

WHAT THE STARS SEE AT NIGHT

By Lee Cataluna

A short play for young audiences and families
commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse

For personal use only



Characters:

Bright Star (Sirius) – wise

Red Star (Antares) – bold

Blue Star (Vega) – kind

Little Star – unsure but eager to learn

The Child

In the night sky, the stars look down at the earth in wonder.

BRIGHT

Look at them down there.

BLUE

Aren't they beautiful?

LITTLE

They're tiny, but there's so many of them!

RED

Billions of them!

BRIGHT

And they all have names.

BLUE

And they all have wishes.

LITTLE

Bright Star, you must get wishes every single night. And you, too, Blue Star. And you, Red. You're the first stars they see at night.

RED

I like to get out there early, but you can never beat Venus. She's always out first, sometimes even before the sun has finished setting, and she's not even a star! All those poor people wasting wishes on a planet!

LITTLE

Do you think someone will wish on me tonight?

BRIGHT

There are plenty of wishes to go around.

BLUE

You look worried, Little Star.

LITTLE

I never had a wish.

BRIGHT

Be patient. It will happen.

LITTLE

I've been waiting billions of years!

RED

You have to be bold. You can't hide behind clouds.

LITTLE

I don't do that! Well, OK, I guess I do. I'm afraid I won't be good at this.

RED

You're a star! Be a star!

LITTLE

But what do stars do with the wishes?

BRIGHT

We hold them.

LITTLE

Is that all?

RED

Holding on to a wish is very important!

BLUE

All those sweet people on earth are so full of hope and good intentions. They look up into the night sky and they wonder what we are. They see that we're faithful, night after night always there. We are the best things they can think of to wish on.

BRIGHT

If we hold on to their wishes, they can do all the things they have to do every day — wash the dishes, sweep the front steps, finish homework — all without having to carry that heavy wish all the time.

LITTLE

But I want to give them all the things they wish for.

BLUE

Of course you do. But stars don't grant wishes. We keep them so they don't get lost or forgotten.

LITTLE

I don't think I can go another night just waiting for someone to wish on me!

BRIGHT

Are you as bright as you can be?

LITTLE

Yes!

RED

Are you as twinkly as you can be?

LITTLE

I am twinkling so hard!

BLUE

Now look down there and pick someone who needs you.

LITTLE

Can I do that? Don't they have to pick me?

BLUE

Give it a try.

RED

There's a little boy looking out his window when he should be asleep. I'll bet he's wishing for a bike or a puppy or a little brother.

LITTLE

Oh, I see him! Hi, little boy!

BRIGHT

Send him some light.

LITTLE

How do I do that?

BLUE

Shine some love on him.

BING! *(the performers should decide what this little bit of stage magic looks like, be it tossing confetti, turning on flashlights or blinking the lights in the room... get creative!)*

LITTLE

I did it! Oh wait, I see a girl sitting on the porch with her grandma and she's wishing her grandpa gets well soon.

RED

Send that little girl some light.

BING!

LITTLE

I saw her smile. It was a small smile, but I think she knew. Oh no. There's a man far from his home. He's missing his family so much.

BRIGHT

We'll all send him light, OK?

BING! BING! BING! BING!

LITTLE

I can see people who have wishes they haven't even put into words yet.

BLUE

Go ahead.

LITTLE

Will I run out of light?

RED

Someday you might.

LITTLE

I don't care. I'm going to shine on them anyway.

BLUE

Shine on, little star. Shine on.

The Little Star shines. On Earth, a little child looks up.

THE CHILD

Hey! Look at that tiny little star way over there! I'll bet nobody every wished on that one before! I'm going to send up a special wish. I wish _____. (*the actor can come up with their own special wish for this line.*) Hold that safe for me, little star.

Little Star reaches out as though to catch a wish.

Did you get it?

BRIGHT

I got it! I'll keep it safe.

LITTLE

The stars all shine together.

End.