

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Secret Trail

Jasmine and Malik had explored every inch of Echo Ridge—or so they thought. One sunny afternoon, while following a deer path behind the old baseball field, they found a break in the brush and stepped into a hidden trail. It wound through whispering trees and opened into a meadow filled with wildflowers and a broken-down bench. Carved into the bench were the words: *Keep looking forward*. They spent hours there, sketching plants and naming birds. It felt like their own world. "We should bring the rest of the club," Malik said. Jasmine shook her head. "Not yet. Let's understand it first." They made a promise to return and protect it.



## The Lost Compass

The Echo Ridge Explorers Club had grown since Jasmine and Malik first found the secret trail. Now there were ten members, and each brought something special—binoculars, maps, nature books. Jasmine was proud of how the club had grown, but things were harder now. People disagreed about where to go, and one day, Malik dropped their compass in a stream. "Great," someone muttered. "Now we're lost." Jasmine took a deep breath. "Let's go back to the bench." When they returned, Jasmine reminded them of the words carved there. *Keep looking forward*. The group sat quietly, then started working together again—using the sun, landmarks, and teamwork to find their way back.



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

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## The Secret Trail & Zane and The Lost Compass

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**1. What theme is present in both stories?**

- A. Exploration and perseverance lead to growth.
- B. Everyone should go alone.
- C. You can always find your way with a compass.
- D. Secrets should never be shared.

**2. How do the characters' experiences in the second story build on the first?**

- A. They use what they learned earlier to solve a bigger challenge.
- B. They get lost and quit the club.
- C. They decide not to explore anymore.
- D. They give up when others join them.

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**3. Fill in the blank:**

Jasmine and Malik found a trail with a bench that had the words "Keep \_\_\_\_\_ forward" carved into it.

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**4. How does the theme of teamwork grow from the first story to the second?**

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**5. How do the settings in the two stories impact the characters' choices and challenges?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** P

**Lexile Level:** 645L-795L

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

**Genre:** Adventure / Realistic Fiction / Series

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll read two stories about Jasmine and Malik, who discover a secret trail and build a club around their adventures. As we read, we'll compare how their setting, challenges, and teamwork develop across both texts."*

**Vocabulary:** meadow, carved, landmarks, explorers, trail

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think makes exploring new places exciting?
  2. Have you ever started something small that grew into something bigger?
  3. Why might teamwork become harder as more people get involved?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the setting of the first story, and how does it feel?
  2. How do Jasmine and Malik solve problems in both stories?
  3. What role does the carved message play in both parts?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is similar about the theme in both stories?
  2. How do the characters grow from the first story to the second?
  3. Why do you think the author chose to include the same setting in both stories?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a "Club Growth Timeline" that shows how Jasmine and Malik's explorer group changes from the first story to the second. Include key events, problems they face, and solutions they find together. Students can illustrate scenes and use arrows or captions to show how the theme of teamwork grows over time.

