

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Make Connections

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Theater Beneath

Jasper Rivera had always loved diving with his grandmother. But today, they weren't looking for fish—they were searching for a story. His grandmother handed him a small map drawn on waterproof parchment, marked with an X just off the coast.

They dove together, bubbles rising as the sunlight filtered into deeper, bluer water. Coral-covered statues greeted them as they approached a dark, stone archway carved into the ocean floor. Jasper's heart thudded in his chest as they swam through.

Inside was an underwater theater. Red curtains floated like seaweed. Rows of stone seats spiraled upward. Jellyfish glowed above, lighting the stage. A broken piano sat off to the side, its keys shimmering with pearls.

As Jasper swam down to the front row, a spotlight flickered on. In the center of the stage stood a marble figure—a performer frozen in time. And behind him, etched into the back wall, were dozens of names.

Jasper swam closer, brushing algae from one name: **Rivera**.

His grandmother joined him, her eyes wide. "Your great-great-grandfather," she whispered. "He built this place for sea travelers long ago."

Suddenly, the piano rang out a clear, single note. The curtains lifted just slightly. The theater, though silent, felt alive.

Back on the boat, Jasper opened his journal and began to draw. He knew now that the stories of his family weren't just in books—they were waiting to be found beneath the surface.



Name: _____

The Theater Beneath

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

- A. That the theater is above the water
- B. That the space is magical and peaceful
- C. That the seats are full of people
- D. That the piano is playing loudly

2. How would a drawing of Jasper brushing algae off the name "Rivera" help the reader?

- A. It would show how cold the water is
- B. It would explain how the piano works
- C. It would highlight the connection between Jasper and the theater
- D. It would show how Jasper built the stage himself

3. Fill in the blank:

Jasper found his great-great-grandfather's name carved into the _____ at the back of the underwater stage.

4. How could illustrations help bring the sunken theater and its magical details to life for readers?

5. If someone told this story aloud, what sounds or music would help bring the scene to life?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: Q

Lexile Level: 735L-885L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Mythical Underwater Adventure

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re reading a story about a boy who discovers a secret underwater theater with a personal connection to his past. As we read, think about how illustrations or sound effects could help bring this magical scene to life. We’ll look for parts of the story that would be especially powerful in a visual or oral presentation.”

Vocabulary: parchment, theater, spotlight, etched, performer

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to explore something lost underwater?
 2. What kinds of places or objects might remain hidden beneath the ocean?
 3. How do visuals or sound effects help tell stories in movies or read-alouds?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What details about the theater show it used to be important?
 2. How does Jasper react to finding the name “Rivera”?
 3. What makes the moment with the piano feel magical?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How would an illustration help the reader understand the inside of the theater?
 2. Why is it important to Jasper that his family is connected to the theater?
 3. If you turned this story into a short film, what sounds, colors, or images would you use?
-

Activity Idea

Have students create a diorama or digital model of the underwater theater, using materials like foil (for jellyfish), fabric scraps (for curtains), and small stones (for seats). Ask them to label or highlight magical elements from the story and explain how these would be shown in an illustrated or oral version of the tale.

