

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Theme & Summary

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Climb

### Part 1 - The Offer

It was the perfect Friday. The sun was setting, and the air was full of the hum of summer. Lily sat by the old oak tree, her favorite spot in the park. That's when she saw him—Ethan, the kid who always seemed to have the world at his feet. He was holding something shiny in his hand. "Hey, Lily," he said with a grin. "You want to try this? It's a charm. Just for fun, you know?" Lily stared at the charm. It was a small, black stone with an iridescent shimmer. She'd heard rumors about it. Some said it brought bad luck; others said it made you disappear for hours. Lily wasn't sure. "What's the catch?" Ethan laughed. "No catch. Just a little fun. But it's up to you."

### Part 2 - The Temptation

Lily hesitated. She had always trusted Ethan, even though she had heard strange things about him. But it was just a charm, right? It could be harmless. She touched it, feeling the cool stone under her fingers. Almost immediately, she felt different. The world around her seemed to blur. Her thoughts became clearer, sharper. Ethan's voice rang in her ears. "Now go," he urged, "take a walk. See the world through the charm."

### Part 3 - The Decision

Lily stood up, but as she walked away, something didn't feel right. She could hear her thoughts echoing. The world wasn't as bright anymore. The charm wasn't just a toy—it was controlling her. She turned back, her heart pounding. "No," she whispered. "This isn't right." Ethan was watching her, smiling knowingly. "You don't have to stay, Lily. But you won't know what you're missing." Lily felt the pull, but this time, she made a choice. She walked away, leaving the charm behind. The world felt clearer, more real, without it.



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

## The Climb

1. Why does Lily decide not to keep the charm?

- A. She doesn't want to break it
- B. She feels something is wrong with it
- C. She trusts Ethan too much
- D. She doesn't think it's magical

2. How does the charm affect Lily when she first touches it?

- A. It makes her feel dizzy
- B. It makes her more focused and clear-headed
- C. It makes her forget everything
- D. It makes her hear voices

3. Fill in the blank:

The charm represents \_\_\_\_\_ because it tempts Lily but also makes her feel uncomfortable.

4. What evidence shows that Lily starts to question the charm's power? Use a quote from the story.

---

---

---

5. Why do you think Lily chooses to walk away from the charm? How does that decision reflect her character?

---

---

---



# Parent and Teacher Guide

---

**Guide Reading Level:** S

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

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

---

## Introducing the Text

*“Today we’ll read a story about a boy named Tyler who faces his fear of climbing a mountain. As we read, we’ll pay attention to how he changes and what lesson he learns. At the end, we’ll summarize the story and determine the central theme based on the details Tyler’s actions and feelings give us.”*

**Vocabulary:** summit, determination, struggle, grip, knot

---

## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What challenges do you think someone might face while climbing a mountain?
  2. Have you ever done something that scared you? How did you feel afterward?
  3. What do you think the theme of a story is, and why is it important?
- 

## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does Tyler notice about his fear during the climb?
  2. What does the instructor, Ms. Rodriguez, say that helps Tyler?
  3. How does Tyler respond to helping Emily?
- 

## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Tyler change over the course of the story?
  2. Why is the final moment on the summit important to the theme of the story?
  3. What do you think the message of the story is for Tyler?
- 

## Activity Idea

Have students draw a diagram of the mountain climb showing Tyler’s journey. On one side, they will list the challenges he faces, and on the other, the personal growth he experiences. Then, they will write a summary of the story, highlighting the theme of overcoming fear.

