

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character, Setting, or Event

Read the short story and answer each question.



Talia and the Midnight Library

Talia wasn't supposed to be in the library after hours. But when her older brother forgot his backpack and begged her to grab it before closing, she rushed over—just before the doors locked behind her.

At first, Talia panicked. The lights flickered low, and every creak of the wooden floors echoed like thunder. She tried the front doors, but they were sealed shut.

She didn't have a phone. She didn't have a key. All she had was the quiet company of a thousand books.

Wandering through the aisles, Talia came across a reading nook near the history section. A flickering lamp glowed there, and a worn armchair sat waiting. Somehow, the space didn't feel scary anymore—it felt safe. Comforting.

Talia pulled a book from the shelf at random and began to read. A story about a girl who faced a giant storm and found shelter in a lighthouse. Hours passed as pages turned. Talia forgot the silence, the locked doors, even the dark windows.

When a soft knock came at dawn—her brother and the librarian, relieved and rushing inside—Talia looked up and smiled.

"I wasn't scared," she said. "Not really. I had everything I needed right here."



Name: _____

Talia and the Midnight Library

1. How does the library setting affect Talia's emotions?

- A. It transforms from a place of fear into a place of comfort.
- B. It makes her feel bored and lonely.
- C. It remains dark and terrifying the entire time.
- D. It encourages her to leave immediately.

2. What can you infer about Talia's character based on her actions during the night?

- A. She is resourceful and finds peace through books.
- B. She ignores every rule and gets in trouble.
- C. She gives up quickly and falls asleep.
- D. She breaks a window to escape.

3. Fill in the blank:

What specific clues help you describe how Talia's feelings about the library change?

4. How do Marisol's thoughts and actions help show her character development?

5. How does the author use the setting to reflect Talia's emotional journey?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: Q

Lexile Level: 735L-885L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a story about a girl named Talia who finds herself locked in a library overnight. As we read, we'll pay close attention to how she changes, how the setting affects her emotions, and how specific details help us understand both."

Vocabulary: flickered, echoed, nook, shelter, resourceful

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been in a quiet place that felt scary at first?
 2. What would you do if you were accidentally locked in a library?
 3. How can a setting affect the mood of a story?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does Talia notice about the library that helps her feel more calm?
 2. What story does she choose, and why do you think that matters?
 3. How does the author use details like light and silence to reflect her feelings?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Talia grow as a character by the end of the story?
 2. What does this story show us about finding peace in unexpected places?
 3. How does the setting support the theme of personal growth?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a sensory setting map of the library at night, labeling how light, sound, and space change for Talia as her emotions shift. Then ask them to write a short paragraph describing how setting can reflect a character's inner world.

