COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Maya and the Vanishing Footprints

Maya and the Vanishing Footprints | Suggested ages 5-6



Maya follows a trail that seems to disappear and discovers how sunlight changes what she can see.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

After a light snowfall, Maya found tiny footprints crossing the school garden. The prints began beside the gate and curved toward the sunny wall.

Part 2

Maya followed them past the birdbath. At the warm wall, the footprints suddenly vanished, although no trail turned left or right.

Part 3

She first guessed that the little visitor had flown away. Then she noticed every print near the wall had soft, watery edges.

Part 4

Maya compared the shady path with the sunny ground. Snow stayed firm in the shade, but it had melted into dark patches under the sunlight.

Part 5

She looked beyond the melted patch and found fresh prints beneath a bench. The same three-toed shape continued toward the berry bushes.

Part 6

A sparrow hopped out, pecked one red berry, and left another neat print. Maya smiled because the visitor had never disappeared.

Part 7

Maya drew the whole trail on her notebook, including the sunny gap. She labeled the gap, 'Snow melted here,' so others could understand it.

Part 8

At sharing time, Maya explained that a missing clue may have changed instead of vanished. Careful comparing helped her solve the garden mystery.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. Where did Maya first see the tiny footprints?

A. Beside the garden gate	B. Inside the classroom	C. On the playground slide

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. What was different about the prints near the sunny wall?

A. They were bright blue	B. They had soft, watery edges	C. They were shaped like stars

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. Why did the footprints seem to vanish?

A. A broom erased them	B. The sparrow flew backward	C. The sunlight melted the snow

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. Where did Maya find the trail again?

A. Beneath a bench	B. On top of the wall	C. Inside her notebook

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. What did Maya learn about a missing clue?

A. It is always hidden by a person	B. It may have changed instead of vanished	C. It should be ignored

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. A - Beside the garden gate

Beside the garden gate

2. B - They had soft, watery edges

They had soft, watery edges

3. C - The sunlight melted the snow

The sunlight melted the snow

4. A - Beneath a bench

Beneath a bench

5. B - It may have changed instead of vanished

It may have changed instead of vanished

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.