The Missing Map

Year 5 reading comprehension (playscript). Read the text carefully. The questions are on the next page.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scene: A museum gallery, just before closing time. NIA and her older brother RAFI stand by an empty glass case.

NIA: (pointing) It was here this morning. The old map of the town, the one with the river drawn wrong.

RAFI: Maybe they moved it. Museums move things all the time.

NIA: Then why is the case still locked? (She taps the glass.) And look – there's a little card on the floor.

RAFI: (picking it up and reading slowly) "Removed for cleaning. Back on Monday." (He grins.) Mystery solved, detective.

NIA: (frowning) But this card is written in pencil. Every other label here is printed.

(A GUARD enters, jangling keys.)

GUARD: Five minutes until closing, you two.

NIA: Excuse me, has the map gone for cleaning?

GUARD: (puzzled) Cleaning? Nobody told me that. (He hurries to the case, peers inside and reaches for his radio.) Control, this is gallery three. We may have a problem.

(NIA and RAFI look at each other. Lights fade.)

Questions: The Missing Map

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. **Where does the scene take place?**
   - ☐ in a library
   - ☐ in a museum gallery
   - ☐ in a park
   - ☐ in a school hall

2. **What is special about the missing map?**
   - ☐ It is made of gold.
   - ☐ It is the oldest map in the world.
   - ☐ It shows buried treasure.
   - ☐ The river is drawn wrong.

3. **Why does Nia think the card is suspicious?**
   - ☐ It has a spelling mistake.
   - ☐ It is handwritten in pencil when the others are printed.
   - ☐ It is on the wrong case.
   - ☐ It is very old.

4. **What are the words in brackets for?**
   - ☐ to give the answers to the mystery
   - ☐ to show the words are not important
   - ☐ to show what the audience says
   - ☐ to tell actors what to do or how to speak

5. **How is Rafi different from Nia at the start?**
   - ☐ He is more worried than Nia.
   - ☐ He knows who took the map.
   - ☐ He thinks there is a simple explanation.
   - ☐ He wants to call the police.

6. **What does the guard’s reaction suggest?**
   - ☐ The children are in trouble.
   - ☐ The map is being cleaned.
   - ☐ The map may really have been stolen.
   - ☐ The museum is closing early.

Questions: The Missing Map

Continued.

Name: _____ Date: _____

7. **What do you predict will happen next?**

- [ ] The children will go home and forget it.
- [ ] The guard will laugh at the children.
- [ ] The map will be found in Rafi’s bag.
- [ ] The museum will investigate and the children may help.

Answer key: The Missing Map

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

1. **Where does the scene take place?**

   in a museum gallery

   Why: The opening stage direction says: A museum gallery, just before closing time.

2. **What is special about the missing map?**

   The river is drawn wrong.

   Why: Nia describes it as the one with the river drawn wrong.

3. **Why does Nia think the card is suspicious?**

   It is handwritten in pencil when the others are printed.

   Why: She points out the card is in pencil while every other label is printed.

4. **What are the words in brackets for?**

   to tell actors what to do or how to speak

   Why: In a playscript, stage directions in brackets describe actions and how lines are said.

5. **How is Rafi different from Nia at the start?**

   He thinks there is a simple explanation.

   Why: He says museums move things all the time and thinks the card solves it.

6. **What does the guard’s reaction suggest?**

   The map may really have been stolen.

   Why: Nobody told him about cleaning, and he radios to report a problem.

7. **What do you predict will happen next?**

   The museum will investigate and the children may help.

   Why: The guard has called for help and the children exchange a look, which suggests they will be involved.