



The Christmas Light Contest: A Family Holiday Adventure of Fun and Teamwork

Every December, the town of Hollyville held its annual Christmas Light Contest. Families decorated their houses with twinkling lights, inflatable snowmen, sparkling reindeer, and colorful garlands. This year, twelve-year-old Mia and her little brother Ben were determined to help their parents win the coveted Golden Star Trophy for the best-decorated house.

“Let’s make our house the brightest on the street!” Mia said, holding a spool of golden lights. Ben nodded enthusiastically. Together, they hung strings of lights along the roof, wrapped luminous ribbons around the trees, and carefully placed glowing ornaments on the bushes.

But just as they finished, they noticed their neighbor, Mr. Thompson, adding an enormous inflatable Santa to his front yard. “Wow, he’s making ours look small!” Ben whispered. Mia frowned. “It’s okay,” she said, “we can still make our decorations special.”

As more neighbors displayed dazzling lights, Mia realized that everyone was putting in so much effort. The contest was fun, but she began to notice the joy it brought the whole community—people stopping to admire the lights, children laughing, and families sharing cocoa on their porches.

On the night of the judging, the town square was filled with families, neighbors, and the cheerful glow of hundreds of decorations. The judges awarded the Golden Star Trophy, but it didn’t go to Mia’s house or Mr. Thompson’s. Instead, it went to the Johnsons, who had created a simple display but invited the whole block to sing carols together.

Mia and Ben cheered happily, realizing something important. Winning wasn’t the point. The true magic of the holiday wasn’t the brightest lights or the biggest decorations—it was sharing time, laughter, and cheer with friends, family, and neighbors.

That evening, Mia and her family sipped cocoa on their porch, enjoying the sparkling lights of Hollyville. They had learned that the best part of Christmas was creating joy and memories together, no matter who “won.”



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What was the main goal of Mia and Ben when decorating their house?

How did Mia feel when she saw her neighbor's decorations?

What did Mia notice about the community while preparing for the contest?

Who won the Golden Star Trophy, and why was it special?

What lesson did Mia and Ben learn about the true meaning of Christmas?

Circle the true answer:

The Christmas Light Contest took place in the town of Hollyville. – True / False

Mia and Ben were upset when their neighbor added a big Santa decoration. – True / False

The town's decorations and contest brought joy to neighbors and families. – True / False

Mia and Ben won the Golden Star Trophy for the best-decorated house. – True / False

The story shows that Christmas is about sharing joy and creating memories, not just winning. – True / False



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Multiple-Choice Questions:

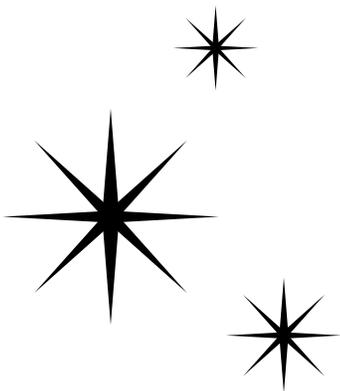
1. What was Mia's main focus when decorating their house?
 - A. To make it the tallest house on the street
 - B. To make the house the brightest and most decorated
 - C. To win a gift card from the town
 - D. To decorate only the front yard

2. How did Mia respond to her neighbor Mr. Thompson's large inflatable Santa?
 - A. She tried to remove it
 - B. She ignored it and focused on making their decorations special
 - C. She became angry and gave up decorating
 - D. She asked him to take it down

3. What did Mia notice about the community during the contest?
 - A. Everyone was competing angrily
 - B. People enjoyed the decorations, laughter, and shared cocoa
 - C. Only judges cared about the lights
 - D. Most families left the contest early

4. Who won the Golden Star Trophy?
 - A. Mia and Ben
 - B. Mr. Thompson
 - C. The Johnson family, for inviting the block to sing carols
 - D. The mayor

5. What is the main lesson of the story?
 - A. The brightest lights always win
 - B. The biggest decorations matter most
 - C. The joy of Christmas comes from sharing and creating memories
 - D. Winning contests is the most important part of Christmas



Answer Key:

Open-Ended Answers (Sample Responses)

Mia and Ben wanted to make their house the brightest and most decorated for the contest.

Mia was concerned at first, but decided to focus on making their decorations special.

Mia noticed that the contest brought joy, laughter, and a sense of community to everyone.

The Johnson family won the Golden Star Trophy because they invited the whole block to sing carols together.

They learned that the true meaning of Christmas is about sharing joy, laughter, and creating memories, not just winning.

True / False Answers

True – The contest took place in Hollyville.

False – Mia stayed positive and focused on their own decorations.

True – The decorations brought joy to neighbors and families.

False – The Johnson family won the trophy, not Mia and Ben.

True – The story shows Christmas is about sharing joy and creating memories.

Multiple-Choice Answers

B – To make the house the brightest and most decorated

B – She ignored it and focused on making their decorations special

B – People enjoyed the decorations, laughter, and shared cocoa

C – The Johnson family, for inviting the block to sing carols

C – The joy of Christmas comes from sharing and creating memories