

**Reading Comprehension 14- Passage**  
**Grade 5**

**The Mystery of the Hidden Cave**

Maya, Jack, and Leo were best friends who loved exploring the woods behind Maya's house. One sunny Saturday morning, they packed their backpacks with water bottles, sandwiches, and flashlights for another adventure.

"I found an old map in my grandfather's chest," Maya announced, unfolding a yellowed piece of paper. "It shows a hidden cave somewhere in these woods!"

"Really? That's awesome!" Jack exclaimed, adjusting his red baseball cap. "Let's find it!"

Leo looked nervous. "Are you sure it's safe? What if we get lost?"

"Don't worry," Maya reassured him. "I've marked our trail on my compass app, and my mom knows we're exploring today."

The three friends hiked deeper into the forest than they had ever gone before. Sunlight filtered through the trees, creating dancing patterns on the forest floor. Birds chirped overhead, and occasionally a squirrel would scurry across their path.

After walking for an hour, they reached a small stream. According to the map, they needed to follow it upstream to a cluster of large boulders.

"There they are!" Jack pointed excitedly. The massive rocks were covered with moss and looked like sleeping giants.

Maya studied the map carefully. "The entrance should be behind the largest boulder, but it might be hidden."

The children searched around the boulders, pushing aside bushes and vines. Leo, who was the smallest, squeezed between two rocks and suddenly called out, "I found something! There's an opening here!"

Maya and Jack rushed over. Behind the rocks was a narrow entrance, just big enough for them to crawl through one at a time. They switched on their flashlights and peered inside.

"Should we go in?" Leo whispered, his voice echoing slightly.

"We came all this way," Maya said. "Let's at least take a look."

One by one, they crawled through the entrance. Inside, the cave opened up into a spacious chamber with a high ceiling. Their flashlights revealed sparkling mineral deposits on the walls and strange markings carved into the stone.

"These look like ancient symbols," Jack said, running his fingers over the carvings. "Maybe this was a secret meeting place long ago."

As they explored further, they discovered a small wooden chest tucked into a corner. It wasn't locked, and when Maya carefully lifted the lid, they found it contained old coins, a leather-bound journal, and a beautiful pendant with a blue stone.

"We should show these to the historical society," Maya suggested. "They might be important artifacts."

Leo nodded in agreement. "We can take pictures, but we should leave everything here for now."

After documenting their discovery with their phone cameras, the friends decided it was time to head back. They carefully closed the chest and made their way out of the cave.

"This is our secret for now," Jack said as they emerged into the sunlight. "But we'll tell my mom, who works at the museum. She'll know what to do."

As they hiked back home, the three friends couldn't stop talking about their amazing discovery. Sometimes, the greatest adventures happen right in your own backyard.

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### Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Maya find the map to the hidden cave?
2. How did the children make sure they wouldn't get lost in the woods?
3. What was the landmark that helped them locate the cave entrance?
4. What did they find inside the wooden chest?
5. Why did the friends decide not to remove the items from the chest?

### Vocabulary Questions

6. Find a word in paragraph 4 that means "calmed someone's fears."
7. What does the word "artifacts" mean in the story?

8. In the sentence "Birds chirped overhead, and occasionally a squirrel would scurry across their path," what does "scurry" mean?
9. Find a synonym for "spacious" in the passage.
10. The text says the rocks "looked like sleeping giants." What literary device is this?

### Grammar Questions

11. In the sentence "Maya, Jack, and Leo were best friends who loved exploring the woods behind Maya's house," identify the proper nouns.
  12. Find an example of direct speech in the passage and explain how it is punctuated.
  13. In the sentence "Sunlight filtered through the trees, creating dancing patterns on the forest floor," identify the verb and the participle.
  14. Change this sentence to past tense: "The three friends hike deeper into the forest."
  15. Identify the prepositions in this sentence: "Behind the rocks was a narrow entrance, just big enough for them to crawl through one at a time."
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## **Answer Key**

### **Comprehension Answers**

1. In her grandfather's chest
2. Maya marked their trail on her compass app, and her mom knew they were exploring
3. A cluster of large boulders
4. Old coins, a leather-bound journal, and a pendant with a blue stone
5. They thought the items might be important artifacts for the historical society/museum

### **Vocabulary Answers**

6. Reassured
7. Objects made by humans that have historical or cultural significance
8. To move quickly with short, hurried steps
9. Large/big
10. Simile (comparison using "like")

### **Grammar Answers**

11. Maya, Jack, Leo
12. "I found an old map in my grandfather's chest." (Uses quotation marks, begins with a capital letter, and ends with appropriate punctuation inside the quotation marks)
13. Verb: filtered; Participle: creating
14. The three friends hiked deeper into the forest.
15. Behind, through, for, at, in