

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character, Setting, or Event

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Telegram

The summer of 1944 was dry and quiet in Lenore's small town, the kind of place where everyone knew everyone else's routines. The war overseas felt distant—until it didn't.

Lenore was twelve when she started delivering telegrams on her bicycle. Her job was simple: ride fast, hand the envelope to the recipient, and say nothing unless they asked. But she soon learned that the ones printed in brown ink were different. Heavier, somehow. Sadder. People didn't thank her for those.

One afternoon, as cicadas buzzed in the trees and heat shimmered off the road, Lenore was handed a brown telegram at the post office. The address was only two streets away.

She pedaled slowly, her stomach tight. Mrs. Avery, a teacher at the school, opened the door. Lenore held out the envelope, eyes down.

Mrs. Avery didn't cry. She just pressed her lips together and whispered, "Thank you, dear," as if Lenore had given her flowers instead of the worst news of her life.

Later, Lenore sat on the hill behind the train station, telegram bag beside her, thinking about the weight of words. She was just a messenger, but the message never left her.



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

## The Telegram

1. What can we infer about Lenore's feelings toward her job delivering telegrams?

- A. She begins to understand the emotional weight of her work, especially during wartime.
- B. She finds it boring and unimportant.
- C. She wants to quit because it's too easy.
- D. She never pays attention to who receives the messages.

2. What does the event with Mrs. Avery help show about Lenore's character?

- A. She is empathetic and mature, even though she is young.
- B. She is impatient with people.
- C. She doesn't understand how the war affects others.
- D. She enjoys making people upset.

3. Fill in the blank:

The brown telegrams carried sad news from the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. How does Lenore's reaction after delivering the telegram show she is beginning to change?

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5. What specific details about the setting and characters help us understand the emotional tone of the story?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** S

**Lexile Level:** 850L-1000L

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

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"In this story, a girl named Lenore delivers telegrams during wartime and begins to understand the deep impact of the messages she carries. As we read, we'll focus on how her character changes, how specific events shape her growth, and how setting and tone influence the meaning."*

**Vocabulary:** telegram, cicadas, recipient, envelope, overseas

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about how people used to communicate during wartime?
  2. Why might a telegram delivery be emotional?
  3. How do small jobs sometimes carry big responsibilities?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is different about the brown telegrams Lenore delivers?
  2. How do people react when they receive bad news?
  3. What does Lenore notice about Mrs. Avery's response?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Lenore change after this experience?
  2. What is the author saying about responsibility and emotional maturity?
  3. How does the quiet setting of the town contrast with the heaviness of Lenore's task?
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## Activity Idea

Ask students to write a short journal entry from Lenore's point of view later that night. What is she thinking about? How does she feel about being part of something so serious? This reflection helps students deepen their understanding of character development and historical context.

