

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Who's Telling the Story

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Midnight Note

Ellie couldn't sleep. The moonlight spilled across her bed like a silver blanket.

She rolled over—and saw it. A tiny folded note on her pillow.

She sat up. "Where did this come from?"

She opened it and read:

Midnight Meeting. Living room. Bring a flashlight.

—M

Ellie tiptoed out of bed, heart thumping. Her slippers barely made a sound.

Downstairs, the living room was dark—except for a faint glow behind the couch.

She peeked over.

There sat her little brother Max, holding a flashlight and wearing a towel like a cape.

"Welcome to the Super-Secret Story Club!" he whispered.

Ellie giggled and sat beside him. "Do we get cookies?"

Max nodded. "Already in the kitchen."



Name: _____

The Midnight Note

1. Who is telling the story?

- A. A narrator outside the story
- B. Ellie
- C. Max
- D. The moon

2. What shows the narrator is not a character in the story?

- A. The narrator says "Ellie" instead of "I"
- B. Max is wearing a cape
- C. There is a note
- D. The story is at night

3. Fill in the blank:

The note on Ellie's pillow said to meet in the _____.

4. How do you know this story is being told by someone outside the characters?

5. How would the story feel different if Ellie told it herself?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J

Lexile Level: 290L-450L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Mystery (Fiction)

Introducing the Text

"Today's story is about a mysterious note that leads Ellie on a nighttime adventure. As we read, we'll think about who is telling the story—how do we know it's not Ellie herself?"

Vocabulary: moonlight, flashlight, midnight, cape, whispered

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever gotten a secret note or invitation?
 2. How do you think a story changes depending on who tells it?
 3. What clues can help us tell who the narrator is?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues show that someone outside the story is telling it?
 2. How would the story be different if Max told it?
 3. What makes Ellie curious and brave?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why does the author choose to tell this story in 3rd person?
 2. What could Ellie be thinking during the adventure?
 3. If you were telling this story yourself, what would you say?
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Activity Idea

Have students write their own "mystery meeting" note and give it to a partner. Then, they each write a short story about what happens next—once from **1st person** ("I snuck downstairs...") and once from **3rd person** ("Jordan tiptoed across the kitchen..."). Share the differences in voice.

