

**FLEYDO ENGLISH SCHOOL**

Story Material

# The Secret of Starlight Lake

*An enchanting adventure about a brave girl who discovers a magical lake and must save it from danger.*

**Level:** B1 (Intermediate)**Age Group:** Kids (6-10)**Skill:** Reading**Topic:** Nature & Environment**Duration:** ~35 minutes**Pages:** 12 story pages

## Learning Objectives

- ✓ Read and understand a B1-level adventure story
  - ✓ Learn 15 new vocabulary words in context
- ✓ Practise reading comprehension with multiple-choice questions
  - ✓ Understand story structure: setting, problem, solution
- ✓ Discuss environmental themes: light pollution and nature

## Part 1 – The Story

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### Chapter 1: The Curious Girl

Maya lived in a small village at the edge of a great forest. She was ten years old, with dark curly hair and bright green eyes that were always looking for something interesting. While other children played in the village square, Maya preferred to explore the meadows and streams near her home. She had already discovered three hidden caves, a family of hedgehogs, and an old stone bridge that nobody else knew about. Her grandmother often said, "Maya, your curiosity will lead you to something extraordinary one day." Maya always smiled when she heard this, because she believed it was true.

One warm autumn evening, Maya was walking along the forest path when she noticed something strange. A faint blue light was flickering between the trees, far away from the main trail. She had walked this path hundreds of times before, but she had never seen anything like it. Her heart was beating fast with excitement. "I should probably go home," she whispered to herself. But her feet were already moving towards the light. The deeper she walked into the forest, the brighter the light became. The trees grew taller and older, and the air smelled like wild flowers and rain.

### Chapter 2: The Hidden Lake

After walking for twenty minutes, Maya pushed through a thick curtain of ivy and stepped into the most beautiful place she had ever seen. In front of her was a perfectly round lake, surrounded by ancient willow trees. But this was no ordinary lake. The water was glowing with a soft, silvery-blue light, as if thousands of tiny stars were swimming beneath the surface. Fireflies danced above the water, and the reflections on the surface looked like a moving painting. "It is real," Maya breathed. "A magical lake." She knelt beside the water and touched it gently with her fingertips. The water was warm, and where she touched it, the glow became even brighter.

### Chapter 3: The Talking Fox

"You should not touch the water with dirty hands," said a voice behind her. Maya jumped and turned around. Sitting on a mossy rock was a fox with unusual silver fur that shimmered in the lake's light. "Did you just... speak?" Maya asked, her eyes wide with surprise. "Of course I did," the fox replied calmly. "Everything speaks near Starlight Lake. The magic here gives us the ability to communicate with humans. My name is Finn." Maya sat down slowly, trying to understand what was happening. "I am Maya," she said. "How long has this lake been here?" Finn tilted his head. "It has been here for hundreds of years, perhaps thousands. But very few humans have ever found it."

Finn explained that Starlight Lake was the heart of the forest. Its magic kept the trees healthy, the rivers clean, and the animals safe. "The lake collects starlight every

night," Finn said, walking slowly around the shore. "It stores the energy and shares it with everything in the forest. Without the lake, the forest would slowly die." Maya looked at the glowing water with new respect. "But why are you telling me all of this?" she asked. Finn's golden eyes became serious. "Because something is wrong. The lake has been getting weaker. Every night, there is less light than the night before. We need help, and the lake chose you."

## Chapter 4: The Fading Light

Over the next few days, Maya visited the lake every evening after school. Each time, she noticed that the glow was slightly dimmer than before. The fireflies were fewer, and some of the willow trees had begun to lose their leaves, even though it was only early autumn. Finn introduced her to the other animals who lived near the lake: a wise old owl named Professor Hoot, a family of rabbits, and a cheerful otter called Splash. They were all worried. "Last winter, the lake was so bright that we never needed moonlight," Professor Hoot said from his branch. "Now I can barely see the glow from up here. Something is blocking the starlight from reaching the water."

## Chapter 5: The Discovery

Maya decided to investigate. She climbed the tallest hill near the lake with Finn and looked down at the forest from above. That is when she saw it. On the other side of the hill, someone had built a large wooden fence around a clearing. Inside the fence, there were bright electric lights on tall poles, shining upwards into the sky all night long. "That is new," Finn said quietly. "Those lights appeared about two months ago." Maya understood immediately. "Light pollution!" she exclaimed. "Those artificial lights are so bright that the starlight cannot reach the lake properly. The stars are still there, but the lake cannot collect their energy because of those lights."

## Chapter 6: The Plan

Maya gathered all the forest animals for a meeting by the lake shore. "We need a plan," she said confidently. "We cannot just destroy the lights because they belong to someone. But we can find out who put them there and explain the problem." Splash the otter clapped his paws together. "Yes! Talking is always better than fighting!" The next morning, Maya walked to the clearing and found a friendly farmer named Mr. Ellis. He had recently built a greenhouse and installed bright lights to help his plants grow during the night. "I had no idea the lights were causing problems," Mr. Ellis said, looking genuinely concerned. "I just wanted my tomatoes to grow faster."

## Chapter 7: Working Together

Maya had an idea. "What if you used special shields on your lights?" she suggested. "You could point the light downward towards your plants instead of letting it shine up into the

sky. That way, your tomatoes will still grow, and the starlight can reach the forest." Mr. Ellis thought about this carefully. "That is actually a brilliant idea," he said with a smile. "I will also add timers so the lights turn off at midnight. Plants need darkness too, you know." Together, Maya and Mr. Ellis spent the whole weekend building light shields from recycled materials. The rabbits and Splash watched from the bushes, cheering silently whenever a shield was successfully installed.

## Chapter 8: The Stars Return

On the first night after they had finished, Maya ran to Starlight Lake as fast as she could. Finn was already waiting for her, his silver fur shining with excitement. "Look!" he said. Maya looked at the lake and gasped. The water was glowing brighter than she had ever seen it. Streams of silver and blue light were pouring down from the sky, filling the lake with energy. The fireflies returned in their hundreds, dancing and spinning in joyful patterns. The willow trees seemed to stand taller, and their leaves turned a deeper, healthier green. "You did it, Maya," Professor Hoot hooted from above. "You saved Starlight Lake!"

## Chapter 9: The Guardian

As Maya stood by the water, the lake itself seemed to glow even more brightly around her feet. She felt a warm, gentle energy flowing through her body, like drinking hot chocolate on a winter day. "The lake is thanking you," Finn explained softly. "It has chosen you as its guardian. From now on, you will always be able to find your way here, no matter how dark the forest is. And you will always be able to understand the animals who live near the lake." Maya felt tears of happiness in her eyes. "I promise to protect this place," she whispered. "Always." From that day on, Maya visited Starlight Lake every week. She made sure no new threats came to the forest, and she taught other children in her village about the importance of protecting nature and reducing light pollution.

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## The End

*And on clear nights, if you look carefully towards the edge of the forest, you might see a faint blue glow between the trees. That is Starlight Lake, still shining, still magical, still protected by its guardian, Maya. Some say that if you are brave enough and curious enough, the lake might choose you too. All you have to do is follow the light.*

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## Part 2 – Key Vocabulary

Study these important words from the story. They will help you understand the text and improve your English.

Word	Type	Definition
<b>curiosity</b>	<i>noun</i>	a strong wish to know or learn about something
<b>extraordinary</b>	<i>adjective</i>	very unusual or special; beyond what is normal
<b>flickering</b>	<i>adjective</i>	shining with a light that goes on and off quickly
<b>ancient</b>	<i>adjective</i>	very old; from a long time ago
<b>surface</b>	<i>noun</i>	the top layer or outside part of something
<b>shimmered</b>	<i>verb</i>	shone with a soft light that seemed to move
<b>communicate</b>	<i>verb</i>	to share or exchange information with others
<b>pollution</b>	<i>noun</i>	damage caused to water, air, or land by harmful substances
<b>artificial</b>	<i>adjective</i>	made by people; not natural
<b>investigate</b>	<i>verb</i>	to try to find out the truth about something
<b>recycled</b>	<i>adjective</i>	made from materials that have been used before
<b>guardian</b>	<i>noun</i>	a person who protects or watches over something
<b>meadow</b>	<i>noun</i>	a field of grass, often with wild flowers
<b>genuinely</b>	<i>adverb</i>	in a real and honest way; truly
<b>threat</b>	<i>noun</i>	something that could cause danger or harm

## Part 3 – Comprehension Quiz

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Answer these questions about the story. Circle the correct answer for each question.

### Question 1

**Where did Maya live?**

- A) In a big city near the sea
- B) In a small village at the edge of a forest
- C) On a farm in the mountains
- D) In a house next to a lake

### Question 2

**What colour was the light Maya saw in the forest?**

- A) Bright red
- B) Golden yellow
- C) Faint blue
- D) Deep green

### Question 3

**What was special about Starlight Lake?**

- A) It was the deepest lake in the world
- B) Its water was always frozen
- C) The water glowed with silvery-blue light
- D) It had golden fish

### Question 4

**What was the fox's name?**

- A) Flash
- B) Felix
- C) Finn
- D) Forest

### Question 5

**Why could the animals speak near the lake?**

- A) They learned human language at school
- B) The lake's magic gave them the ability
- C) Maya was dreaming
- D) A wizard cast a spell

### Question 6

**What was causing the lake to lose its light?**

- A) The stars were disappearing
- B) A monster was drinking the water
- C) Bright artificial lights blocked the starlight
- D) Trees were growing too tall

**Question 7****Who had installed the bright lights?**

- A) A group of scientists
- B) A farmer named Mr. Ellis
- C) The village mayor
- D) Maya's grandmother

**Question 8****What solution did Maya suggest?**

- A) Destroy all the lights
- B) Move the greenhouse
- C) Use shields to point the light downward
- D) Cover the lake with a blanket

**Question 9****What happened after the light shields were installed?**

- A) Nothing changed
- B) The lake disappeared
- C) The lake glowed brighter than ever
- D) The tomatoes stopped growing

**Question 10****What did the lake give Maya at the end?**

- A) A bag of golden coins
- B) The role of guardian with special abilities
- C) A magic wand
- D) A silver crown

## Answer Key

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#	Answer	Question
1	B	Where did Maya live?
2	C	What colour was the light Maya saw in the forest?
3	C	What was special about Starlight Lake?
4	C	What was the fox's name?
5	B	Why could the animals speak near the lake?
6	C	What was causing the lake to lose its light?
7	B	Who had installed the bright lights?
8	C	What solution did Maya suggest?
9	C	What happened after the light shields were installed?
10	B	What did the lake give Maya at the end?

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