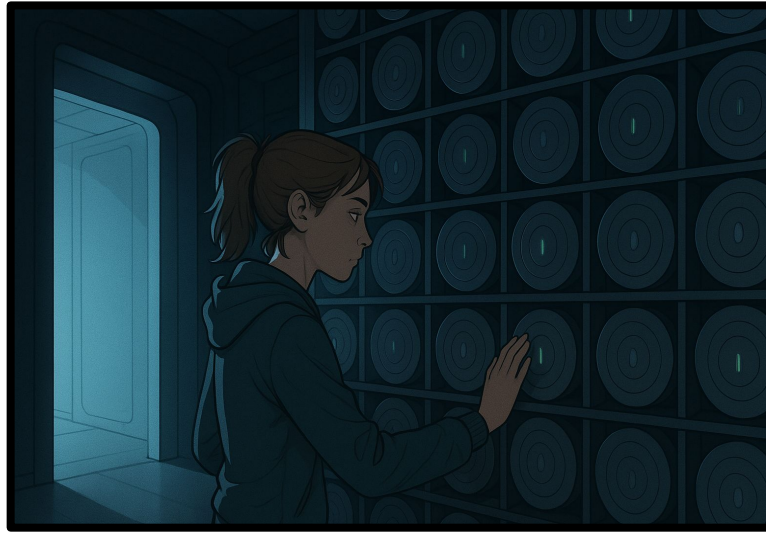


Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Quote Accurately

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Quiet Code

Sector 11 - Year 2186

Avery pressed her palm to the scanner, careful not to let her heartbeat speed up. The wall opened silently, revealing rows of data discs—each one holding a citizen's voiceprint. Every night, Avery deleted just one.

Her brother's.

Three years ago, the Council ruled that silence was the path to peace. No more public speaking, no protests, no songs. Communication was restricted to text and gesture, and every citizen's spoken words were tracked and stored.

But Avery remembered her brother Leo standing in the plaza, shouting truths until the guards took him. His voice had been archived, and she had spent the last year erasing him, piece by piece, so no one could use it against him.

Sector 3 - The Hidden Edge

While Avery coded quietly in the central district, another movement stirred at the city's border. Voices returned—in secret, in song, and in whispered messages scratched into metal.

"Freedom," one note read. "Isn't quiet."



Name: _____

The Quiet Code

1. Why is Avery secretly deleting voiceprints?

- A. She wants to protect her brother from being used by the Council
- B. She is trying to break the system's memory completely
- C. She is applying for a job in Sector 3
- D. She dislikes hearing old voices

2. What can you infer about the note that says "Freedom isn't quiet"?

- A. It means people should stay silent
- B. It supports the Council's rule
- C. It shows resistance and a desire to reclaim expression
- D. It's part of Avery's programming

3. Fill in the blank:

The Council banned speech because they believed silence would bring _____, but not everyone agrees with that idea.

4. Use one quote from the story to explain why Avery continues her secret mission. What does this show about her values?

5. What can you infer about the world outside Sector 11 based on the message scratched into metal? Use evidence from the story.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: V

Lexile Level: 950L–1100L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Science Fiction (Dystopian Future)

Introducing the Text

“This story takes place in a future where speaking out loud is no longer allowed. As you read, pay attention to how the author gives clues about Avery’s world and what she is willing to do for justice. We’ll use quotes from the story to support our understanding and make inferences about what’s happening beneath the surface.”

Vocabulary: sector, archive, protest, resistance, suppress

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why might a society choose to limit communication?
 2. What could be lost if no one was allowed to speak?
 3. What might happen to someone who speaks out in a silent world?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the Council believe about silence?
 2. Why is Avery’s mission dangerous?
 3. What do the two locations (Sector 11 and Sector 3) represent?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the deeper meaning behind the scratched message “Freedom isn’t quiet”?
 2. Which lines reveal Avery’s true feelings, even though she says very little?
 3. How do quotes from the text help us understand the world’s rules and how Avery feels about them?
-

Activity Idea

Students write a journal entry from Avery’s perspective after reading the metal message in Sector 3. They must include one direct quote from the story and one new message Avery might send in return, using inference and tone to capture her emotional shift.

