Lina had always loved exploring the stream behind her grandmother's house, but she had never walked farther than the first bend. Her grandmother often told her stories about an old wooden bridge deep in the forest—one that only appeared to those who truly needed it. Lina had always thought it was just a tale meant to entertain children, but that morning, after a quarrel with her older brother, she felt a strong urge to wander deeper into the woods.

The forest grew quieter the farther she went. Birds hushed their songs, and even the wind seemed to pause. Lina's anger faded, replaced by a sense of unease. Just as she was about to turn back, she noticed a faint glimmer through the trees. Curious, she pushed aside the bushes and gasped. Before her was the wooden bridge from her grandmother's stories. It stretched over a deep ravine, its rails carved with unfamiliar symbols that looked ancient yet alive.

Lina stepped forward cautiously. As soon as her foot touched the first plank, the carvings glowed faintly, as if welcoming her. She crossed halfway when she heard footsteps behind her. She turned around, but no one was there. The bridge suddenly trembled. Lina froze. She remembered her grandmother's words: *"The bridge appears when the heart's truth is unclear."* Lina closed her eyes and took a breath. She realized she wasn't angry at her brother; she was hurt because he hadn't listened.

When Lina opened her eyes, the trembling stopped. The air felt lighter. She continued to the other side, where she found a single wooden box resting on a tree stump. Inside was a small mirror with a note: *"To see clearly, look at yourself first."* The bridge behind her faded into mist.

Lina walked home slowly, holding the mirror tightly. She knew what she had to do. She would talk to her brother—not with anger, but with understanding. And maybe, just maybe, the bridge would appear again someday when she was ready for another truth.

1. Why did Lina decide to walk deeper into the forest?

2. Describe the appearance of the bridge using details from the text.

3. What happened when Lina first stepped on the bridge?

4. What object did Lina find at the end of the bridge?

5. What message did the note in the box try to teach Lina?

6. What do you think the bridge symbolizes? Explain using clues from the story.

7. How does the author show Lina's emotional change throughout the story?

8. Why do you think the bridge trembled when Lina's feelings were unclear?

9. In your opinion, why did the author choose to end the story with the bridge disappearing?

LIVEWORKSHEETS