

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

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Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Lantern Festival Wish

Mei stood with her grandmother on the bridge, watching the sky fill with glowing paper lanterns. The village celebrated the Lantern Festival every year, and this time Mei got to send up her own.

As she held the small lantern in her hands, she thought carefully about her wish. The paper felt smooth, and the string was tied just right. "Are you ready?" Grandma asked.

Mei nodded. "I want to wish for courage."

"Why courage?" Grandma asked.

Mei took a deep breath. "Because I'm nervous about joining the school orchestra. I love playing the violin, but I've never played in front of people."

Grandma smiled. "Courage doesn't mean you're never scared. It means you try, even when you are."

Mei let go of the lantern, and it floated into the air. The light flickered, then grew steadier as it rose.

The next day, Mei brought her violin to school. Her hands trembled, but she remembered the lantern and her wish. She played her first note—and then the next. She didn't stop until the song was over.

When she finished, her classmates clapped. Her heart still raced, but she smiled. Mei had found her courage.



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

## The Lantern Festival Wish

1. Why did Mei wish for courage?

- A. She wanted to be strong like a superhero.
- B. She was nervous about performing with the school orchestra.
- C. She was scared of heights.
- D. She wanted to win a race.

2. What helped Mei finally decide to play at school?

- A. Her friend pushed her on stage.
- B. Her grandma gave her a lucky charm.
- C. She remembered her wish and what Grandma said about courage.
- D. She practiced for 100 days in a row.

3. Fill in the blank:

Mei let go of her lantern and watched it \_\_\_\_\_ into the sky.

4. What does the story teach about courage? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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5. What role did Grandma play in helping Mei find the strength to try something new?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

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

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today's story is about a girl who makes a special wish during a cultural celebration. As we read, we'll look closely at what she's feeling and how she changes. We'll also practice asking and answering questions about the story using details from the text."*

**Vocabulary:** courage, orchestra, lantern, flickered, trembled

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt nervous before trying something new?
  2. What are some things people do to feel brave?
  3. What do you think a Lantern Festival might be like?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does Mei wish for, and why?
  2. How does Grandma explain what courage means?
  3. What does Mei do the day after the festival?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Mei's wish come true in the story?
  2. What clues in the story show that Mei grew braver?
  3. Why is it important to ask and answer questions while reading?
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## Activity Idea

Have students write their own "Wish for Courage" on a small paper lantern cutout. On the back, they write one thing they're nervous about and what they could do to face it. Then, hold a "Lantern Walk" where students walk through a display of lanterns and read inspirational words aloud.

