The Note in the Library Book

Year 3 reading comprehension (story). Read the text carefully. The questions are on the next page.

Name: _____ Date: _____

When Leo opened the library book about volcanoes, a folded piece of paper slipped out and landed by his shoe. He picked it up. In neat, curly handwriting it said: “If you have found this, look under the oldest tree in the park. A.”

Leo showed the note to his best friend, Grace, at break time. “It’s probably a joke,” she said, but her eyes were shining.

After school they walked to the park. Most of the trees were thin and young, with wooden stakes holding them up, but at the far end stood a huge oak with a trunk wider than a car. Its roots twisted over the ground like the fingers of a giant.

Grace knelt down and brushed away the dry leaves between two roots. Underneath was a small tin box with a rusty lid. Leo prised it open. Inside were a notebook, a pencil and a letter.

“Welcome to the Oak Tree Club,” Leo read aloud. “Write your name in the notebook, then hide a new note in a library book for the next explorer.”

Leo turned the pages of the notebook. There were dozens of names, and the first one was dated 1987. Grace grinned. “So which book shall we choose?”

Questions: The Note in the Library Book

Tick one answer for each question. You can look back at the text as often as you like.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. **What was the library book about?**
   - ☐ castles
   - ☐ explorers
   - ☐ oak trees
   - ☐ volcanoes

2. **Grace says it is probably a joke, “but her eyes were shining”. What does this show?**
   - ☐ She was about to cry.
   - ☐ She was feeling tired.
   - ☐ She was secretly excited by the mystery.
   - ☐ The sun was in her eyes.

3. **How could they tell which tree was the oldest?**
   - ☐ Grace’s grandad told them.
   - ☐ It had a sign on it.
   - ☐ It had no leaves.
   - ☐ It was much bigger than all the others.

4. **“Its roots twisted over the ground like the fingers of a giant.” What are the roots compared to?**
   - ☐ a car
   - ☐ a giant’s fingers
   - ☐ ropes
   - ☐ snakes

5. **What does “prised” mean in “Leo prised it open”?**
   - ☐ closed it tightly
   - ☐ forced it open
   - ☐ painted it
   - ☐ threw it away

6. **What does the date 1987 tell you about the club?**
   - ☐ It has been going for many years.
   - ☐ It has closed down.
   - ☐ It is only for adults.
   - ☐ It started last week.

7. **What will Leo and Grace probably do next?**
   - ☐ cut down the tree
   - ☐ hide a new note in a library book
   - ☐ take the tin home to keep
   - ☐ tell the librarian

Answer key: The Note in the Library Book

The correct answer for each question, with the evidence from the text.

1. **What was the library book about?**

   volcanoes

   Why: The first sentence says it was the library book about volcanoes.

2. **Grace says it is probably a joke, “but her eyes were shining”. What does this show?**

   She was secretly excited by the mystery.

   Why: Shining eyes show excitement, even though her words pretend she is not interested.

3. **How could they tell which tree was the oldest?**

   It was much bigger than all the others.

   Why: The other trees were thin and young, but the oak had a trunk wider than a car.

4. **“Its roots twisted over the ground like the fingers of a giant.” What are the roots compared to?**

   a giant’s fingers

   Why: The simile uses “like” to compare the twisting roots to the fingers of a giant.

5. **What does “prised” mean in “Leo prised it open”?**

   forced it open

   Why: The lid was rusty, so Leo had to force it open.

6. **What does the date 1987 tell you about the club?**

   It has been going for many years.

   Why: The first name was written in 1987, so children have been joining for a long time.

7. **What will Leo and Grace probably do next?**

   hide a new note in a library book

   Why: The letter tells them to hide a new note, and Grace asks which book they should choose.