

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Make Connections

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Garden Above

Zayden Yilmaz never expected to find magic in the middle of downtown. But one morning, while delivering packages for his uncle's flower shop, he stepped into the elevator of a crumbling brick building—and pressed a floor that didn't exist.

Rooftop 13.

The elevator hummed as it rose. When the doors opened, sunlight spilled into the tiny space. Zayden stepped out and gasped. A garden stretched across the rooftop, bursting with glowing flowers, floating fountains, and trees with silver leaves that whispered his name.

He wandered the garden, drawn to a small bench carved from crystal. Beside it, a golden vine curled up the railing, leading to a flower with a center that shimmered like a mirror. When Zayden leaned closer, it showed him visions—not of his face, but of a younger version of his grandmother, planting flowers in a rooftop just like this one.

He turned around to find a figure standing among the blossoms: an older man in a long green coat, holding a watering can that glowed.

"Gardens remember," the man said. "They keep growing, even when the world forgets."

Zayden blinked. The man was gone.

He took one last look before stepping into the elevator. When he returned later with his uncle, Rooftop 13 was gone.

But he kept a single glowing petal in his pocket, and the next time he planted something, it shimmered too.



Name: _____

The Garden Above

1. What does the illustration of the rooftop garden most help you understand about the setting?

- A. It is small and dusty with city buildings around it
- B. It is full of magical plants and glowing light above the city
- C. It has only one tree and a glass wall
- D. It is dark and stormy with broken benches

2. How does the visual of Zayden looking into the flower's center help you better understand the story?

- A. It shows that Zayden is angry with his grandmother
- B. It helps you see what Zayden imagines the future to be
- C. It shows the flower's magic and the connection to his family's past
- D. It explains why Zayden doesn't like gardening

3. Fill in the blank:

Zayden visited a secret garden on _____, a floor that wasn't listed in the building's elevator.

4. What do the illustrations of the glowing plants and floating fountains add to your understanding of the garden's magic?

5. If this story were told out loud, what sounds or music might match the mood of the garden? Why?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: P

Lexile Level: 645L-795L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Urban Fantasy

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re going to read a story about a boy who finds a magical garden hidden above the city. As you read, think about how the story would look and sound in real life. We’ll focus on how pictures and sound can help us better understand the events, setting, and mood of the story.”

Vocabulary: enchanted, shimmered, rooftop, crystal, whispered

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been to a rooftop garden or imagined a secret place above the city?
 2. What do you know about fantasy stories and how they mix magic with the real world?
 3. What kinds of illustrations or sounds would help bring a magical setting to life?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why does Zayden press the button for a floor that doesn’t exist?
 2. What are some clues that this garden is magical?
 3. How do you think the flower that shows memories works?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the author use descriptions to create a mood of wonder and peace?
 2. What could an illustration show to help readers imagine Rooftop 13 more clearly?
 3. How would this story be different if you only heard it without any pictures?
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Activity Idea

Invite students to create a mini “soundtrack” for the story using digital tools or classroom instruments. Have them choose or create a short sound, melody, or background noise for three parts of the story (e.g., the elevator ride, entering the garden, the flower memory). Then, have them present their audio “scene” to the class and explain how each sound enhances the mood or setting.

