

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Secret of the Old Oak Tree

Lena had always loved the old oak tree that stood near her house. It was enormous, its branches twisting into the sky, and its roots dug deep into the earth. For as long as she could remember, the tree had been there, standing tall through every season. But Lena never understood why the tree felt so special.

One sunny afternoon, Lena decided to explore the oak tree more closely. She noticed something strange—a small door at the base of the tree. It was made of wood, just like the tree, and was so well-hidden that Lena had never seen it before. Her heart raced with excitement as she gently pushed the door open. Inside, there was a dimly lit room filled with old books and curious objects. She stepped inside cautiously, wondering who had left these things there.

As she looked around, Lena's fingers brushed against an old map hanging on the wall. The map seemed to be a guide to something hidden deep in the forest, marked with strange symbols. Suddenly, Lena heard a noise behind her. She spun around, but there was no one there. The air in the room seemed to hum with secrets, and Lena knew she had uncovered something important.

The next day, Lena returned to the tree, map in hand. She followed the symbols marked on it, leading her deeper into the woods than she had ever gone before. After a long walk, Lena arrived at a clearing where a sparkling stream ran through the middle. At the edge of the stream was a stone with carvings that matched the symbols on the map.

Lena knelt down and touched the stone. A small tremor shook the ground beneath her feet, and the stone slowly shifted, revealing a hidden compartment. Inside, there was a tiny chest, glowing faintly with light. Lena opened the chest to find an old key, with intricate patterns carved into it. She held it up, feeling the weight of the mystery it carried.

Lena had discovered something extraordinary—the secret of the old oak tree. And now, she knew her next adventure was just beginning.



Name: _____

The Secret of the Old Oak Tree

1. What did Lena discover at the base of the old oak tree?

- A. A hidden room full of treasures
- B. A small door leading to a secret space
- C. A stone with strange carvings
- D. A shiny new key

2. How did Lena feel when she found the old map inside the tree?

- A. Scared and confused
- B. Excited and curious
- C. Angry and upset
- D. Bored and uninterested

3. Fill in the blank:

Lena found a _____ inside the old oak tree, which led her on an adventure through the forest.

4. Why do you think Lena felt so drawn to the old oak tree and its hidden room?

5. What do you think the key Lena found might unlock? How does it connect to the story?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, End of the Year

Introducing the Text

"Today we're going to read a story about Lena, who uncovers a hidden secret in an old oak tree. Lena's adventure begins when she finds a mysterious door and a map leading her on a journey through the woods. As you read, think about the choices Lena makes and how she uncovers new clues. What do you think will happen next?"

Vocabulary: compartment, symbols, tremor, intricate, clearing

Discussion Questions Before Reading

1. What kinds of adventures have you had? Have you ever found something unexpected?
 2. Why do you think old trees might have secrets? What could they hide?
 3. How do you think Lena will react when she finds the secret door?
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Discussion Questions During Reading

1. How did Lena's discovery of the map change her adventure?
 2. What do you think the symbols on the map represent?
 3. Why is the key Lena finds so important to the story?
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Discussion Questions After Reading

1. What do you think Lena will do next with the key she found?
 2. Why do you think the old oak tree had a secret room? What might it represent?
 3. How do Lena's discoveries help her grow as a character?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a "Secret Adventure Map." In this activity, students will design their own treasure maps, marking symbols or clues that lead to a secret location in their classroom or outside. Afterward, they will write a short story explaining what their treasure is and how they discovered it. This activity allows students to apply what they've read to their own creative process, practicing mapping, symbolism, and writing skills while reinforcing their understanding of the theme.

