

Leo was packing a little blue backpack. Inside went a toothbrush, pajamas with rockets on them, and a fuzzy teddy bear named Barnaby. Tonight was a special night: a sleepover at Grandma Rose's house. But Leo's tummy felt wobbly, like a bowl full of jelly.

When they arrived, Grandma Rose gave Leo a big, warm hug that smelled like cinnamon and cookies. "Welcome, my little explorer!" she said. Her house was cozy, but it wasn't *home*. The wobbly feeling wiggled a little more.

Grandma Rose noticed Leo's quiet face. "You know," she whispered, "I have a top-secret mission for a very brave adventurer tonight. It's called Operation Starlight Fort. Are you in?" Leo's eyes grew wide. A mission?

The mission was to build the best fort ever, right in the living room! Grandma Rose brought out fluffy blankets and big, soft pillows. Leo giggled, grabbing a striped sheet. "This will be the door!" Leo declared.

They worked together, draping blankets over chairs and tucking sheets into the sofa cushions. Soon, they had a magnificent fort. Grandma Rose found a string of twinkly fairy lights. "Every good fort needs stars," she said, weaving them across the top.

Inside, it was magical. The fairy lights glowed like captured stars. Grandma Rose crawled in with a plate of chocolate chip cookies and two glasses of milk. "To the brave explorer of Operation Starlight Fort!" she toasted.

Cuddled next to Barnaby, Leo listened as Grandma Rose told a story about a little firefly who was afraid of the big, dark night until he realized his own light could make it beautiful. The wobbly feeling in Leo's tummy was almost gone.

"I have one more secret weapon," Grandma Rose said. She brought out a small lamp. When she turned it on, glowing stars swirled across the ceiling of their fort. "A courage nightlight," she explained. "It keeps the shadows away."

Tucked into a sleeping bag, Leo watched the gentle stars dance above. It felt safe and warm. It felt like an adventure. Leo gave Barnaby a squeeze and closed their eyes. The wobbly tummy was fast asleep.

The next morning, Leo woke up to the smell of pancakes. The sun was streaming into the fort. Mission accomplished! Leo wasn't just a visitor; Leo was a brave explorer who had conquered the night. And Leo couldn't wait for the next mission at Grandma Rose's house.