The Jelly Jar Telescope

Pretend equipment, real looking.

A short story to enjoy together



Read slowly. Pause to enjoy the pictures and the words.

The Jelly Jar Telescope

READ TOGETHER

Fenn called his invention a jelly jar telescope. It had a clean empty jar as its base and a cardboard tube resting beside it. There was no glass lens in the tube.

"Will it make the moon bigger?" his sister asked. "No," Fenn admitted. "But it helps me choose one little part of the view." He pointed the tube towards a tree, never the sun.

Through the tube, he saw a branch and one leaf. Without it, he saw the whole garden. His sister tried. "I found a bird," she whispered, holding the tube still.

They took turns looking through the plain cardboard tube from their safe window. The bird hopped out of the circle. Fenn followed slowly, then lowered the tube to find it again.

The Jelly Jar Telescope

READ TOGETHER

Their aunt brought binoculars and showed them how to use them safely under supervision. Those really did make distant things look larger. The cardboard tube had a different, simpler job.

Fenn made a label for his invention: Looking Circle. His sister added a drawing of the leaf. The empty jar became a pencil holder instead of pretending to be scientific equipment.

"A better name," she said. Fenn agreed. He put the tube beside the window. It could help him notice something small without making a promise it could not keep.

LET'S TALK

How was the cardboard tube different from the binoculars?

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