

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Theme

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Tower Room

Adeline had lived in the old manor house for three weeks, but it still didn't feel like home. Her father said the move was temporary—just until her grandmother's health improved—but Adeline didn't believe that. The rooms echoed. The garden was overgrown. Even the walls felt like strangers.

One rainy afternoon, Adeline climbed to the top of the house where a spiral staircase led to a narrow wooden door. Behind it, she found the tower room.

It was circular, with dusty windows and faded wallpaper. An old desk stood in the corner, and on it lay a notebook with pressed flowers between the pages. Curious, she opened it.

The handwriting was delicate but strong. *"This is where I go when I feel too big or too small for the rest of the house,"* one entry read.

Adeline sat on the floor and read more. Page after page told stories of a girl named Mae—her grandmother—who once found comfort in this very room when she was twelve, just like Adeline.

Later that evening, Adeline brought her own notebook up to the tower. She sat at the desk, opened to a clean page, and began to write. For the first time since moving, the house felt a little smaller, and her world felt a little more her own.



Name: _____

The Tower Room

1. What is the theme of this story?

- A. We often find comfort in unexpected places when we feel alone.
- B. Moving to a big house always leads to adventure.
- C. Keeping journals is more fun than reading them.
- D. Rainy days are best spent in old towers.

2. What does the tower room symbolize for Adeline and her grandmother?

- A. A place of reflection, safety, and emotional connection
- B. A hiding place to avoid chores
- C. A secret room for treasure
- D. A spooky part of the house

3. Fill in the blank:

Adeline discovers that the **notebook** in the tower once belonged to her _____.

4. How does the discovery of Mae's journal help Adeline begin to feel more at home?

5. What clues from the story help you understand the theme about finding comfort during change?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: R

Lexile Level: 790L-940L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read about a girl who feels out of place in a new home but discovers something that helps her connect with the past. As we read, we'll look for the story's theme—the deeper message or lesson—and how it's revealed through Adeline's actions and discoveries."

Vocabulary: manor, spiral, delicate, echoed, reflection

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do you usually feel in a new place?
 2. What helps you feel more comfortable during a big change?
 3. Why might someone keep a journal?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is Adeline's first impression of the house?
 2. How does her mood change after finding the tower room and notebook?
 3. What details from the journal help her feel less alone?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the theme of this story, and how is it revealed through Adeline's journey?
 2. How do the past and present connect through the tower room?
 3. How does writing her own entry help Adeline grow?
-

Activity Idea

Have students design their own "comfort room"—real or imagined—and write a journal entry from a character who finds peace there during a time of change. Encourage them to include emotional details that connect to a meaningful theme.

