

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Feelings & Senses

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Secret at Willow Hill

Nina held her grandmother's map tight in her hand. The paper was old and wrinkly, like dried leaves. It smelled like dust and something sweet, like old perfume.

She climbed Willow Hill, where the grass brushed her knees and the wind tickled her ears. "The rock with the heart crack," she said, reading the note aloud.

At the top, she found it—a gray rock shaped like a heart with a long line down the middle. She brushed away the leaves nearby and saw a box tucked into the roots.

Nina opened it slowly. Inside were letters, tied with a ribbon. One was from her great-grandma.

It read, *"To the girl who finds this: You are brave, like I was. Keep exploring. The world is full of secrets."*

Nina smiled. The wind brushed her cheek, soft like a whisper. She closed the box and hugged it tight.



Name: _____

The Secret at Willow Hill

1. What words help you imagine how the map felt?

- A. wrinkly, old
- B. clean, smooth
- C. large, shiny
- D. cold, flat

2. What did the wind do at the top of the hill?

- A. sang a song
- B. tickled her ears
- C. blew the box open
- D. smelled like perfume

3. Fill in the blank:

Nina climbed up _____ Hill with her grandmother's map in hand.

4. What words or phrases helped you feel what Nina felt when she found the box?

5. Why do you think the letter said, "You are brave, like I was"?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: H

Lexile Level: 200L-350L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Historical Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today's story takes us into the past as a girl named Nina finds a secret from her family's history. As we read, let's listen for words that help us feel what she feels, imagine what she sees, and connect with the adventure."

Vocabulary: wrinkly, perfume, roots, exploring, ribbon

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think a "family secret" might be?
 2. Have you ever looked at an old map or something from the past?
 3. What kind of things do people hide in special places?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the author help you picture the hill?
 2. What do you think Nina felt when she opened the box?
 3. Why do you think the letter was hidden for so long?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What parts of the story helped you picture the setting clearly?
 2. How does Nina change from the beginning to the end?
 3. If you found a letter like that, what would you do with it?
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Activity Idea

Let students make their own "family memory box" using a shoebox. They can decorate it and include drawings, pretend letters, or objects that connect to their own family stories. Encourage them to use sensory words to describe each item and share one aloud.

