

Who Turned Off the Lights?



It was the biggest night of the year. Bright beams of light shot up into the dark sky as a dad lifted his boy high to wave a tiny flag.

'Best night ever!' he yelled.

All around, people held up phones and waved flags of their own. But no one spotted the shadow at the **edge** of the crowd, watching and grumbling.





From up high, the town
glowed like a box of tiny
candles, with gold light
spilling from each house,
each shop, each window.
But up in the dark sky,
The Dark **noticed** the
glow and huffed. 'Look at
all those lights down
there!' it cried. 'Don't they
know the night is mine?'

So The Dark crept into a little house and flicked off the lights. A boy at the table blinked. He could not see his plate. He bumped into the **edge** of a chair as he reached for the door. At last, he dove under his bed cloth and pulled it up over his **face**. 'Who turned off the lights?' he whispered.





The Dark slid from house to house, flicking off each light. One family had to huddle around a candle just to see each other's **faces**. A man squinted at a book by the flame, while two kids climbed in bed **since** there was nothing more to do. Even the cat looked cross. 'This,' said The Dark, 'is how night should be.'

But outside, the streets still blazed bright. Streetlights and traffic lights blinked and hummed as cars and buses rolled along, safe and steady. A kid sat on the curb with his little dog, watching it all.

The Dark **glanced** down from a rooftop and scowled at the **city** below. 'Oh, come on. More lights?!'





Click. The Dark shut off all the streetlights and traffic lights at **once**. Cars slammed into buses. Trucks tangled up in the middle of the road, and people stumbled between them in **outrage**, yelling, 'Who turned off the lights?' But The Dark just laughed and slipped away to find more lights.

The fair was next, and it was **huge**. Kids squealed on a ride, **circling** on painted horses under a roof of golden bulbs. A **giant** wheel twinkled high in the night sky. Families strolled past game stalls and food stands while each ride spun, glowed, and hummed. The Dark took one look and hissed, 'That is the brightest thing I have ever seen!'





CLICK. The **giant** wheel groaned to a stop, the painted horses went still, and the fair went silent. A child near the bottom of the wheel looked up with wide, sad eyes. On the ground, two kids stood holding a balloon, staring at nothing in the dark. 'Who turned off the lights?' one of them said in a small **voice**, and this time, no one was laughing.

Out on the water, one light still burned. A tall red and white lighthouse swept its beam across the dark waves, helping ships **dodge** the rocks.

A big ferry and a tiny rowboat sailed by, safe in the glow. The Dark spotted the lighthouse from the shore and growled. 'That,' it hissed, 'is the last one.'





The Dark shut off the lighthouse beam. A **huge** ship ploughed through the waves, heading right for the tiny rowboat as the boy inside held on tight and screamed. On the dark shore, the lighthouse stood silent. No signal, no light. Suddenly, The Dark felt a chill of **ice** in its belly and whispered, 'Oh no. What have I done?'

The Dark did not stop to think. It just let go. All the lights in town blazed back to life at **once**. The train **raced** down the tracks, headlights blazing, cars rolled safely down the roads, and houses glowed bright from inside. The town hummed, bright and alive **once** more. But The Dark hung back in the sky, all alone, feeling very small.





Then four kids came outside. One waved a star wand, one laughed under sparkly string lights, one held a little lantern, and the last twirled a green glow stick.

They were not chasing The Dark off, they were **dancing** in it. 'Stars need you to sparkle,' called the kid with the lantern.

The Dark blinked, then smiled for the very first time. Turns out, the best lights are not the ones that fight the dark. They're the ones that **dance** with it.



Who Turned Off the Lights?

Every light in town has gone out, one house at a time, and no one knows why. Streets, a lighthouse, even a whole carnival vanish into the dark as a boy and his neighbours stumble around asking the same question. Will anyone find out who is switching off the lights? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 117: Signal Vowels (c /s/, g /j/)), this book practises words like 'edge', 'giant', 'huge', 'dance', 'ice'.

Phonics Focus: Signal Vowels (c /s/, g /j/)

circling, city, dance, dancing, dodge, edge, face, faces, giant, glanced, huge, ice, noticed, once, outrage, raced, since, voice

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