

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character, Setting, & Plot

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Maribel and the Missing Moonstone

Maribel lived in a quiet village where everyone knew everyone's name. She loved collecting shiny stones and lining them up on her windowsill.

One morning, her favorite moonstone was gone.

"I left it right here," she said, frowning at the empty spot.

She examined the windowsill. A trail of tiny paw prints led to the garden.

Maribel grabbed her notebook and followed the prints. She saw a blur of gray fur dart through the fence.

"Aha! A clue," she whispered.

In the garden, she found bits of white fluff. Next to the tomato plants was her neighbor's kitten, Niblet, batting the moonstone back and forth like a ball.

"Niblet!" Maribel laughed. "You solved the mystery with your fuzzy paws."

She gently picked up the moonstone and placed it back on her windowsill. But this time, she put it in a small wooden box—just in case.



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

## Maribel and the Missing Moonstone

1. How did Maribel know the moonstone was missing?

- A. She found an empty spot on her windowsill
- B. She heard a noise outside
- C. She saw Niblet playing
- D. She dropped it on the floor

2. What do the illustrations help show about Niblet?

- A. That he was hiding the stone in a tree
- B. That he is playful and curious
- C. That he was scared of Maribel
- D. That he ran away with the notebook

3. Fill in the blank:

Maribel used a \_\_\_\_\_ to keep track of clues and paw prints.

4. How do the pictures help you understand what kind of mystery Maribel is solving?

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5. How does the illustration show how Maribel feels after finding the moonstone?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

**Lexile Level:** 425L-575L

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

**Genre:** Mystery Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"In this mystery story, Maribel searches for her missing moonstone. As we read, we'll use both the words and the illustrations to gather clues, understand what's happening, and learn how Maribel feels. Pay special attention to how the pictures help us follow the plot."*

**Vocabulary:** moonstone, windowsill, clue, paw prints, notebook

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of things can pictures tell you in a mystery story?
  2. Have you ever lost something special? How did you look for it?
  3. What clues might help someone solve a mystery?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues does Maribel find that help her solve the mystery?
  2. What details do you see in the picture that aren't mentioned in the text?
  3. How do the pictures help you understand where the story is taking place?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the illustration help you understand the resolution of the mystery?
  2. What emotions do you think Maribel felt before and after finding the moonstone? How does the picture show that?
  3. Why is it important to use both illustrations and text when reading stories like this?
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## Activity Idea

Students will create their own "Mini Mystery" by drawing a missing-object scene that includes at least three visual clues. Then, they will write a short paragraph explaining what was missing, who found it, and how the picture helped solve the mystery. Students will present their work to a partner, who must identify the clues from the drawing.

