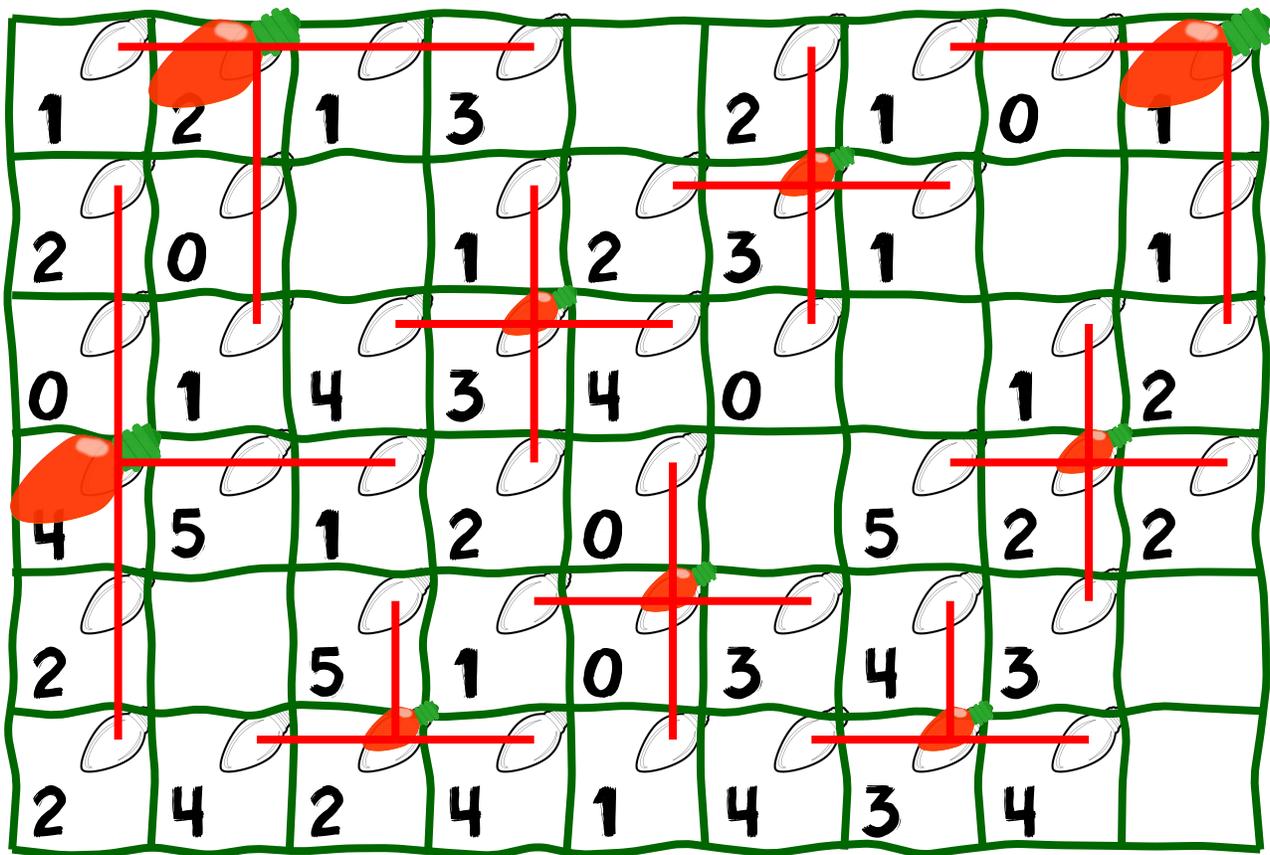


SOLUTION  
*Christmas Lights*



"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...



"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?"

Sum the numbers for each bulb and the neighboring bulbs that it lit. Index into the alphabet, and read in order, one letter per column, to get PHONEHOME. The solution movie is "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"