

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Analyze Visuals

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Lantern Keeper

Every night, Luma lit the lanterns that floated across the lake. The townspeople said the lanterns carried wishes to the stars. Luma didn't know if that was true, but she lit them anyway.

Her little boat bobbed gently as she struck each match. Orange light bloomed like fireflowers on the water. She hummed an old melody her grandmother once sang—soft, steady, sweet.

One night, dark clouds swallowed the moon. A cold wind hissed across the water, and her matches wouldn't light. One by one, the lanterns stayed dim.

Luma pulled her scarf tight. Her fingers trembled. She thought of the villagers watching from their windows, waiting for the lights to rise.

Then she saw a single glow—tiny, golden. A boy in a distant canoe held up a lantern, already burning. Another boat appeared with two more. Slowly, lights flickered across the lake.

Luma smiled. She lit her last match and raised her lantern high. The lake shimmered.

The stars didn't need wishes to shine. But people sometimes did.



Name: _____

The Lantern Keeper

1. How might a wordless image of the lake during the storm affect the tone of the story?

- A. It would show the fear and tension when the lanterns don't light.
- B. It would make the scene feel cheerful and silly.
- C. It would confuse the reader about where the story takes place.
- D. It would make the scene feel like a science experiment.

2. How would a visual of many boats appearing on the lake support the meaning of the story?

- A. It would show that Luma is being replaced by others.
- B. It would highlight the importance of teamwork and shared hope.
- C. It would show that the lanterns are more dangerous than helpful.
- D. It would distract from Luma's original plan.

3. Fill in the blank:

Luma lights lanterns to float across the _____ at night.

4. How could an illustration help the reader understand the emotions in this story without using words?

5. Why is it important that Luma is joined by others in the final scene?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S

Lexile Level: 850L-1000L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Folktale-Inspired Fantasy

Introducing the Text

“This story includes scenes that could be beautifully told through wordless illustration. As you read, imagine what a picture of each scene might show. Think about how tone, mood, and meaning can be shown through light, color, and character expression—even without any words.”

Vocabulary: lantern, melody, shimmered, flickered, wishes

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What types of feelings or ideas can a picture express without using words?
 2. How do artists use light and shadow to show mood?
 3. What do you expect from a story about floating lanterns?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the emotional tone when Luma can't light the lanterns?
 2. How does the scene change when other boats appear?
 3. What kind of picture would best show that moment?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What might a wordless illustration of the final scene look like?
 2. How would that image help a reader understand the story's message?
 3. Why is it powerful when a story's meaning is shown, not just told?
-

Activity Idea

Have students choose a key moment from the story and sketch a wordless image to represent it. Then, have them explain how elements like light, shadow, expression, or color help show tone or meaning—even with no text.

