

Grade 8
Reading Fiction
The Enchanted Forest of Elara

Elara was not just any ordinary forest. It was a place where shadows whispered tales of ancient times, and every tree had a story to tell. Deep within this labyrinth of tall oaks and weeping willows, there existed a secret clearing that only the bravest dared to enter.

One sunny day, young Kael ventured into Elara, drawn by tales of its wonders. Armed with a compass his grandfather had given him, he began his trek. As Kael delved deeper, he noticed the trees began to shimmer, their leaves glowing with a soft blue light.

By evening, he stumbled upon the clearing. At its center stood a majestic tree with silver bark, its branches sprawling out like open arms. Around its trunk, a stream flowed, sparkling with hues of purple and gold. Mesmerized, Kael approached the tree and noticed an inscription carved onto its bark: *"Whisper your truest desire, and the forest shall hear."*

Taking a deep breath, Kael whispered, "I wish to understand the secrets of Elara."

Suddenly, a gentle wind rustled the leaves. Before Kael, a figure materialized. She had long, flowing hair that shone like moonlight and eyes that twinkled like stars. "I am Lysandra, the Guardian of Elara," she introduced herself. "You have shown courage and respect for the mysteries of this forest. I shall grant you a glimpse of its magic."

For hours, Lysandra showed Kael the wonders of Elara. From the playful sprites that danced around the moonbeams to the ancient treants that guarded the forest's borders, Kael was enthralled.

As dawn approached, Lysandra spoke, "You have witnessed Elara's magic, but with knowledge comes responsibility. You must promise never to harm this forest or exploit its secrets."

Kael nodded, feeling a deep bond with the enchanting realm he had discovered. He left Elara with a heavy heart but with a promise to protect its mysteries.

From that day on, he often visited the forest, not as an adventurer but as a guardian, ensuring that the wonders of Elara remained untouched for generations to come.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What special feature did the trees deep within Elara possess?

- A. Golden bark
- B. Soft blue glow
- C. Fruits of wisdom
- D. Talking abilities

2. What did Kael's compass symbolize?

- A. Time
- B. Magic
- C. Direction and guidance
- D. The key to Elara

3. Who was Lysandra?

- A. A sprite
- B. A treant
- C. The Guardian of Elara
- D. Kael's sister

4. What did Kael wish for?

- A. Infinite power
- B. To understand the secrets of Elara
- C. To be the king of the forest
- D. To stay in the forest forever

5. What color was the bark of the majestic tree in the clearing?

- A. Gold
- B. Brown
- C. Silver
- D. Blue

6. How did Kael feel when leaving Elara?

- A. Excited
- B. Indifferent
- C. Heavy-hearted
- D. Angry

7. What did the stream around the majestic tree sparkle with?
- A. Moonlight
 - B. Sunlight
 - C. Purple and gold hues
 - D. Silver stars
8. What promise did Lysandra ask Kael to make?
- A. To visit the forest every day
 - B. Never to harm the forest or exploit its secrets
 - C. To bring more people to the forest
 - D. To find the hidden treasures of Elara
9. Why did Kael visit the forest after his first encounter?
- A. To exploit its resources
 - B. To meet Lysandra
 - C. As a guardian
 - D. To relive his adventure
10. Which word best describes Kael's attitude towards the forest by the end?
- A. Indifferent
 - B. Possessive
 - C. Respectful
 - D. Fearful

Answers and Explanations:

1. B *Soft blue glow*

The passage mentions that as Kael delved deeper, the trees began to shimmer with a soft blue light.

2. C *Direction and guidance*

Kael's grandfather gave him the compass, implying it was to guide him.

3. C *The Guardian of Elara*

Lysandra introduced herself as the Guardian of Elara to Kael.

4. B *To understand the secrets of Elara*

Kael whispered, "I wish to understand the secrets of Elara."

5. C *Silver*

The passage describes the tree as having a silver bark.

6. C *Heavy-hearted*

Kael left Elara with a heavy heart.

7. C. Purple and gold hues

The passage mentions the stream sparkling with hues of purple and gold.

8. B. Never to harm the forest or exploit its secrets

Lysandra asked Kael to promise not to harm or exploit Elara.

9. C. As a guardian

After his encounter, Kael visited Elara as its guardian.

10. C. Respectful

Kael developed a deep bond with Elara and promised to protect its secrets.