

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Quote Accurately

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Paper Star

Present - 1987

Tomoya stepped into his grandmother's attic, dust thick in the air. He was helping her clean, but the real reason he volunteered was curiosity. The old trunk had always been off-limits—until today.

Inside, under a folded flag, lay a single yellowed paper star.

Flashback - 1943

Ten-year-old Akiko pressed the edge of the paper star with her thumbnail to make a sharp crease. She had made dozens of them since arriving at Camp Minidoka. Her older brother Hiro had joked they were "wishes in disguise."

"Fold a hundred, and we'll fly away," he said, his smile a little crooked.

Akiko had believed him.

Present

Tomoya held the star up to the window. Something had been written on one of the creases. Faded ink. A date. A name. Hiro.

"Grandma," he called downstairs. "Did Hiro really fold this with you?"

Silence. Then: "Every night. Until we couldn't anymore."

Tomoya didn't ask more questions. He just sat quietly with the star resting in his hand, a small, sharp piece of a larger history.



Name: _____

The Paper Star

1. What does the paper star represent for Akiko and Hiro?

- A. A decoration from school
- B. Their mother's instructions
- C. A symbol of hope and connection during hard times
- D. A toy made from a map

2. What can you infer about why Tomoya doesn't ask more questions at the end?

- A. He already knows all the answers
- B. He doesn't want to bother his grandmother
- C. He senses it's a painful memory and chooses to show respect
- D. He is angry about being left out

3. Fill in the blank:

The line "Fold a hundred, and we'll fly away," suggests Hiro was trying to give Akiko a sense of _____ during a difficult time.

4. How does the author use both the present and past timelines to show the emotional connection between Tomoya and Akiko?

5. Use at least one quote from the text to explain what Tomoya learns about his family's past by the end of the story.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: U

Lexile Level: 925L-1075L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Historical Fiction (Japanese American WWII Home Front)

Introducing the Text

“Today we’ll read a story that moves between the past and present. A boy named Tomoya discovers a small object that helps him connect with his family’s history. As we read, we’ll quote directly from the text and also make thoughtful inferences based on what isn’t said.”

Vocabulary: creases, disguise, internment, silence, resting

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think a paper star could symbolize in a story?
 2. Why do families keep objects from the past?
 3. What can be learned from switching between past and present in a story?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why does Akiko make paper stars?
 2. What do we learn from Hiro’s quote, “Fold a hundred, and we’ll fly away”?
 3. How does Tomoya react to finding the star and hearing his grandmother’s words?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the author ends the story with quiet reflection instead of dialogue?
 2. What specific lines help us infer how deeply Tomoya is affected?
 3. How does the paper star connect both generations emotionally?
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Activity Idea

Have students write a short scene from Hiro’s point of view the night he gave Akiko the first paper star. Ask them to include dialogue and a moment that could show hope or comfort, using one phrase from the original story and one original line that shows emotion through action.

