VOKLA / KIDS READERS

When the Moon Tore

ENGLISH STORYBOOK / B1



VOKLA Press

Free student edition

The roundest moon



Every Friday, the village children turned an old white sheet into a theater. A lamp behind it made paper animals appear enormous. This week Nila was in charge of the moon. She cut a perfect circle in a black card so the light could shine through. Her little brother watched her make three circles before she accepted one. “Nobody will notice the edges,” he said. “I will,” she answered. In their play, a fox followed the full moon home.

A small accident



During the last rehearsal, the moon card caught on a nail. When Nila pulled it free, a long piece tore away beside the circle. On the sheet, the moon now had a bright tail. Nila tried to hide it with her thumb. A giant thumb appeared in the sky. Her brother laughed until he saw her face. The doors would open in ten minutes. There was no black card large enough to make another sky.

Someone is hungry



Her brother held a scrap over the tear. Its pointed end curled into the circle and covered part of the light. “Look,” he whispered. “Someone took a bite.” Nila turned the scrap sideways. It looked like a dragon’s head. The bright tail disappeared, but so did half the moon. How could the fox follow it now? From the other side of the sheet, the child playing the fox called, “Excuse me, dragon. Could you leave me enough light to get home?”

The fox makes a deal



That night, the dragon took a bite of moon each time the fox took a step. At the river, the fox stopped. “You can have the moon in the water,” she offered, “if you leave the one in the sky.” The dragon bent to drink. The moon shook in the river, and the audience laughed. Afterward, a little girl asked how they had made the dragon. Nila showed her the torn card. She put it away carefully, with the tear still in it. Next Friday, the dragon already had a part.

AFTER THE STORY

Back to the story

1 **Why does covering the tear with a thumb fail?**

2 **What changes after the brother covers part of the circle?**

YOUR TURN

Give the dragon one line that would change the ending. Explain how.

THREE WORDS FROM THE STORY

puppet • a figure that someone moves

crescent • a thin curved moon shape

rehearsal • a practice performance