

Stevie Star...

the star who could not shine



by Dora McLellan
Illustrations by Allison Schneider

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Stevie was a very pretty star way, way up in the sky. He came from a very important family of stars. His father was one of the brightest stars in the sky. His mother was also very bright.

Even his brothers and sisters shined
with great brightness. But not Stevie.
He was afraid to shine.

One night all the stars were just getting
ready to take their places in the sky. “Come
out with us tonight, Stevie,” said his brother.
“Oh no,” said Stevie, “I am so afraid.”

Stevie’s father turned to him. “Just what
kind of star are you?” he asked.
“Whoever heard of a star that wouldn’t shine?”
“But I am afraid to shine,” said Stevie.





At this, all the other stars laughed and laughed. Poor Stevie. He was afraid to shine. Stevie's father turned away in anger. He was very disappointed with his son. For, when Stevie was born, everyone thought that he would outshine every other star in the sky. Everyone thought that he would even outshine his father.

But Stevie would never be
brighter than any other star at all.
Poor Stevie. He was afraid to shine.
All the stars left Stevie by himself.
Stevie cried and cried.

Suddenly a voice called out,
“Don’t cry, Stevie.”
“Who said that?” cried Stevie,
frightened by the voice.
“It was me,” answered the voice.
“Who are you? Where are you?” asked Stevie.
“My name is Sarah Star.
I was once a very bright star.





But now I am too old to go out and shine.
I heard you crying so I thought I would come
over and see if I could help you.

Tell me Stevie, why are you crying?”

“Oh, Sarah Star, I am so unhappy.
All stars want to shine. That is, all but me.
I am afraid to shine.”

“Afraid to shine?” said Sarah Star.
“No, Stevie, you are not afraid to shine.
You see, every star must have a reason
for shining. Some stars shine just
to show off. Some stars shine to make
pictures in the sky. Each star must have
his own reason for shining.

You just have not found your reason to shine yet, therefore, you feel afraid. But cry no more Stevie Star, for someday soon you shall find your reason to shine. When you do, you shall be the brightest star in the heavens,” Sarah said.

At this, the voice was gone. Stevie was all alone again. But now he did not feel so sad. He knew that he would soon find a reason to shine. Stevie went to the window. My but it was a dark night. The clouds were hanging much lower than the stars. It looked as though not a star was shining up in the sky.





Suddenly Stevie looked way, way down to the earth. What was that in the woods? It looked like a little boy. It looked like he was crying. Stevie looked closer. It was a little boy crying. “Oh dear,” cried Stevie, “that little boy is lost. And because of the clouds there isn’t any starlight to help him find the path to his house. I must help him at once,” thought Stevie. Stevie ran out of his house.

He ran directly to where his father was trying desperately to shine between the clouds. “Father Star,” said Stevie, “there is a little boy lost in the woods. You must shine so that he can find his way home.”

“I wish I could Stevie, but I have been trying to shine all night and I am just too tired.” answered his father. “Stevie,” said Father Star, “why don’t you help this little boy?” Stevie looked at his father. At last he had found his reason for shining. Stevie ran to a spot in the sky. He began to shine. My goodness, how bright he was shining!





All the while he was shining he kept watching the little boy. Soon the little boy stopped crying. He looked up in the sky and saw Stevie. The little boy wasn't lost anymore. How happy Stevie was. The next morning Stevie's father came over to him. "I am very proud of you Stevie," said his father.

"Father Star," said Stevie, "I have found a reason to shine. From now on I shall help people find directions."
"Yes, Stevie Star found his reason to shine.

Not too long afterwards some scientists were watching the stars and they noticed Stevie. But because they did not know that his name was Stevie they began to call him the North Star. Tonight before you get ready for bed look out your window, and there in the northern part of the sky you will see Stevie shining brighter than any other star. Stevie is now known to everyone as the North Star, but you and I shall always know him as Stevie Star — the star who was afraid to shine.



