

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Central Message and Moral

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Map in the Jar

Laila loved puzzles more than anything. One rainy afternoon, she wandered into her grandmother's attic and found an old, dusty jar. Inside was a yellowed paper with curly writing. It was a map—with an X in the middle of her neighborhood!

Laila's older brother, Mateo, leaned over her shoulder. "It's probably just old junk."

"No way!" Laila said. "It's a real treasure map!"

The two put on rain boots and followed the winding path on the map. It led them past the bakery, through the alley behind the library, and finally to a park near the river.

They searched behind trees and under benches until Mateo called out, "Laila! Over here!"

He held up a rusty lunchbox buried in the mud. Inside, they found old photos, faded letters, and a silver necklace.

"It's not gold," Mateo said, disappointed.

Laila read one of the letters. "This is from a girl who lived here during the war. She hid her memories in this box so she wouldn't forget her family."

They sat in silence, holding the necklace gently.

Later that night, Laila placed the lunchbox on a shelf in her room.

"That wasn't junk," she whispered. "That was history."



Name: _____

The Paintbrush Plan

1. What did Laila find inside the jar in the attic?

- A. A treasure chest
- B. A recipe book
- C. A map with an X on it
- D. A silver necklace

2. What lesson does the story teach?

- A. Real treasure is made of gold
- B. History holds stories worth remembering
- C. Rainy days are best for puzzles
- D. Always dig under trees in the park

3. Fill in the blank:

Laila found a _____ that showed a hidden place near her neighborhood.

4. Why do you think Laila was excited to find the map even though her brother didn't believe it was real?

5. What makes something a "treasure"? Explain what you think the real treasure was in this 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'll read a story about a girl who finds something surprising in her grandmother's attic. As we read, let's think about what makes something valuable—not just in money, but in meaning. Listen closely for what the characters discover and what the story might be trying to teach us."

Vocabulary: attic, faded, treasure, history, memories

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever found something old or mysterious in your house or someone else's?
 2. What do you think a treasure is?
 3. Why might someone hide something in a jar or a box?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues helped Laila and Mateo follow the map?
 2. How did Mateo feel about the search at first? Did he change?
 3. What do the objects in the lunchbox tell us about the girl from the past?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why did Laila say, "That wasn't junk. That was history"?
 2. How do you think finding the lunchbox changed how Laila saw the world?
 3. What are some ways we can remember important people or events from the past?
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Activity Idea

Invite students to create their own "Memory Treasure Jar." Provide each child with a plastic jar or paper cup. Have them draw or write about 2–3 personal items or memories they'd want someone in the future to discover. Students can decorate the jar and present what makes their items meaningful. This encourages reflection on history and personal storytelling while reinforcing the theme of the story.

