NAME: _____ DATE: _____

THE CHRISTMAS TREE SURPRISE

It was a cold December evening in Maplewood.
Snowflakes danced outside the window as Maya and her younger brother, Leo, sat near the fireplace.
Tonight was the night they were going to decorate the family Christmas tree.

Dad brought in a large cardboard box labeled “Christmas Decorations.”
Maya eagerly opened the box and took out string lights, shiny red glass ornaments, and a silver star for the top.
But as Leo reached into the bottom of the box, his hand touched something unexpected.

He pulled out a small, old wooden box tied with a faded green ribbon.

"What's this?" Leo asked, holding it up.

Mom smiled and sat down beside them. "That box belonged to your Great-Grandmother Clara," she explained.
"She brought it with her when she moved here many years ago. Open it gently."

Leo untied the ribbon and lifted the lid. Inside was a tiny, hand-carved wooden angel holding a gold bell.
Beneath the angel was a small folded piece of paper. Maya unfolded it and read the message written in neat cursive handwriting:

"May this star guide your family, may this angel guard your home, and may your hearts always be full of love and joy."

Maya and Leo looked at each other with wide eyes. "Can we put this angel on the front branch of the tree?" Maya asked.

"I think Great-Grandmother Clara would love that," Mom said softly.

Leo carefully hung the wooden angel near the silver star.
As the Christmas tree lights began to glow, Maya knew this was going to be their most special Christmas yet.

Answer the following questions based on the story.

1. Where does the story take place?

_____

2. What unexpected item did Leo find in the bottom of the decoration box?

_____

3. Who did the wooden box originally belong to?

_____

4. Where did Maya and Leo decide to put the wooden angel?

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