Suri and the Hidden Helpers

Not every important job happens on stage.



AGES 4-7 | AN ORIGINAL MIMOMANGO STORY



Suri watched the school play from behind a curtain. She did not have a speaking part. Her job was to raise the paper moon when the forest became night.



Out front, the audience clapped for the dancing foxes. Suri held the moon's handle. Nobody could see her. "Perhaps my job doesn't count," she whispered to herself.



The stage went dim. Suri nearly missed her cue. Then she lifted the moon into the gap above the scenery. A silver circle appeared over the painted trees.



The foxes stopped dancing and curled up to sleep. From behind the curtain, Suri heard a small child say, "Look! Night-time!" She held the moon steady.



When the scene ended, she lowered it carefully. Beside her, Mo folded a cloth river. Further back, the teacher followed the music. The hidden space was busy.



During the break, Suri asked Mo whether he wished the audience could see him. "Sometimes," he said. "But look what happens when I move this river."



He lifted one end of the cloth. It rippled into bright waves. Without Mo, it was a folded sheet. With him, it carried a paper boat across the stage.



Suri helped write a list for the programme. Performers, scenery makers, music helpers, costume menders and the grown-ups who kept everything safe. The list reached the bottom of the page.



At the final scene, her moon rose exactly on time. Mo's river rippled underneath. The foxes returned home beneath a sky that two hidden helpers held together.



After the bows, the teacher invited the backstage team forward. Suri carried the paper moon by its handle. Now the audience could see how the night had arrived.



Her family clapped. Suri felt pleased, but she also remembered the child's whisper during the show. Her work had mattered before anyone knew who was doing it.



At home, she pinned the programme above her bed. Her name was there beside Moon Helper. It was a small job title for a whole piece of sky.

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

How did Suri's work help the story?

Which helpful jobs do you notice that happen out of sight?

Choose a favourite moment and draw what happened next.

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