

11+ English Comprehension — 17 Questions

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PASSAGE

Comprehension Passage

The narrow attic room was lit only by a single, slanted window. Dust swirled in the strip of morning light like tiny golden insects, dancing to a rhythm all their own. Eleanor stood quietly beside an old wooden trunk, its brass lock tarnished with age. She had come here many times as a child, but today felt different. Today, she had a purpose. Somewhere inside that trunk, hidden beneath layers of blankets and forgotten letters, was the diary of her great-grandmother — a woman whose stories had shaped their family for generations.

Eleanor hesitated before lifting the lid. The hinges groaned softly, releasing a breath of warm, dusty air. Inside lay a neatly folded shawl, yellowed photographs, and at the bottom, a small leather-bound book. Its pages were worn, edges frayed, as though it had been opened hundreds of times by hands both careful and trembling.

She opened the diary. The first page bore a single line in faded ink: "What we choose to remember shapes what we become."

Eleanor felt a shiver of connection — to the past, to her great-grandmother, and to the stories waiting patiently to be told once more.

QUESTIONS

1. Where is the scene set?
2. What time of day is it suggested to be?
3. What does the dust look like in the light?
4. What object is Eleanor standing beside?
5. Why does the day feel different for Eleanor?
6. What is she searching for?
7. Where is the diary hidden?
8. What condition is the diary in?
9. What does the groaning hinge suggest about the trunk?
10. What does the phrase 'a shiver of connection' suggest Eleanor feels?
11. Who wrote the diary?
12. What does the single line in the diary imply about memory?
13. What does the attic window contribute to the atmosphere?
14. Name two items found in the trunk.
15. What emotion is suggested by 'hands both careful and trembling'?
16. What does the passage imply about Eleanor's family history?
17. Why might the stories be described as 'waiting patiently to be told'?

WORKED ANSWERS

- 1) The scene is set in an attic room — it's described as narrow and lit by a slanted window.
- 2) Morning — the light is described as 'morning light'.
- 3) The dust looks like golden insects dancing in the light — a simile.
- 4) She is standing beside an old wooden trunk with a brass lock.
- 5) Because today she has a purpose — she is searching for the diary.
- 6) She is searching for her great-grandmother's diary.
- 7) It is hidden at the bottom of the trunk beneath blankets and letters.
- 8) The diary is very old and worn — frayed edges and used many times.
- 9) It suggests the trunk is old and rarely opened.
- 10) She feels an emotional connection — a sense of belonging or heritage.
- 11) Her great-grandmother wrote the diary.
- 12) It implies that memory influences identity — what we remember shapes who we become.
- 13) It creates a quiet, soft, nostalgic atmosphere.
- 14) A shawl and old photographs (among other items).
- 15) Nervousness, fragility, tenderness, or deep emotion.
- 16) That her family has meaningful stories passed down generations.
- 17) Because they have not been read in a long time — waiting metaphorically for Eleanor.

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