

The Gift Under the Old Tree

It was Christmas Eve in the small town of Pineville. Snowflakes danced in the air, and the streets were glowing with lights. In the middle of the town square stood an old oak tree, decorated with shiny ornaments and twinkling stars.

Leo, a kind but curious boy, was walking home when he noticed something unusual.

Beneath the big tree, half-hidden in the snow, was a small red box tied with a golden ribbon.

He looked around – no one was there.

“Maybe someone dropped it,” Leo thought. He picked it up carefully. The tag read, “To Someone Special.”

Leo wondered if it was meant for him. But deep inside, he knew it probably belonged to someone else. So, instead of keeping it, he decided to find its owner.

He walked from shop to shop, asking everyone if they had lost a small red gift box.

No one claimed it. The baker, the librarian, even the mailman said it wasn't theirs.

Finally, Leo knocked on the door of the small house at the end of Maple Street. An old woman named Mrs. Green opened it. She smiled kindly when she saw the box.

“Oh dear,” she said softly. “That was for my neighbor's little girl. I was going to put it under her tree tonight, but I must have dropped it!” Leo handed it to her, feeling happy inside. Mrs. Green thanked him and gave him a warm gingerbread cookie.

That night, as Leo walked home, he didn't feel like he had missed out on a present. He felt something even better – the true spirit of Christmas: kindness and giving.



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Multiple Choice (Circle the correct answer)

1-Where did Leo find the small red box?

- a) In front of a bakery
- b) Under the old oak tree
- c) Inside his house
- d) Near the library



2-What did the tag on the box say?

- a) "Merry Christmas, Leo!"
- b) "Do not open until Christmas"
- c) "To Someone Special"
- d) "From Santa"

3-What did Mrs. Green plan to do with the box?

- a) Send it to her family
- b) Give it to her neighbor's little girl
- c) Keep it for herself
- d) Donate it to the library

4-Why did Leo decide to look for the owner instead of keeping the box?

5-What lesson do you think this story teaches about the true meaning of Christmas?
