

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE SECRET IN THE TREEHOUSE

Maya loved spending her summer afternoons in the backyard treehouse her grandfather built. Perched high in the sturdy branches of an old oak tree, it was the perfect hideaway for reading her favorite books or watching birds build their nests.

One sunny Tuesday, as Maya adjusted her cushion, her knee bumped against a loose wooden floorboard. It made a strange, hollow sound. Curious, Maya pushed the cushion aside and pried up the loose board with her fingertips. Hidden in the shadowy gap below was a small, dusty metal box with a brass latch.

Her heart pounded with excitement. Maya carefully opened the box. Inside lay a yellowed, handwritten map drawn in faded black ink, along with a brass key attached to a red ribbon. At the top of the map, in neat cursive handwriting, were the words: "To the explorer brave enough to look beyond the trees."

Maya gasped. The map showed a sketch of her own backyard, but it had a dashed line leading toward the old stone wall at the edge of the woods. Beneath the treehouse, she heard her dog, Buster, bark encouragingly. Maya tucked the key into her pocket, picked up the map, and climbed down the ladder. A brand-new adventure was just beginning.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. What causes Maya to discover the hidden box?
 - A) Buster the dog digs a hole under the tree.
 - B) Her knee accidentally bumps a loose floorboard.
 - C) Her grandfather tells her where to look.
 - D) She finds a map inside her library book.
2. Which word best describes Maya's character in the story?
 - A) Curious
 - B) Fearful
 - C) Impatient
 - D) Forgetful
3. Read this sentence from the story:
"Perched high in the sturdy branches of an old oak tree, it was the perfect hideaway..."
What does the word sturdy mean in this sentence?
 - A) Tall and thin
 - B) Strong and firm
 - C) Old and rotting
 - D) Soft and flexible
4. What is the main theme of the story?
 - A) Spending time outdoors is always dangerous.
 - B) Grandfathers are great at building things.
 - C) Curiosity and exploration can lead to exciting adventures.
 - D) Dogs are useful for finding lost items.

