

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### "The Summer of the Whispering Porch"

#### ★ Vocabulary Preview

Match the words with their definitions:

Write the correct letter (A–H) next to each word.

1. sweltering	A. To secretly listen to a conversation
2. serendipity	B. Unclear or difficult to see
3. lingering	C. Charming in an old-fashioned way
4. eavesdrop	D. A fortunate discovery by chance
5. quaint	E. Delayed or uncertain pause
6. blurred	F. Staying for a long time
7. whispered	G. Extremely hot and uncomfortable
8. hesitation	H. Spoken very softly

#### Reading Passage: *The Summer of the Whispering Porch*

It was one of those **sweltering** afternoons when the air feels thick enough to slice with a butter knife. The tiny town of Marigold barely stirred—except for the hum of fans and the occasional bark of a dog too lazy to chase anything.

For seventeen-year-old Lina, this summer had already dragged on far too long. Her friends had either gone away to camp or had jobs that kept them indoors. So most days, she sat on her grandmother's **quaint** front porch, sipping lemonade and listening to the buzz of cicadas.

But that Monday, something changed.

As she absentmindedly flipped through an old book of poetry, she heard a voice—low and **whispered**—coming from behind the lattice that covered one side of the porch. It wasn't her grandmother; she was inside baking. Lina leaned closer, holding her breath. The voice returned, clearer this time. "...we can't let them find out." Lina froze. Who was speaking? She peeked through a crack in the wood. No one.

That night, she couldn't sleep. The voice **lingered** in her mind, like the taste of something half-forgotten. By morning, curiosity had overpowered **hesitation**. She brought a notebook and sat again, waiting.

Three days passed before it happened again. More **whispers**, snippets of a conversation—plans, names, something about "the map" and "the key." Lina started writing everything down. She felt like a spy, half-believing this was just the heat making her imagination spiral.

Then came the moment of **serendipity**. While browsing through the dusty attic, she found an old shoebox full of letters addressed to her grandmother. One was from a man named Elias, dated 1963. It mentioned "the summer pact" and "keeping the treasure safe until the right one listens."

Lina stared at the box. Could this be real? The next evening, she placed the letter where she'd heard the voices. As if on cue, the whisper returned. "She knows."

Her heart pounding, Lina ran inside. But oddly, she wasn't afraid. She was thrilled. For the first time in weeks, summer didn't feel boring—it felt **blurred** and electric, like something was just beginning.

### Reading Comprehension

1. What is the central theme of the story?
  - a) The dangers of eavesdropping
  - b) Discovering excitement in unexpected places
  - c) The importance of communication with grandparents
  - d) The effects of summer heat on the mind
2. Write T for True or F for False.

\_\_\_ Lina heard the whispers on her first day at her grandmother's house.

\_\_\_ The voices discussed something related to a treasure or map.

\_\_\_ Lina was frightened and decided to leave the house after hearing the voices.

\_\_\_ The letter in the attic was sent to Lina by her mother.

\_\_\_ Lina was excited by the mystery she had uncovered.

3. What can we infer about the voices Lina hears?
  - a) They are imaginary and caused by boredom
  - b) They are part of a family secret
  - c) They come from people spying on Lina
  - d) They are lines from the poetry book
4. Why did Lina decide to bring a notebook to the porch?
  - a) To draw pictures of the house
  - b) To record anything suspicious she saw
  - c) To write down what she overheard
  - d) To write poems inspired by the voices
9. The word that means "charming in an old-fashioned way" is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. "The voice lingered in her mind" means that the voice was \_\_\_\_\_ in her thoughts.
11. Why did the author write this story?
  - a) To describe a traditional town in summer
  - b) To entertain with a mysterious summer story
  - c) To teach readers how to investigate
  - d) To explain how memories are stored.

12. What literary device is used in “the air feels thick enough to slice with a butter knife”?

- a) Simile
- b) Alliteration
- c) Metaphor
- d) Onomatopoeia