

The Dark and the Light

A man spoke with a magical elf about the light and the dark. The Elf said to the man, "Come, I will show you the dark."

They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew. Everyone was famished, desperate, and starving. Each held a spoon that reached the pot, but each spoon had a handle so much longer than their own arm that it could not be used to get the stew into their own mouths. The suffering was terrible.

"Come, now, I will show you the light," the elf said.

They entered another room, identical to the first. The pot of stew, the group of people, the same long-handled spoons. But there everyone was happy and well-nourished. "I don't understand," said the man. "Why are they happy here when they are miserable in the other room and everything was the same?"

- **Ask class: "What do you think was the difference?"**

Take a few responses.

- Then **finish** the story...

The elf smiled. "Ah, it is simple," she said. "Here they have learned to feed each other."

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN