

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Point of View

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Last Train Out

Snowflakes danced in the wind as Kai Khan pulled his coat tighter and stepped through the creaking gates of the old Pinebrook Station. No trains had come through in decades, but the town whispered stories about the "last train out"—a mysterious ride that appeared only once each winter.

Kai wasn't sure he believed in ghosts or magic, but he was sure of one thing: something about this place called to him. He crunched across the icy platform and reached the faded schedule board. To his surprise, a new message glowed faintly beneath the frost: **Train 777 — 5:00 PM.**

He checked his watch—4:59.

Suddenly, the platform shuddered. Lights flickered along the rusted rails. A gust of warm air whooshed past, and out of the mist, a silver train appeared. Its windows shimmered with light, showing glimpses of people from long ago—families hugging, soldiers waving goodbye, children clutching teddy bears.

Kai hesitated, heart pounding. A conductor, transparent like morning fog, stepped out and tipped his hat. "Boarding for those who seek answers," he said gently.

Kai climbed aboard, heart pounding louder than the train's whistle. He took a seat by the window as the train pulled away. Images flashed by—memories of the town's past, stories long forgotten. He realized the train wasn't taking him away but helping him understand where he came from.

When the train returned, the platform was empty again, but something had changed. Kai stepped off, clutching a photo of his great-grandfather in a conductor's hat. He smiled. Some stories are real, even if they begin with a whisper in the snow.



Name: _____

The Last Train Out

1. What point of view is the story told from, and how can you tell?

- A. It uses "you" to speak directly to the reader
- B. It uses "I" to tell the story from Kai's perspective
- C. It uses "he" and "his" to tell the story about Kai from a narrator's perspective
- D. It switches between Kai and the conductor's voices

2. How might the story feel different if Kai had told it himself in first person?

- A. It would include more pictures of the train
- B. It would sound more like a poem
- C. It might share more of Kai's thoughts and feelings directly
- D. It would use different names for the characters

3. Fill in the blank:

Kai saw _____ of the town's past while riding on the magical train, helping him understand where he came from.

4. How does the narrator's third-person point of view help you understand both what Kai sees and how the setting feels?

5. If the story had been written from the conductor's point of view, what details might have been described differently?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: R

Lexile Level: 790L-940L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Historical Fiction

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re going to read a story about a boy who visits an abandoned train station in the middle of winter. We’ll look at how the pictures and descriptions in the story help us understand what’s happening, especially when something mysterious occurs. Let’s read closely and see how the mood and details shape our understanding.”

Vocabulary: platform, shimmered, conductor, transparent, memories

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think a story set in an abandoned train station might be about?
 2. Have you ever heard a story passed down in your family or town?
 3. What do you know about historical fiction—stories that blend facts with
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues tell you the train isn’t ordinary?
 2. How does the author build suspense leading up to the train’s arrival?
 3. What do you notice about the images or descriptions of the train and its passengers?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the train was called “the last train out”?
 2. What emotions did Kai experience, and how did they change throughout the story?
 3. How did the pictures and vivid descriptions help you better understand the story’s message?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a storyboard with four illustrated scenes from the train ride. Each panel should show a memory or figure Kai saw on the train and include a short caption describing its meaning.

