

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character, Setting, & Plot

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Midnight Garden

Nova couldn't sleep. The moon was bright, and the wind whispered through her window.

She tiptoed into the backyard and blinked. Her garden had changed.

Glowing mushrooms lit up the stone path. The sunflower heads swayed like they were humming.

Nova rubbed her eyes. "Am I dreaming?" she whispered.

Suddenly, a tiny figure flew past her nose. It was a moth with a shining lantern on its back!

"Welcome," said a voice. A small rabbit in a cloak stepped from behind a pumpkin.

"You can talk?" Nova gasped.

"Only during the Moon Garden hour," the rabbit replied. "Would you like a tour?"

Nova nodded and followed the rabbit. Fireflies blinked like stars. Tomatoes floated like balloons. A vine uncurled to make a swing.

When the moon slid behind a cloud, the magic faded. Nova looked down. A silver leaf lay in her hand. It hadn't been a dream after all.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Midnight Garden

1. What is special about the garden at night?

- A. It has talking animals and glowing plants
- B. It grows new vegetables
- C. It rains only at night
- D. It turns into a jungle

2. What do the illustrations show about the mood of the story?

- A. The garden is loud and stormy
- B. The garden is magical and peaceful
- C. Nova is afraid to be outside
- D. The rabbit is mean

3. Fill in the blank:

The rabbit said he could only talk during the \_\_\_\_\_ hour.

4. How do the pictures help you understand the magic of the garden? Use details from the illustration and text.

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5. How do the illustrations and words work together to show Nova's feelings?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** K

**Lexile Level:** 330L-480L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Fantasy

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## Introducing the Text

*"In this story, Nova discovers something magical in her backyard. We will read closely and look at the illustrations to learn more about the setting, the characters, and how Nova feels. Pictures and words work together to help us understand the fantasy world Nova explores."*

**Vocabulary:** midnight, glowing, whispered, lantern, cloak

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of things can illustrations show that words may not?
  2. Have you ever gone outside at night? What did you see or feel?
  3. What makes a story feel magical?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What details in the picture show this garden is different from a regular one?
  2. How does Nova react to the glowing mushrooms and talking rabbit?
  3. What does the picture show that helps us understand the rabbit's personality?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the words and pictures help us understand that Nova might not be dreaming?
  2. What emotions do you see in Nova's face or body language in the picture?
  3. Why is it helpful to look at both illustrations and text in stories like this?
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## Activity Idea

Have students draw their own "Midnight Garden" scene. They must include at least 3 magical elements. Then, each student writes 2-3 sentences explaining what is happening in their garden and how the pictures help tell the story. Share as a class in a magical garden gallery walk!

