

# Mystery in the Town of Maple

In the serene town of Maple, a peculiar mystery had captured the attention of all its residents. Mrs. Jenkins, the cherished librarian known for her ever-present smile and love for books, had disappeared. She was last seen at the Maple Library, a place she held dear and where she spent countless hours surrounded by stories and knowledge.

The library, typically a sanctuary of silence and study, was now abuzz with whispers and worried glances. Detective Brown, a man of sharp intellect and a reputation for solving the most intricate puzzles, was called upon to unravel this case. Upon entering the library, he observed that Mrs. Jenkins' glasses lay abandoned on her desk, their lenses smeared with fingerprints as if she had been in a hurry. The book she had been reading, an intriguing one on the mysteries of ancient Egypt, was left open to a page filled with hieroglyphics—a subject far removed from her usual genre of choice.

Detective Brown's inquiries led him to Mrs. Jenkins' acquaintances. Mr. Green, her neighbor who often enjoyed afternoon walks with her loyal dog, recounted seeing her that morning in the park. Yet when he returned later to check on her, she was nowhere to be found. Milly, Mrs. Jenkins' niece who shared her aunt's passion for adventure novels, revealed that Mrs. Jenkins had been discussing plans for an expedition to discover hidden treasures.

The detective's investigation took an unexpected turn when he stumbled upon a fragment of a map in the park, torn and weathered by time. The map had markings that led to an abandoned house at the edge of town.

Detective Brown approached the decrepit house. Its windows were boarded up, and vines crept up its walls like nature's attempt to reclaim it. Inside, he navigated through cobwebs and dust-covered furniture until he heard a faint sound coming from below. Descending into the basement, he found Mrs. Jenkins huddled behind a stack of old boxes.

She explained that her curiosity had gotten the better of her when she discovered the map hidden within an ancient book at the library. She had not intended to cause concern; she simply lost track of time in her quest for excitement.

The townspeople were overjoyed to have Mrs. Jenkins back safe and sound. She apologized for the worry she had caused and assured everyone, all would be fine.

The mystery of the missing librarian was finally laid to rest, thanks to Detective Brown. The people of Maple learned that even in their peaceful town, life could be full of unexpected twists and turns.

1. *Read the reading passage thoroughly.*
2. *Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.*

Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. What is the meaning of serene in 'The serene town of Maple'?**

- a. busy
- b. adventurous
- c. peaceful

**2. Who went missing in the town of Maple:**

- a. Mr. Green and his loyal dog
- b. Detective Brown
- c. Mrs. Jenkins, the cherished librarian

**3. What was the unexpected turn in the investigation?**

- a. the detective stumbled upon the fragment of a map
- b. the detective stumbled upon a clue with missing glasses
- c. the detective found a clue from Mr. Green

**4. What is the meaning of decrepit in 'approached the decrepit house':**

- a. uninhabited
- b. old and in bad condition
- c. scary or haunted

**5. Who solved the case:**

- a. the people of Maple Town
- b. Mr. Green
- c. Detective Brown

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# **Mystery in the Town of Maple**

## **Open Response Questions**

**Open response questions for thinking skills:**

- 1. Inferring**
- 2. Making Connections**
- 3. Summarizing**
- 4. Visualizing**

- 1. What was the reason that the librarian disappeared?**
  - 2. What type of reading passage is this and how do you know?**
  - 3. How was the mystery solved?**
  - 4. Based on what you read, describe the type of person the librarian was.**
- What would have happened if the detective didn't find the librarian in the basement?**
  - If you could continue the story, what would the next adventure be?**
  - Could this story be non-fiction? Why or why not?**
  - How can the skills Detective Brown used in solving this mystery be applied to real-life problem-solving situations?**
  - What challenges might Detective Brown face if he had to solve a similar mystery in a larger city?**