

The Keeper's Lantern

Read the story twice: once for fun, once like a detective hunting for clues.



NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

I can find and use evidence from a story to explain what characters think and feel.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can find facts in the text quickly.
- ☐ I can work out what words mean from the sentence around them.
- ☐ I can back up my ideas with a quote and the word **because**.



- 1 **E**very evening for forty years, Grandad Amos had climbed the one hundred and twelve steps of Gull Point Lighthouse. Each step creaked its own note, and Mira, who was nine, knew every one of them by heart.
- 2 "Storm's coming," Grandad said one October afternoon, tapping the barometer by the door. The needle had swung so far to the left that it seemed to be hiding. Outside, the sea had turned the colour of an old spoon.
- 3 By seven o'clock the wind was howling like a kettle that nobody would take off the stove. Then, with a fizz and a pop, every light in the cottage went out. Mira gasped. Through the window, the tower stood black against the sky. The great lamp at the top was dark.

- 4 "The power line's down," Grandad muttered. He reached for his walking stick, winced, and sat back down. His knee had been bad all week. "The *Mary Jane* is due back tonight. Without the light, they won't see the rocks."
- 5 Mira thought of the old paraffin lantern in the store cupboard, the one Grandad kept "just in case". Her heart thumped against her ribs. "I can do it," she said, before she could change her mind.
- 6 She counted the steps as she climbed: the squeak, the groan, the one that sounded like a cough. At the top, her fingers shook as she struck the match. The flame caught. She set the lantern in front of the great glass lens, and a beam swung out across the water, wide and golden.
- 7 Far below, a small light blinked twice. Mira grinned. It was the *Mary Jane*, answering.

? Word help

barometer

a tool that measures air pressure to help forecast the weather

wincing

pulled a quick face because something hurt

paraffin

an oil that was burned in lamps before electric lights

lens

a large curved glass that bends light into a strong beam

Be a reading detective

Each question names the reading skill it practises.



1 How many steps lead to the top of Gull Point Lighthouse? _____

RETRIEVE

1 mark

2 Give one reason why Grandad could not climb the tower himself.

RETRIEVE

1 mark

3 Paragraph 4 Find and copy one word that shows Grandad was in pain.

VOCABULARY

1 mark

4 Paragraph 2 "The sea had turned the colour of an old spoon." What colour was the sea, and what does this tell you about the weather?

VOCABULARY

2 marks

5 "I can do it," she said, before she could change her mind." How was Mira feeling at this moment? Use a quote from paragraph 5 to prove it.

INFER

2 marks

6 Why do you think the small light blinked twice?

INFER

1 mark

7 Number these events from 1 to 5 in the order they happen. The first one is done for you.

SEQUENCE

2 marks

- ☐ Mira strikes a match at the top of the tower.
- ☒ 1 Grandad notices the barometer needle has swung to the left.
- ☐ A small light blinks back from the sea.
- ☐ The lights in the cottage go out.
- ☐ Mira remembers the lantern in the store cupboard.

8 Sum up the whole story in one sentence of no more than 20 words.

SUMMARISE

2 marks

Detective tip: for questions 5 and 6, use the frame *I think ... because the text says "...".* A quote plus **because** turns a guess into an answer.

How did you do? Colour the shape that matches you.

☐ Not yet ☐ Getting there ☒ Got it