

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Point of View

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Whispering Map

No one believed Garen when he said the old map in the attic whispered his name. But he heard it—soft and scratchy, like wind through tall grass.

The map only spoke when he was alone. It showed no roads, only trees that moved slightly each time he looked away. Garen felt both drawn to it and unsettled by it.

One night, he followed its instructions, marked in glowing ink: *Climb the hill. Wait for starlight.*

He didn't tell anyone—not his little sister Mara, not even his father. He didn't want them to laugh.

Under the stars, the map warmed in his hands. The trees shifted, showing a hidden path. Garen followed it to a grove lit by fireflies. In the center stood a stone pedestal with carvings that matched the lines of the map.

He placed it down, heart pounding. A soft voice whispered again: *You listened. Now you may lead.*

He didn't know what it meant, not exactly. But when he returned home, the trees on the map no longer moved. They stayed still—waiting, perhaps, for the next listener.



Name: _____

The Whispering Map

1. How does the narrator's point of view influence how the story is told?

- A. It shows the events from Garen's perspective, including his doubts and thoughts.
- B. It tells the story from Mara's view and her excitement about the map.
- C. It gives a bird's-eye view with no emotional detail.
- D. It shares how all the characters feel at the same time.

2. What effect does the third-person limited point of view have on the reader?

- A. It helps the reader feel like they are watching a documentary.
- B. It keeps the reader emotionally distant from the main character.
- C. It gives insight into Garen's thoughts but keeps the mystery alive.
- D. It focuses only on what the narrator feels, not what Garen feels.

3. Fill in the blank:

The map only whispered when Garen was _____.

4. How does the narrator's limited point of view help create mystery in the story?

5. How would the story feel different if it were told from Mara's point of view?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: T

Lexile Level: 900L-1050L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Fantasy – Third-Person Limited

Introducing the Text

“Today’s story is told through third-person limited point of view. That means the narrator is not a character in the story but tells the story mainly through the eyes of one character—Garen. As you read, notice how the narrator’s access to Garen’s thoughts affects what we learn and how the story feels.”

Vocabulary: grove, pedestal, starlight, glowing, unsettled

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about different types of narrators?
 2. How might a story feel different if told from a single character’s perspective?
 3. What kinds of magical objects have you seen in fantasy stories?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why does Garen not tell anyone about the map?
 2. What clues show us how Garen feels about the map and its voice?
 3. How does the narrator reveal Garen’s emotions and thoughts without Garen speaking aloud?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the third-person limited narrator affect the mystery and tension in the story?
 2. What would be different if the story were told by someone else, like Mara?
 3. Why do you think the author chose to keep the map’s voice mysterious?
-

Activity Idea

Invite students to rewrite one paragraph from Mara’s point of view, imagining what she might have seen or felt if she had followed Garen. This helps students explore how different narrators shape a story’s tone and meaning.

