

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character, Setting & Events

Read the short story and answer each question.



Ella's First Train Ride

Ella lived in a small town in 1910. Her family didn't have a car—they walked or rode horses.

One day, Papa said, "We're taking the train to visit Grandma!"

Ella wore her best coat. At the station, she saw a shiny black train puffing steam.

She held Papa's hand and climbed aboard. The seats were red and soft.

"Look out the window!" Papa said. Trees and farms flew by.

Ella smiled. "It feels like we're flying!"

When the train stopped, Grandma stood waiting with open arms.

"I rode a train!" Ella said proudly. "All the way here!"



Name: _____

Ella's First Train Ride

1. How did Ella and her family travel to Grandma's?

- A. By train
- B. By horse
- C. By car
- D. By bus

2. What did Ella see through the window?

- A. Trees and farms
- B. Snow and hills
- C. Cars and people
- D. Rain and clouds

3. Fill in the blank:

Ella wore her best _____ to ride the train.

4. What can you tell about Ella based on how she acted during the train ride?

5. What are some key details that tell us the story took place long ago?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: I

Lexile Level: 240L-390L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Historical Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a story that takes place over 100 years ago. As you read, think about what kind of person Ella is, what makes the setting different from today, and the important things that happen along the way."

Vocabulary: train, station, steam, coat, window

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever ridden on a train or something similar?
 2. What do you know about how people traveled long ago?
 3. What do you think Ella might feel on her first ride?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What details show this story is set in the past?
 2. What does Ella do when she boards the train?
 3. How does she react to the ride?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What kind of character is Ella? Use key details to describe her.
 2. How is Ella's world different from ours today?
 3. What were the three major events in this story?
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Activity Idea

Have students draw a picture of what Ella saw out the train window, using crayons or pastels to show movement. Then, they can write a caption describing the setting and one thing Ella did during the story.

