

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Overall Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Hidden Compass

Milo always knew that the old compass in his grandfather's study was special. His grandfather had told him stories about it when he was a child, claiming it could lead anyone to their true path—if they knew how to read it. But when Milo's grandfather passed away, the compass was left on a shelf, forgotten.

One summer afternoon, while cleaning out the attic, Milo came across the dusty wooden box where the compass was stored. Without much thought, he picked it up, holding it as his grandfather once had. To his surprise, the needle didn't point north. It swirled, moving of its own accord, stopping at a hidden corner of the attic.

Curious and excited, Milo followed the compass, which led him through the house and into the nearby woods. Each step seemed to draw him deeper into a world he had never seen before, a place where shadows and light danced, where whispers of old magic lingered in the air.

As the compass led him to an abandoned well, Milo realized that the journey was not about finding something physical—it was about discovering something inside himself. The well wasn't just a relic of the past; it was the key to understanding his own potential.



Name: _____

The Hidden Compass

1. How does the structure of the story affect the way we understand Milo's journey?

- A. Each scene builds on Milo's growing understanding, leading him toward self-discovery.
- B. The story follows a predictable, unchanged pattern.
- C. Each scene is disconnected and unrelated to the next.
- D. The story focuses only on finding the compass and its origins.

2. How does the setting influence the story's structure?

- A. The house and woods serve as a path for Milo's internal growth, adding layers to the story.
- B. The setting is irrelevant to the plot of the story.
- C. The house is simply a place to store the compass.
- D. The setting changes without any impact on the characters or plot.

3. Fill in the blank:

Milo's journey is about more than finding a treasure; it's about discovering his _____.

4. How does the structure of the story create a sense of adventure and mystery?

5. What do you think the compass symbolizes in Milo's journey?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S

Lexile Level: 850L-1000L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Adventure / Fantasy

Introducing the Text

"In today's story, Milo sets out on an adventure guided by his grandfather's compass. As we read, pay attention to how each part of the story—starting with the discovery of the compass—builds the journey toward Milo's self-understanding. The structure of the story is important in showing his growth."

Vocabulary: reluctant, swirled, potential, relic, whispers

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do you think an adventure can change a person?
 2. Why might a journey be about more than what we can see?
 3. What are some stories you've read where a character goes on a journey to learn something about themselves?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What role does the compass play in guiding Milo?
 2. How does the setting shift as Milo follows the compass?
 3. What new discoveries does Milo make in each scene?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the events of the story lead to Milo's transformation?
 2. What does the compass represent in the overall structure of the story?
 3. How does the setting of the woods add to the feeling of adventure?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to create their own "map" of an imaginary journey. They should describe the places the character visits and how each location helps the character grow, similar to how Milo's journey is structured. Then, have them write a brief summary of their character's growth along the way.

