



THE BEACON KEEPER'S JOURNAL

A self-guided journal for readers of

THE
BEACON KEEPER'S
FIRST LIGHT

by G.M. Samuelson

This journal belongs to:

No grades. No wrong answers. Write in it. Draw in it. Make it yours.

WELCOME, KEEPER

Whether you're just starting the story or you've already turned the last page, this journal is yours. It follows the same path Leo, Jada, and Max walk — discovering a beacon, building a foundation, weathering storms, proving what matters, and passing the light to someone else.

You don't need to finish the book first. Each section matches a cluster of chapters, so you can write as you read. Some pages ask you to reflect. Some ask you to act. Some ask you to draw or plan or make a promise to yourself. If a prompt feels too personal, you can write about a character or what "someone might" think or do instead. You never have to share anything private.

There are no grades. No one is checking your answers. The only rule is the same one that holds the whole story together:

*"We create spaces where everyone belongs, matters, and can shine. No exceptions."
— The Beacon Keepers*

You're one of them. Let's begin.

1. FIND YOUR BEACON

Chapters 1–4: The Mysterious Invitation – Finding North

“Don’t have to be perfect to tell the truth. Sometimes the dents are what make people believe you.”
— Ziggy

Reflection

What’s something you care about so much you’d do it even if nobody noticed?

Example: Drawing comics, even if no one ever reads them — like Jada drawing kids nobody else sees.

Who makes you feel like you belong — not because you earned it, but just because you showed up?

Example: My cousin, because she saves me a seat without me having to ask.

Challenge

Ziggy told Leo, Jada, and Max: “Watch what you do when nobody asks. Watch what people come to you for.” Try it for one day. Pay attention to the moments when you help without being told.

What did you notice?

Example: I helped a kid find her classroom without anyone asking me to. She looked relieved.



Action

Write one sentence that could be your beacon — the thing that matters to you most.

★ MY BEACON

✦ Keeper's Checkpoint: Safe Spaces

Ziggy's Skate & Drone was a place where Leo, Jada, and Max could ask hard questions without feeling judged. Think about a place where YOU feel safe enough to be honest — even about things you're not sure about yet.

My safest place is:

Example: The back porch at my grandma's house, where nobody rushes me.

What makes it feel safe?

Example: Nobody tells me I'm wrong there. They just listen.

2. BUILD YOUR FOUNDATION

Chapters 5–8: The First Yes – What the Room Was Saying

“A good system helps. A lazy one just hides the mess.”

— Leo's mother

Reflection

When was the last time you stuck to something you believed in, even when it would have been easier not to?

Example: I didn't laugh when everyone else was making fun of someone's lunch.

Think about someone you really trust. What do they do that earns that trust?

Example: My dad. He does what he says he's going to do, every single time.

Challenge

The Beacon Keepers built their foundation on three values: integrity, respect, and connection. Where all three overlap, they found trust. Pick three values you want to stand on.

Example: 1) Be honest. 2) Include everyone. 3) Show up when it's hard.

★ MY RULE OF 3

✦ Keeper's Checkpoint: Planning Your First Step

Before the Beacon Keepers could build something that lasted, they needed a clear mission and a manageable first step. Later, they learned to test bigger ideas through small pilots before scaling them.

If you had a project idea, what's the smallest version you could test first?

Example: Instead of starting a whole school garden, I could plant one pot and see who wants to help.

Who would you ask for honest feedback?

Example: My teacher, because she'd tell me the truth instead of just being nice.

3. WEATHER THE STORM

Chapters 9–12: Trust Under Pressure – Respect Hard Won

“Speed is not the same thing as care. If something matters, you slow down enough to see who it helps and who it leaves out.”
— Leo’s mother

Reflection

What’s harder for you: doing the brave thing once, or doing the right thing every day?

Example: Every day. One brave moment is exciting. Consistency is exhausting.

Think about a time someone made you feel safe enough to admit you were wrong. What did they do?

Example: My teacher said “You don’t have to know the answer to belong in this conversation.” That changed everything.

Challenge

When the Beacon Keepers made a mistake with their data, they didn’t hide it. They wrote a correction plan: What went wrong? What do we do now? How do we prevent it next time?

Think about a mistake you made on something that mattered:

What went wrong? Who did it impact?

★ MY CORRECTION PLAN

✦ Keeper's Checkpoint: Process vs. Intentions

Dr. Martinez told the Beacon Keepers: "Scaffolding isn't a cage. It's how you reach the next floor in the process." Having good intentions isn't enough — you need a good process too.

What's one area of your life where you have good intentions but no real plan?

Example: I want to read more, but I never actually set aside time for it.

Max told Leo: "You notice everything. And you didn't notice me." Real friendship includes noticing when someone feels left out.

Is there someone in your life you might not be noticing?

4. PROVE YOUR GROUND

Chapters 13–16: *Be Undeniable – The Proving Ground*

“We’re not practicing for someday. This is real. Right now.”

— Leo

Reflection

When was the last time you prepared for something difficult — really prepared, not just hoped it would go okay?

Example: I practiced my science presentation five times out loud before I gave it. My hands still shook, but I knew my material.

Who in your life is a steady light — someone you can always count on?

Example: My grandma. She never misses my soccer games, even the ones where I sit on the bench.

 Action

Dr. Martinez wrote three words on the board: PROVE. PROTECT. PRACTICE. Before you present something you care about to the world, you have to prove it works, protect the people involved, and practice until it's real. Choose one steady action to repeat every day for a week.

Example: Say hi to one person every morning who usually gets ignored.

★ MY STEADY ACTION

Steady Light Tracker: Mon: ☐ Tue: ☐ Wed: ☐ Thu: ☐ Fri: ☐ Sat: ☐ Sun: ☐

✦ Keeper's Checkpoint: Pilot Before You Scale

The Beacon Keepers didn't launch their belonging lab to the whole school at once. They ran a small pilot test first — a limited version to see what worked and what didn't before going bigger.

Think about something you want to do. What would a pilot test look like?

Example: If I wanted to start a homework help group, I'd try it with three friends for two weeks before opening it to everyone.

What could go wrong, and how would you know early?

Example: Nobody might show up. I'd know if the first week had zero attendance.

5. SPARK OTHER LIGHTHOUSES

Chapters 17–19: Bigger Stages – Holding the Center

"The debt goes forward, not back."

— Ziggy

Reflection

Who looks up to you — even if they've never said it out loud?

Example: My little sister. She copies my homework routine now, even the color-coding.

What's something you wish somebody had told you when you were just starting out?

Example: It's okay to not have it figured out. Nobody does at first.

Action

Ziggy made room for Leo, Jada, and Max because somebody once made room for him. Write one way you could encourage or teach someone this week.

Example: Help my neighbor's kid with her free throws without making it a big deal.

★ MY SPARK

✦ Keeper's Checkpoint: The Decision Filter

When success brought new opportunities, Dr. Martinez gave the Beacon Keepers three questions before saying yes to anything: (1) Does it serve the mission or purpose? (2) Does it make us stronger? (3) Can we do it without breaking?

Think about your own commitments right now — school, activities, friendships, family, rest.

One thing I should keep doing (and why):

Example: Band practice — it serves my goal of performing at the spring concert and it makes me better every week.

One thing I should say no to (and why):

Example: Joining a third group chat. I can't keep up with it without losing sleep, and losing sleep breaks everything else.

What will I actually do about it this week?

Example: I'll mute the group chat tonight and tell them I need to step back. Then I'll use that time to practice trumpet.

6. LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS

Chapter 20: Lighthouse Keepers

"Direction is more important than polish."

— Ziggy

Reflection

If your life were a voyage, what's the next horizon you want to sail toward?

Example: Trying out for student council, even though public speaking terrifies me.

What storm have you already weathered that made you stronger than you expected?

Example: Moving to a new school and learning that I could make friends all over again.

Challenge

Write a letter to Future You. Open it at the end of the school year, or when you finish Book 2.

Example: Hey Future Me — I hope you're still saving seats for the kids who need one.

★ LETTER TO FUTURE ME

Dear Future Me,

— Me, today

This journal belongs to you.

No grades. No wrong answers.
Just your light, your journey, and the chance
to make the world a little brighter.



The journey continues in

BOOK 2: HORIZONS UNLIMITED

North. Always north.

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