

Christmas Lights

"You have to believe me, Hopper! Will sent me a message using these Christmas lights! I painted numbers on the wall to help him communicate, and he did!"

"I'm sorry, Joyce, but you have to admit it's far-fetched. Which bulbs did he light up?"

- It began with nine lit bulbs, nine different colors in nine different columns. I don't recall what those colors were exactly, but I don't think they mattered to Will's message.
- Then, all the bulbs positioned exactly one space away horizontally or vertically from a lit bulb began to shine in a matching color!
- Finally, three of the colors (sorry, I forget which ones) had expanded to light the bulbs that were located two spaces horizontally and vertically away from the original bulb, unless there was an empty space in between.
- All the bulbs had been lit by exactly one of the nine colors! But before I could figure out their meaning, they went out again...

1	2	1	3		2	1	0	1
2	0		1	2	3	1		1
0	1	4	3	4	0		1	2
4	5	1	2	0		5	2	2
2		5	1	0	3	4	3	
2	4	2	4	1	4	3	4	

"That's... well, starting with that upper right bulb, I suppose there's only one way it could work out. And when you consider the bulbs illuminated in each color... yes, I guess your story might just add up. But would you do me a favor, Joyce?"

"Yes?"

"Next time, could you just write out the damn alphabet instead?"