

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare Story Elements

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Midnight Disappearance

The storm struck just before midnight. In the quiet village of Galloway, twelve-year-old Tobias crept into the old library where his cousin Mira was waiting. Their grandmother, the librarian, had vanished without a trace.

Mira held up a strange note found in her office. It read, "*Books unlock more than knowledge.*" Below it was a riddle and a smudge of soot.

"She would never leave without telling us," Mira said. "She's trying to lead us somewhere."

Together, they followed the trail: an open atlas, a missing novel, and a key hidden in a book labeled *The Forgotten Door*.

As they solved each clue, the cousins argued. Tobias wanted to go straight to the police, but Mira believed in solving it herself. "Gran always said the library is full of secrets."

Eventually, their search led to the underground archives. They turned the key—and a hidden passage creaked open. Inside, they found their grandmother, safe but trapped when a shelf collapsed.

Mira smiled. "I told you she left us clues."

Tobias helped their grandmother out. "Next time," he said, "we tell the police and bring snacks."

They laughed, grateful the mystery ended with family and not fear.



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

## The Clockmaker's Apprentice

**1. How do Tobias and Mira respond differently to their grandmother's disappearance?**

- A. Tobias wants to solve it on his own, but Mira thinks they should go to the police.
- B. Tobias wants to contact the police, but Mira wants to follow clues and solve it herself.
- C. Tobias is calm, but Mira is scared and unsure what to do.
- D. Tobias ignores the problem, but Mira panics and gives up.

**2. What clue finally leads Tobias and Mira to their grandmother?**

- A. A mysterious phone call from a stranger.
- B. A book titled *The Forgotten Door* that hides a key.
- C. A secret message written in invisible ink.
- D. A missing flashlight from the supply room.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Tobias and Mira followed a series of clues through the \_\_\_\_\_ to find their grandmother.

**4. How do Mira's and Tobias's different approaches help them solve the mystery?**

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**5. What theme or message does this story suggest about family and problem-solving?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** T

**Lexile Level:** 900L-1050L

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

**Genre:** Mystery

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today's story is a mystery involving two cousins searching for their missing grandmother. As you read, focus on how Tobias and Mira respond differently to the situation, and how their personalities influence the choices they make and the way the story unfolds."*

**Vocabulary:** archives, creaked, riddle, smudge, disappearance

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you expect to happen in a mystery story?
  2. Have you ever solved a riddle or followed clues to figure something out?
  3. How might characters handle a scary or confusing situation differently?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why does Mira believe her grandmother left clues?
  2. How does the note with the riddle help them know where to go?
  3. What do the cousins argue about during their search?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What did each character do that helped solve the mystery?
  2. How did their relationship grow or change during the story?
  3. What might have happened if they hadn't worked together?
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## Activity Idea

Have students write their own short mystery clue using a riddle, then exchange it with a classmate to solve. This reinforces sequencing, inferencing, and creative problem-solving while keeping students engaged in story structure.

