

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Illustrations

Read the short story. Then answer each question



Ellie and the Whispering Paintings

Ellie tiptoed into the town's old art museum. It was her first visit, and she was nervous. Her class had been studying different kinds of art, and now they were on a field trip. While the other kids laughed and pointed at bright splashes of color, Ellie was drawn to a quiet hallway lined with older, faded paintings.

One painting showed a little girl standing alone in a windy field. Her red scarf was flapping wildly, and dark clouds swirled behind her. Ellie stared at it for a long time.

"It looks like she's waiting for someone," Ellie whispered.

She turned the corner and saw another painting of the same girl, now holding hands with a woman. The wind had stopped, and the sky was golden. Ellie smiled.

Later, her teacher asked which painting was her favorite. Ellie pointed to the second one. "Because the colors and her smile tell you everything turned out okay."



Name: _____

Ellie and the Whispering Paintings

1. What does the dark sky and wild wind in the first painting help you understand about the girl?

- A. She feels alone or afraid.
- B. She is having fun.
- C. She is walking to school.
- D. She is drawing a picture.

2. How do the colors in the second painting help show that the girl's feelings changed?

- A. The bright sky and holding hands show things got better.
- B. The painting has more people in it.
- C. The scarf is still blowing in the wind.
- D. The girl is wearing a red hat now.

3. Fill in the blank:

The girl's scarf was flapping wildly. This tells the reader it was _____ outside.

4. How do the illustrations help Ellie understand the story behind the paintings?

5. What do you think Ellie learned from looking at the paintings? Use evidence from the story.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a story about a girl named Ellie who explores an art museum and discovers the story hidden inside two paintings. As we read, think about how the artwork helps Ellie understand more than just what the words say."

Vocabulary: museum, hallway, faded, swirling, golden

Discussion Questions Before Reading

1. Have you ever been to an art museum or seen a famous painting?
 2. What do you think people can learn from art?
 3. What might you feel if you were alone in a quiet museum?
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Discussion Questions During Reading

1. Why do you think Ellie is drawn to the quiet hallway?
 2. What changes between the two paintings?
 3. How do the colors help show how the girl feels?
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Discussion Questions After Reading

1. How did Ellie use the paintings to understand a story without words?
 2. What can illustrations or artwork help us understand better?
 3. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story through Ellie's observations?
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Activity Idea

Have students create their own "before and after" painting pair to tell a silent story. They should use color, character expression, and setting to show change, just like the paintings Ellie saw. Display them around the room as a student gallery.

