

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character, Setting, or Event

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Key of Windelmere

Deep in the heart of Windelmere Forest, where the trees whispered in forgotten languages, lived a boy named Cael. He was the youngest apprentice of the Mapkeeper's Guild, charged with recording lands long vanished from most memory.

One day, while searching for ancient tree markings near the edge of the Western Glade, Cael spotted something strange: a small iron key sticking out of a hollow in the roots of an old yew tree.

The moment he touched it, the wind shifted. The leaves stilled. A distant bell rang, though no tower stood nearby.

Back in the village, Cael studied the old guild scrolls until he found mention of the *Key of Windelmere*—a lost artifact said to unlock the secret of the Forgotten Chamber, hidden beneath the forest floor.

The next morning, Cael returned to the tree, heart racing. He followed the whispers of the wind, which now seemed to guide him deeper into the forest than he'd ever dared. As the light dimmed and moss thickened underfoot, he found it: a stone door in the earth, covered in runes.

He held up the key. It shimmered faintly and turned in his palm.

Cael stepped forward. Not because he was fearless, but because curiosity was louder than fear.



Name: _____

The Key of Windelmere

1. What can we infer about Cael's personality based on his actions?

- A. He is curious and brave, willing to face the unknown for knowledge.
- B. He is scared and avoids anything unfamiliar.
- C. He doesn't care about legends or ancient artifacts.
- D. He always follows the rules without question.

2. What role does the setting of Windelmere Forest play in the story?

- A. It creates a mysterious and magical backdrop that challenges and guides Cael.
- B. It is an empty space with little importance to the story.
- C. It makes the story feel like a regular forest walk.
- D. It limits what Cael can do because it's a city setting.

3. Fill in the blank:

The *Key of Windelmere* was hidden in the roots of an old _____ tree.

4. How do Cael's decisions show that he is growing as a character? Use evidence from the story.

5. What specific details about the setting help create a feeling of mystery and fantasy?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: R

Lexile Level: 790L-940L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Fantasy

Introducing the Text

"In this fantasy story, a boy named Cael finds a magical key and follows clues into a mysterious forest. As we read, we'll focus on how the character and setting work together to show growth and tension. We'll look for text evidence to describe Cael and explain how the setting shapes the events."

Vocabulary: apprentice, guild, artifact, runes, curiosity

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What kind of people become explorers or adventurers in stories?
 2. What do you expect from a story that takes place in a magical forest?
 3. What emotions might someone feel when discovering something ancient?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Cael react to finding the key?
 2. What clues show the forest is magical or enchanted?
 3. What risks does Cael take, and what motivates him?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How has Cael changed from the beginning to the end of the story?
 2. What does the story suggest about curiosity and bravery?
 3. How does the author use setting details to support the theme of discovery?
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Activity Idea

Have students design a map of Windelmere Forest, labeling key locations and drawing where the tree, glade, and Forgotten Chamber might be. Ask them to write a paragraph describing how setting can shape a character's choices in fantasy stories.

