

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Academic Vocabulary

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Island of Glass

On the Island of Glass, everything shimmered—from the trees with crystal leaves to the sand that sparkled like sugar. Twelve-year-old Rowan and his cousin Talia had heard stories about the island's beauty—but no one warned them how sharp it could be.

They had come to retrieve a rare flower for their grandfather's medicine. "The Lightvine only grows at the top of the Glass Peak," he'd whispered.

As they climbed, the sun glared down like a spotlight, and the trail twisted like a serpent. Rowan's shoes slid on the smooth ground. "This place is beautiful—but dangerous," he muttered.

Talia, ever fearless, laughed. "Like fire in a diamond."

Halfway up, Rowan tripped, slicing his hand. Blood spotted the glowing sand. For a moment, he wanted to turn back. But he looked at Talia—steady as stone—and kept going.

At the summit, the Lightvine shimmered like a golden thread in the wind. They wrapped it carefully, then watched the sunset spill across the island like melted glass.

They had the cure. But Rowan had found something more—courage, glittering like the cliffs beneath their feet.



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

## The Island of Glass

1. What does the phrase "the trail twisted like a serpent" help the reader understand?

- A. The path was smooth and easy to follow.
- B. The trail was long and full of dangerous curves.
- C. There were real snakes on the trail.
- D. The trail was invisible and hard to find.

2. What does Rowan mean when he says, "This place is beautiful—but dangerous"?

- A. He likes the view but is afraid of falling.
- B. He enjoys climbing but hates hiking with Talia.
- C. He thinks the island's beauty hides its dangers.
- D. He wants to go home and never come back.

3. Fill in the blank:

Rowan compares his courage to \_\_\_\_\_ glittering beneath their feet.

4. How does the author use figurative language to show the setting's beauty and danger?

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5. What does Rowan learn about himself by the end of the story?

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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:** Adventure Fantasy

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## Introducing the Text

*“Today’s story is set on a magical island filled with both beauty and danger. As you read, focus on how the author uses similes and metaphors to describe the setting and help us understand the characters’ journey.”*

**Vocabulary:** shimmered, summit, serpent, glittering, spotted

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think an island made of glass would look and feel like?
  2. Have you ever had to be brave in a situation that felt dangerous?
  3. What do you already know about similes and metaphors?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why is the island both breathtaking and risky?
  2. What do Rowan’s thoughts and actions reveal about his character?
  3. How does Talia help Rowan without saying much?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do the author’s figurative phrases help us picture in our minds?
  2. How does Rowan’s metaphor about courage reflect his journey?
  3. Why do you think the author chose to end the story with the melted-glass sunset image?
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## Activity Idea

Invite students to draw their own version of the Island of Glass, then choose one object from their illustration and describe it using a metaphor or simile. Share as a gallery of figurative writing.

