Zara
the Starlight Fairy
“This telescope is huge, Kirsty!” Rachel Walker said to her best friend, Kirsty Tate. “I can’t wait to look at the night sky.”

“It’s going to be amazing,” Kirsty agreed as they stared up at the enormous silver telescope.

The girls were spending a week of summer vacation with their parents
at Camp Stargaze, which had its very own observatory for studying the stars. The observatory was a square, white building with a large dome on top, and charts and pictures of the night sky hanging on the walls. In the middle of the observatory stood the gigantic telescope. Professor Hetty, the camp astronomer, was explaining to Rachel, Kirsty, and the other kids about the stars and constellations.

“As you know, this area was chosen for Camp Stargaze because we can get really clear views of the night sky from here,” Professor Hetty reminded them. She was a happy, round-faced woman with twinkling blue eyes and a mop of red hair. “Have any of you ever done a connect-the-dots picture?”
Everyone nodded.

“Well, a constellation is a lot like connect-the-dots!” Professor Hetty explained with a smile. “A constellation is made of individual stars that you join together to make a picture, just like with connect-the-dots. Even though the stars look close together to us here on Earth, sometimes they’re really millions of miles apart! Let’s take a look, okay?”

Professor Hetty pressed a button on the wall. There was a noise overhead, and Rachel and Kirsty glanced up to see
a large section of the domed roof slide back smoothly. This revealed the dark, velvety night sky. Sparkling silver stars twinkled here and there like diamonds in a jewelry box. Everyone gasped and clapped.

“Wonderful!” Professor Hetty said eagerly.
“I never get tired of looking at the night sky. It’s so magical.”

Rachel nudged Kirsty. “Professor Hetty doesn’t know just how magical the nighttime really is!” she whispered.

Kirsty smiled. When she and Rachel had arrived at Camp Stargaze, Ava the
Sunset Fairy had rushed from Fairyland to ask for their help. The girls had learned that Ava and the six other Night Fairies made sure the hours between dusk and dawn were peaceful and happy. Their job was easier with the help of their satin bags of magic fairy dust.

But while the Night Fairies were enjoying a party under the stars with their fairy friends, Jack Frost had broken into the Fairyland Palace with his goblins. The goblins had stolen the magic bags that were hidden under the Night Fairies’ pillows. Then, with a wave of his ice wand, Jack Frost had sent the goblins and the bags spinning away from Fairyland—all the way to the human world. Jack Frost’s plan was to
cause nighttime trouble for both fairies and humans, but Rachel, Kirsty, and the Night Fairies were determined not to let that happen.

“I wonder if we’ll meet another Night Fairy today,” Kirsty murmured to Rachel as they all lined up to look through the telescope. “I’m so glad we found Ava’s and Lexi’s magic bags, but we still have five more to go!”

“Remember, we have to let the magic come to us,” Rachel reminded her.

The girls’ new friend Alex was first to use the telescope, and Professor Hetty showed her how to look through the eyepiece. Alex peered into the telescope eagerly.

“Everything looks so close!” She gasped.
“Can you see any pictures in the stars, Alex?” asked Professor Hetty.

“I think I see something. . . .” Alex leaned in closer to the telescope. “Oh!” She burst out laughing. “I can see a constellation shaped like a toothbrush!”

“Good job,” said Professor Hetty.

“And those of you who aren’t using the telescope should also be able to see it, if you look hard enough.” Rachel and Kirsty gazed intently up at the sky.

“Oh, there it is!” Kirsty exclaimed, pointing out the toothbrush of stars to Rachel. “And it even has bristles!”

“Lucas, it’s your turn,” Professor Hetty said.
Lucas, another one of Rachel and Kirsty’s friends, took Alex’s place at the telescope. He studied the sky for a few minutes and then turned to Professor Hetty.

“That constellation near the toothbrush looks like a pair of pajamas,” he said with a grin.

“Right again!” Professor Hetty smiled. “Did you see the slipper constellation, too, just below the pajamas, Lucas?” Lucas looked again.

“Yes, I can see it now,” he said. “It really is like connect-the-dots!”

After Lucas had finished, it was Rachel’s turn.
“I’ll change the angle of the telescope a little, Rachel,” Professor Hetty told her. “Then you should be able to see something different.”

Rachel looked through the glass eyepiece. At first, she was surprised. The stars looked so close and were so bright! Then, as her eyesight adjusted, she saw the constellation shaped like a slipper that Professor Hetty had mentioned earlier.

“This is amazing!” Rachel gasped.
“Can you see any other constellations, Rachel?” Professor Hetty asked.

Rachel stared at the night sky. For a moment she couldn’t see anything new, and then all of a sudden she noticed that some of the stars seemed to be grouped together in the outline of a face. The
face had spiky hair, a spiky beard, and even a pointy nose.

“I think I see a face,” Rachel said hesitantly.

“A face?” Professor Hetty sounded very surprised. “I wasn’t expecting that!” She gazed up at the night sky, trying to spot it for herself. Meanwhile, Rachel frowned. That face in the stars looked familiar. . . .

“Aha, I see it now!” Professor Hetty exclaimed. “And look, everyone—a star has drifted away from the toothbrush constellation to be part of the face. We’re actually seeing a new constellation forming in front of our very eyes. How amazing! I’ve never seen anything like it!”

“Kirsty, look at this!” Rachel said
quickly, moving aside to let her friend take her place at the telescope.

Kirsty took a good look at the constellation. The drifting star settled into its new place and became part of the face’s spiky beard. Kirsty’s eyes widened as she realized exactly who it was.

The face constellation was Jack Frost!