

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Overall Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Timekeeper's Garden

Emma had always loved her grandmother's garden. It was filled with strange plants and flowers, each with its own secret. But this year, the garden was even more mysterious—because this year, it was changing.

It all started with the clock.

Her grandmother's old grandfather clock, which had always been silent, had begun ticking again. But the time on the clock never seemed to match the real world. One moment, it was 9:00 AM. The next, it was 3:00 PM, then 7:00 AM again. Emma's curiosity grew, and she started spending more time in the garden, trying to figure out what was happening.

One day, as she worked to trim the hedges, she noticed something strange. A new flower had bloomed at the edge of the garden—one she'd never seen before. Its petals were silver, and it shimmered like the moon. The next day, it was gone, as if it had never existed. But Emma's curiosity had turned into determination. She watched for hours, and the next night, the flower bloomed again.

That night, the clock struck midnight, and Emma stood in the garden, watching as the silver flower opened. She reached out and touched it. Suddenly, the world around her shifted. The flowers seemed to glow brighter, and the air smelled like fresh rain. She closed her eyes for a moment, and when she opened them again, everything had changed. She wasn't in her grandmother's garden anymore. She was in another world.



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

## The Timekeeper's Garden

**1. How does the structure of this story develop?**

- A. The story moves from mystery to adventure, with Emma discovering new things in each scene.
- B. The story starts with an exciting event and stays fast-paced.
- C. The story is mostly about Emma's daily routine with no change.
- D. The story only tells about Emma's time in the garden.

**2. How do the changes in the garden reflect the structure of the story?**

- A. The changes in the garden represent the shift from Emma's ordinary world to a magical world.
- B. The changes in the garden have no real effect on the story.
- C. The changes happen randomly, without any connection to Emma.
- D. The garden stays the same throughout the story.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

The silver flower in the garden blooms and disappears, showing that the story has a \_\_\_\_\_ structure.

**4. How does the structure of the garden's changes affect the pacing of the story?**

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**5. What do you think is the significance of the clock's ticking and the time shifts? How does it relate to the story's overall structure?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** P

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

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we're going to look at how the events in a story fit together. Emma's journey in this story is influenced by the changes in her grandmother's garden. As we read, think about how these changes move the story forward and how the structure of the garden helps us understand the story's theme."*

**Vocabulary:** mysterious, shimmered, determination, shift, significance

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways stories can shift from ordinary to extraordinary?
  2. How do you think the garden might be connected to the changes Emma experiences?
  3. What do you expect to happen when something changes in a story?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance of the clock in the story?
  2. How does the structure of the garden change the way we see the events?
  3. What clues show that Emma is about to enter a new world?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the structure of the garden and the clock help us understand Emma's transformation?
  2. How do the changes in time and the garden create a sense of mystery and adventure?
  3. Why do you think the author chose to structure the story with time shifts and magical changes?
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## Activity Idea

Ask students to create a timeline of the key events in the story, noting how the changes in time and the garden structure the story. Encourage them to add details about the clock and the flower to show how each event builds on the previous one.

