

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare Story Elements

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Fire Whisperer

In the domed city of Solara, fire was no longer feared—it was controlled. Every citizen had a small spark crystal to heat food and light homes. But twelve-year-old Kael could control fire with his hands. He didn't know why, and he didn't tell anyone—except Rhea.

Rhea was logical and cautious. "If they find out, they'll study you like an experiment," she warned. But Kael didn't want to hide anymore. When a power failure shut down the city's heating systems, he knew people would freeze without help.

"I can fix this," he told her.

"You'll get caught," Rhea said. "And what happens then?"

Kael stepped outside and raised his hands. A ribbon of flame danced from his palms to the central core. The backup system roared to life. Lights flickered back on.

Security drones swarmed toward him—but Rhea was ready. She redirected them using her own tech skills. Together, they escaped into the underground vents.

Later, Rhea looked at him. "You saved them."

Kael nodded. "We saved them."

The city stayed warm. No one knew how. And two friends kept a secret burning quietly between them.



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

## The Fire Whisperer

**1. How are Kael and Rhea different in how they respond to Kael's power?**

- A. Kael wants to hide, but Rhea urges him to take action.
- B. Kael wants to use his power, but Rhea is afraid of the consequences.
- C. Kael wants to tell everyone, but Rhea is excited to see what happens.
- D. Kael wants to join the drones, but Rhea wants to leave the city.

**2. What do Kael and Rhea do when the city's heating system fails?**

- A. They hide in the underground vents until the system restarts.
- B. Kael uses his fire powers to help, and Rhea uses her skills to keep him safe.
- C. They tell the mayor and wait for instructions.
- D. Rhea fixes the system while Kael distracts the security drones.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Kael used his \_\_\_\_\_ to restart the heating system in the city of Solara.

**4. How do Kael and Rhea work together to solve the problem, even though they think differently?**

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**5. What message does the story suggest about courage and trust?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** U

**Lexile Level:** 925L-1075L

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

**Genre:** Science Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*“Today’s story is set in a futuristic city where technology controls everything, even fire. As you read, pay attention to how Kael and Rhea approach a dangerous problem in very different ways—and how their choices affect the outcome.”*

**Vocabulary:** domed, experiment, logical, flickered, vents

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you imagine life would be like in a futuristic city?
  2. What would it feel like to have a special power no one else has?
  3. How might characters with different strengths solve problems together?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why is Kael’s power dangerous—and also potentially helpful?
  2. Why does Rhea warn Kael not to reveal himself?
  3. How do they each use their skills when the system fails?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did Kael’s and Rhea’s differences help them solve the city’s problem?
  2. What themes about bravery, loyalty, or secrecy can you find in the story?
  3. How would the story have changed if Kael had acted alone?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a visual “secret powers” chart: one column for strengths people show openly and one for secret strengths. Then, write or draw how those secret strengths might be used for good—just like Kael and Rhea’s.

