

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Overall Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Mapmaker's Quest

Cora had always been fascinated by maps. As a child, she would trace the winding roads and hidden valleys in her grandfather's old cartography books, dreaming of the places they led to. So, when she inherited his mapmaking tools, she felt like she had inherited a piece of his soul.

Her first map was simple—a basic sketch of the local hills. But the second one was different. It wasn't just a map of the world she knew—it was a map of a world that hadn't been discovered yet.

The map glowed faintly when she opened it, and as she traced the mountains and rivers, she felt a pull—a feeling of adventure calling to her.

Cora decided to follow the map's route. She packed her bag, gathered supplies, and set out at dawn. Each new place she visited seemed to bring her closer to the heart of the unknown world. As the path grew harder, so did her determination.

By the time she reached the edge of the forest, where the map showed an island hidden in the mist, Cora was more than just a mapmaker—she was an explorer. The final scene of her journey came into focus: a hidden city, ancient and full of secrets.

The map led her there, and in the heart of the city, she discovered a treasure greater than gold—knowledge of forgotten worlds and lost histories.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mapmaker's Quest

**1. How does the structure of the story contribute to Cora's development as a character?**

- A. The story is built around Cora's physical and emotional journey, each scene revealing her growth.
- B. The story follows Cora's daily life without much change.
- C. The structure is focused only on the map itself, not Cora's character.
- D. The journey is short, with little attention to Cora's transformation.

**2. What role does the map play in the structure of the story?**

- A. The map acts as a guide, propelling Cora forward and shaping the course of her adventure.
- B. The map is irrelevant to the plot.
- C. The map only serves to show where Cora started.
- D. The map is destroyed before Cora begins her journey.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Cora's quest was guided by the \_\_\_\_\_ she inherited from her grandfather.

**4. How do the scenes in the story work together to show Cora's transition from mapmaker to explorer?**

---

---

---

**5. How does the final treasure Cora finds reflect the theme of the journey?**

---

---

---



# Parent and Teacher Guide

---

**Guide Reading Level:** R

**Lexile Level:** 790L-940L

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade, Middle of the Year

**Genre:** Adventure / Fantasy

---

## Introducing the Text

*"Today we're going to explore the structure of a story about a mapmaker who embarks on an adventure. As we read, we'll examine how the events and settings build upon one another to lead Cora toward her goal. We'll also think about how the author uses the map as a key element in shaping the story."*

**Vocabulary:** cartography, glowing, quest, treasure, forgotten

---

## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What makes a journey feel like an adventure in stories?
  2. How do maps often symbolize something beyond just directions?
  3. What do you think Cora will find at the end of her journey?
- 

## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the author describe Cora's feelings as she follows the map?
  2. What challenges does she face along the way, and how do they shape her character?
  3. What role do the different settings play in the progression of the story?
- 

## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the structure of the story show Cora's transformation?
  2. What does the hidden city and its treasure symbolize in the story?
  3. How do the scenes in the story work together to convey the themes of exploration and discovery?
- 

## Activity Idea

Have students create their own map for a fictional adventure. They should include different scenes and obstacles that the main character must face. Then, they will write a short paragraph explaining how the structure of the map shapes the journey and the character's growth.

