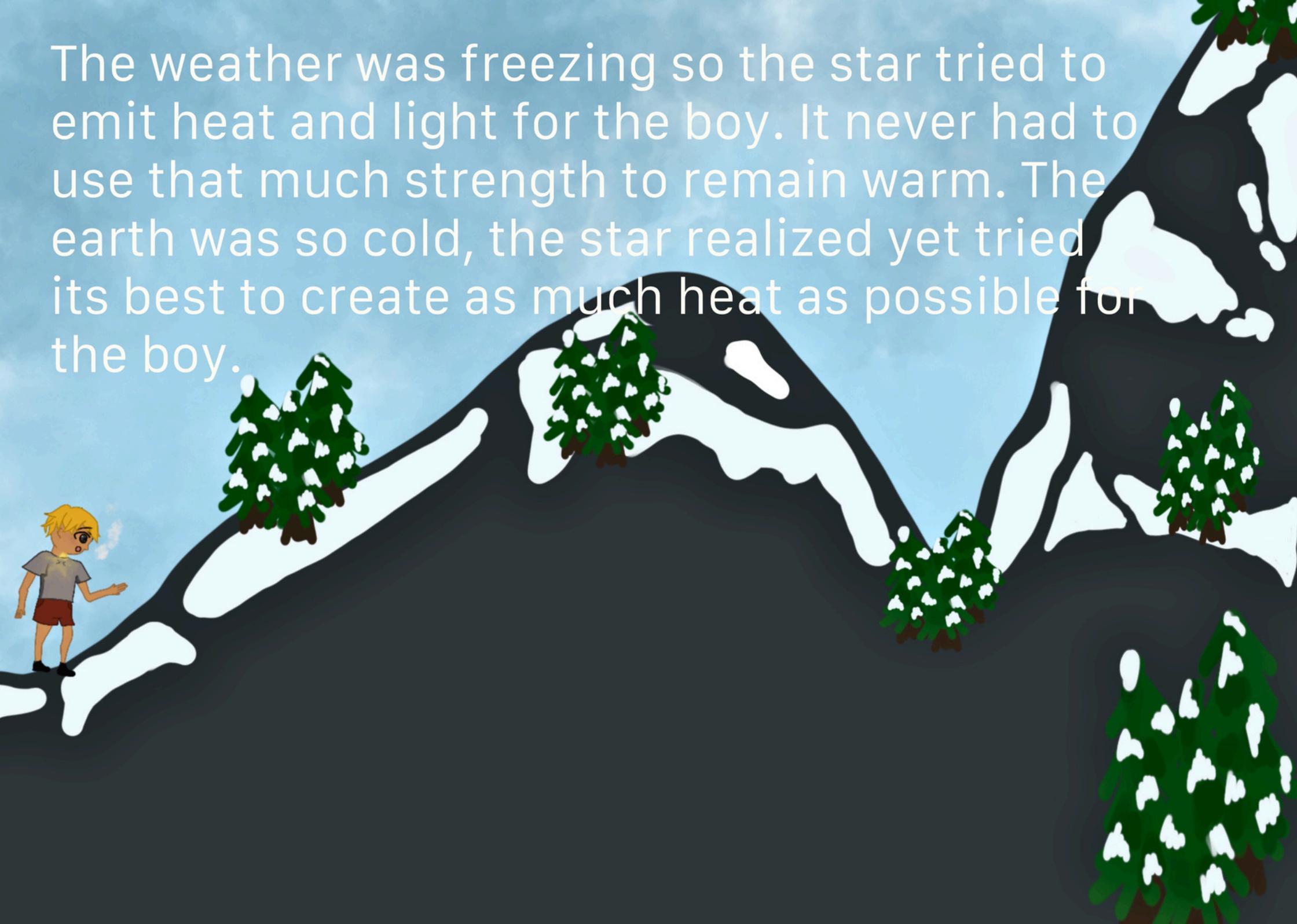
In the morning, they finally reached the peak of the mountain. At the bottom, the star had gotten snow on it, it was so freezing that it immediately dulled the star's glow.



The star hurriedly hid in the boy's shirt. The boy was surprised. "I thought nothing could hurt you." The star responded "I thought so too."



The weather was freezing so the star tried to emit heat and light for the boy. It never had to use that much strength to remain warm. The earth was so cold, the star realized yet tried its best to create as much heat as possible for the boy.



As they reached the top, the star was almost drained of its power. It had used most of its life power in order to stay warm.



Once they reached the top, the star had realized it had almost no light left. It had to choose between granting the boy's wish or going up.



The star looked up at the sky and saw the countless tiny stars. The boy, too, stared at the night sky. "What's it like up there?"



The star stared at the sky which then, even with all the stars, seemed so lonely. He glanced at the boy, the one who had truly brought him joy. "It is beautiful."



The star then asked the boy what his wish was.



The boy responded for the star to always continue shining, that way he could remember the warmth it had provided him. He wanted to see the star every night; his whole life was cold and dark so he wanted the star to provide him a light that'd shine with him forever.



The star, after hearing the boy's words, asked the boy if he had a jar.



Confused yet obedient, the boy reached into his pocket and reached out for a small, clear jar.



The star slipped into the bottle and, exerting the last of its strength, summoned all of its might to explode into a fantastic supernova.



"This way, I can provide you a light for eternity."
the star said.

The boy hugged the jar tightly, now both of them
wouldn't be alone.



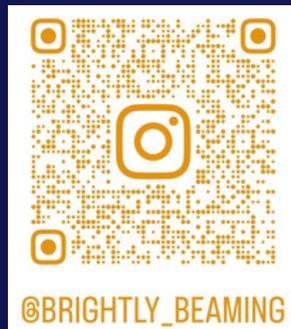
The End

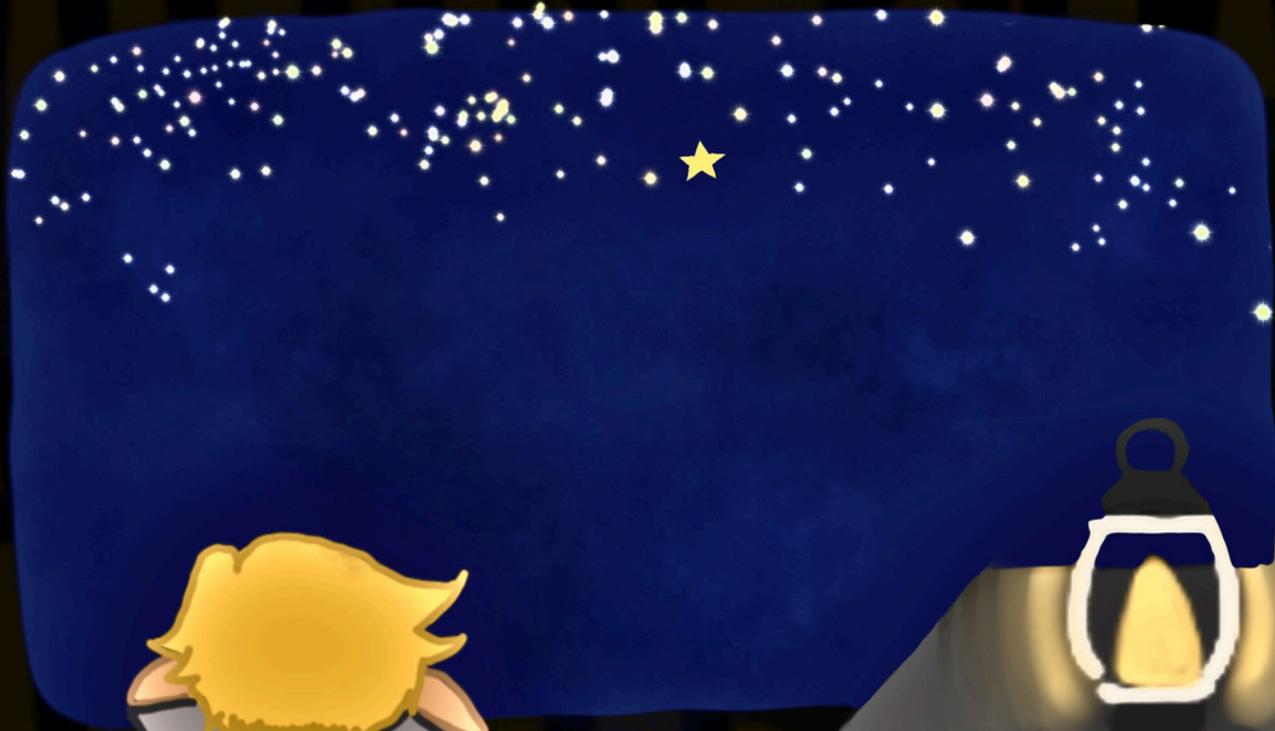
The text "The End" is rendered in a white, stylized font against a dark blue background. The letter 'T' has a wide, flat top. The 'E' is blocky with a small gap between the top and bottom bars. The 'n' and 'd' are more cursive, with the 'd' featuring a long, looping tail that ends in a small, five-pointed star.



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