



The Magic Book



The book just hovered above the desk. Jess hadn't seen anything like it. Her grandfather told her not to enter the attic, but she didn't listen, she never did. A gust of wind blew under the door, and the windows went dark. The atmosphere in the room was unusual, and the hovering book had a golden glow to it. Jess' bright blue eyes lit up as she glared upon the magical book. Her thirst for adventure was dangerous.

"Help," came a whisper from the book. Jess followed the voice mindlessly and was sucked into the pages within seconds. Laying flat on her back and staring up at the night sky, she heard the voice again. "Help!" it cried. It was the voice of her grandfather. She followed the cries until she came to the edge of a cliff. Jess' grandfather was sitting on a ledge, trapped to the side of the cliff. She threw a rope and pulled him to safety. Jess treated his cuts and wounds with tissues from her pocket. "What on earth is going on?" she asked. "We're trapped unless someone can turn the page of the book..." he replied pessimistically.



1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- a. Atmosphere _____
- b. Mindlessly _____
- c. Wounds _____
- d. Pessimistic _____

2. What type of person is Jess? What evidence from the text tells you.

3. What does "thirst for adventure" mean?

4. Can you infer how Jess is feeling at the end? Explain your answer.





The Money Tree



There is a money tree in my garden. It's short and wide with hundreds of \$5 notes. It blossoms in the spring and dries up in the winter because it's a deciduous tree. Every spring, I cheerily pick money off the tree and go shopping. Grandad says I can buy whatever I like!

My mother and father can't see the money tree. They think I'm delusional. "Money doesn't grow on trees," my dad always says. I look out the window and smile. My little brother, Tony, can see it too. His eyes light up at its golden glow. I don't think he knows what money is...he's always eating the notes. It's alright though, the tree flourishes in the summer with plenty of money for us.

"How's the tree?" my grandad asks with a mischievous grin. He believes me. "That tree was there when I was a boy," he tells me. "Adults can't see it because they've lost their imagination," he whispers with a wink. My grandad pretends to pay for my toys, so dad doesn't get suspicious. I love my grandad and my money tree...

1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- a. Deciduous _____
- b. Cheerily _____
- c. Delusional _____
- d. Flourish _____

2. What do her parents think of her money tree?

3. Why is Tony attracted to the money tree?

4. How would you describe her grandfather? Give evidence from the text.





Dog Mafia



Peter's suspicions had been confirmed. The pack of dogs on his street were a secret mafia. He put his eye to the hole in the fence and watched carefully. "You got the money?" said the small, scruffy one. The larger dog nodded and said, "I've got the goods." The two dogs exchanged briefcases. After a simple head nod from each, they were on their way. Peter was baffled. That night, he sat in his room, thinking of a cunning plan. He decided to record them talking and send the video to the NEWS. Again, he put his eye to the fence. They were sitting in a circle, in some type of meeting. Peter surreptitiously put the camera to the hole, ensuring they wouldn't hear a thing. He tried to listen but only heard mumblings. Once they had dispersed, he raced home to watch the footage. They were all speaking English, just as he had previously heard. Peter went to turn off the tape when he saw a small figure walking around the dogs. "Jack!" he exclaimed. His little brother was holding a large tray with drinks on it. "Jack is serving them drinks..." Peter gasped as his knees dropped to the floor.



1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- a. Baffled _____
- b. Cunning _____
- c. Surreptitious _____
- d. Dispersed _____

2. How did Peter feel when he heard the dogs talking? How do you know?

3. Why did Peter want to send the video to the NEWS?

4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.





My Alien Teacher



The melodious chirping of birds was replaced with an airy silence. That was the atmosphere when my new teacher, Mrs. Alison, walked in. Her eyes were dark green, and her hair was orange. She was not normal. "Good morning, everyone," she said as she smiled. Her front teeth were straight, but her back teeth were jagged and grotesque. I looked around and to my surprise, no one had looked twice. Was I the only one who could see the obvious? my teacher was an alien! Her alien smell was masked by a strong perfume, but her stench permeated my nose. "You're the best, Mrs. Alison!" one child exclaimed. Are these kids blind, or am I going crazy? There was a mischievous look in her eye when she glared upon me, looking down from her crooked nose. It was like she could read my mind. She continued to stare at me with a loathing look in her eye. Mrs. Alison didn't like me because she knew that I knew. "Time for recess," she called, "except you," she uttered whilst pointing a finger at me. A lump formed in my throat as students left the room. I knew what was about to happen next...



1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- a. Melodious _____
- b. Grotesque _____
- c. Masked _____
- d. Mischievous _____

2. What inferences did the main character make to determine she was an alien?

3. Can you infer the meaning of 'no one looked twice'?

4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.





The Plane Crash



The nights were the worst. Treacherous creatures of the night made themselves heard and the wind roared in every direction. It had been 2 months since our plane crashed on this dreadful island, and we were no closer to escaping. Where were we? "Somewhere over the Pacific," Dad continued to echo. The other families disagreed, but it mattered little. We were trapped on a deadly island with no way to escape...

Seven people had already died in their effort to search the island. Their deaths were a mystery, but after 72 hours of absence, we had no option but to assume the worst. The captain of the plane seemed to be our leader, but was often challenged by others. He told us to move to the other side of the island and many refused. We decided to go with him which was our biggest mistake.

We made it to the other side of the island. The seven lost passengers were there... lifeless on the ground... We could sense our time coming to an end on this devilish island.



1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- a. Treacherous _____
- b. Dreadful _____
- c. Absence _____
- d. Lifeless _____

2. How was the main character feeling about the island? How do you know?

3. "We had no option but to assume the worst." What does this mean?

4. Make an inference on what happened to the 7 missing passengers.





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1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- Atmosphere refers to the mood or feeling of a place.
- Mindlessly means to do something without thinking.
- Wounds are cuts or injuries.
- Pessimistic means negative.

2. What type of person is Jess? What evidence from the text tells you.

She is adventurous. It says she never listened and had a thirst for adventure.

3. What does "thirst for adventure" mean?

It means that she wants to do adventurous things.

4. Can you infer how Jess is feeling at the end? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.





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1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- Deciduous** means when trees blossom and lose their leaves annually.
- Cheerily** means happily.
- Delusional** means you're "crazy" or seeing things.
- Flourish** means to grow quickly.

2. What do her parents think of her money tree?

They think it's not real, just a part of her imagination.

3. Why is Tony attracted to the money tree?

He is attracted because of the golden glow that comes from the tree.

4. How would you describe her grandfather? Give evidence from the text.

Her grandfather is slightly mischievous. I know this because of the way he winked and grinned at his granddaughter when talking about the tree.





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1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- Baffled means to be confused.
- Cunning means to be crafty or sly.
- Surreptitious means to do something secretly.
- Dispersed means to scatter or spread out.

2. How did Peter feel when he heard the dogs talking? How do you know?

He was confused and shocked because it said that he was baffled.

3. Why did Peter want to send the video to the NEWS?

Because he knew the NEWS would spread the word that there is a dog mafia.

4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.

Answers will vary.





My Alien Teacher



The melodious chirping of birds was replaced with an airy silence. That was the atmosphere when my new teacher, Mrs. Alison, walked in. Her eyes were dark green, and her hair was orange. She was not normal. "Good morning, everyone," she said as she smiled. Her front teeth were straight, but her back teeth were jagged and grotesque. I looked around and to my surprise, no one had looked twice. Was I the only one who could see the obvious? my teacher was an alien! Her alien smell was masked by a strong perfume, but her stench permeated my nose. "You're the best, Mrs. Alison!" one child exclaimed. Are these kids blind, or am I going crazy? There was a mischievous look in her eye when she glared upon me, looking down from her crooked nose. It was like she could read my mind. She continued to stare at me with a loathing look in her eye. Mrs. Alison didn't like me because she knew that I knew. "Time for recess," she called, "except you," she uttered whilst pointing a finger at me. A lump formed in my throat as students left the room. I knew what was about to happen next...



1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- Melodious refers to something that sounds pleasant.*
- Grotesque is something that is repulsive or distorted.*
- Masked means to hide something.*
- Mischievous means naughty in a playful way.*

2. What inferences did the main character make to determine she was an alien?

The atmosphere, her green eyes, orange hair, jagged teeth and strong smell.

3. Can you infer the meaning of 'no one looked twice'?

That means no one thought of her as an alien, they didn't 'look twice'.

4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.

Answer will vary.





The Plane Crash



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Seven people had already died in their effort to search the island. Their deaths were a mystery, but after 72 hours of absence, we had no option but to assume the worst. The captain of the plane seemed to be our leader, but was often challenged by others. He told us to move to the other side of the island and many refused. We decided to go with him which was our biggest mistake.

We made it to the other side of the island. The seven lost passengers were there... lifeless on the ground... We could sense our time coming to an end on this devilish island.



1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- Treacherous means hazardous or dangerous.
- Dreadful means frightful or terrible.
- Absence means not there.
- Lifeless means to be dead.

2. How was the main character feeling about the island? How do you know?

She was scared. She said the nights are worst with treacherous creatures.

3. "We had no option but to assume the worst." What does this mean?

It means they assumed that the missing passengers were dead.

4. Make an inference on what happened to the 7 missing passengers.

Answers will vary. They were likely killed by the creatures that inhabit the island.

