

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Using Illustrations

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Case of the Wiggling Curtains

Mira tiptoed into the library with her magnifying glass.

Something was odd.

The books were stacked neatly. The chairs were all in place. But the curtains by the window... they wiggled.

Mira crept closer. She crouched low. She peeked behind the curtain—

"Gotcha!"

Out popped a fuzzy gray tail.

It was not a ghost.

It was Mr. Pickle, the school guinea pig!

"Mr. Pickle!" Mira whispered. "You're not supposed to be out!"

He wiggled his nose and jumped into her arms.

Mira giggled. "Mystery solved."

She returned him to his cage and made a sign:

Please check the latch!



Name: _____

The Case of the Wiggling Curtains

1. What does the illustration help show about the mystery?

- A. The curtains are moving and Mira is investigating
- B. There is a spider in the story
- C. The librarian is hiding
- D. The books are flying off the shelves

2. What do the pictures show about Mira?

- A. She is careful, curious, and not afraid to look
- B. She is hiding under a desk
- C. She is scared and crying
- D. She is running away from the room

3. Fill in the blank:

Mira found Mr. Pickle hiding behind the _____.

4. How do the pictures help show what Mira is doing and how she feels?

5. What clues in the illustrations helped solve the mystery?



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 a mystery that takes place in a quiet library with a wiggling curtain and a missing pet. As we read, we'll use the pictures and words to help us understand what Mira sees, what she does, and how the mystery is solved."

Vocabulary: library, mystery, curtain, crouched, latch

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever read a mystery before?
 2. What do detectives use to help them solve problems?
 3. What might wiggling curtains mean in a story?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do Mira's actions and face tell you in the pictures?
 2. How do the illustrations show that Mr. Pickle is not scary?
 3. What clues in the pictures helped Mira figure out what was going on?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did the illustrations help solve the mystery?
 2. What did you learn about Mira from both the words and pictures?
 3. If you wrote your own mystery story, what would the pictures show?
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Activity Idea

Let students make their own "school mystery" mini-book. They draw a simple mystery scene and write a short story with a detective character. Ask them to explain how their picture gives clues to solve the case and describe how the pictures and words work together.

