

Name : _____ Date : _____

THE CLOCKMAKER'S SECRET

Elias sat in the back of his dusty shop, surrounded by the rhythmic tick-tock of a thousand different heartbeats. To anyone else, it was noise; to Elias, it was a symphony. He was the last of the Great Artisans, men who built clocks that didn't just tell time, but captured moments.

One afternoon, a young girl named Maya entered the shop. She wasn't looking for a shiny gold watch or a grand grandfather clock. Instead, she pointed to a small, wooden box tucked away on the highest shelf. It was covered in layers of gray dust and held shut by a rusted iron latch.

"That one," she whispered.

Elias paused, his magnifying glass hovering over a tiny silver gear. "That clock hasn't chimed in fifty years, child. It's broken beyond repair."

"It's not broken," Maya replied, her eyes bright. "It's just waiting."

Intrigued, Elias climbed the ladder and retrieved the box.

As he wiped away the grime, he noticed something he had missed for decades: a tiny inscription on the bottom that read, To be opened only by those who aren't in a hurry.

1.) What is Elias's profession, and what do the "heartbeats" in the first paragraph refer to?

2.) Why does the author describe the shop as a "symphony" to Elias but "noise" to others? What does this tell you about his character?

3.) The text says the clocks "captured moments." Explain in your own words what you think the author means by this.

4.) Based on the inscription on the bottom of the box, what do you think will happen when Elias and Maya try to fix the clock?
