

Grade 7
Reading - Fiction

"The Clockwork Sparrow"

In the quiet town of Willowbrooke, there was a peculiar shop that very few people knew about. The sign outside read, "Marv's Magical Mechanisms," but to those who entered, it was more than just a shop. It was a place where magic and machinery intertwined.

Sophia was a curious girl of fourteen. Her fascination with old clocks had led her to the door of Marv's shop. She gently pushed the door open, and a small bell tinkled overhead. Inside, the room was dimly lit by flickering lamps, casting shadows on the countless shelves packed with trinkets, toys, and tools.

An old man with a wispy white beard looked up from his workbench, "Ah! A new face. What brings you here, young lady?"

"I've heard tales of a clockwork sparrow," Sophia said, her voice trembling slightly. "Legends say it can bring messages from the past."

Marv chuckled softly. "Ah, the Clockwork Sparrow. Yes, I have it. But remember, it doesn't just bring any message. It brings the message you most need to hear."

With trembling hands, Marv presented a small golden bird. Its gears gleamed in the dim light, and it seemed almost lifelike. Sophia gasped.

She carefully wound up the sparrow and held it in her hands. As its gears began to turn, it chirped melodiously, and a tiny paper rolled out from under its wing. Sophia delicately unfurled it to read, "Cherish the moments, for they are fleeting."

A tear rolled down Sophia's cheek. Her grandmother had always used that phrase. She passed away last year, and Sophia missed her terribly.

Marv watched her intently. "The sparrow has spoken," he said. "It gives what you need, not always what you want."

Sophia nodded. "Thank you, Marv. I needed this."

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Where is Marv's shop located?
 - a) In a bustling city
 - b) In a quiet town
 - c) In a forest
 - d) On a mountain
2. What was the name of the shop?
 - a) Marv's Mechanic Marvels
 - b) Marv's Clockwork Creations
 - c) Marv's Magical Mechanisms
 - d) Marv's Antique Clocks
3. How does the shop appear on the inside?
 - a) Bright and modern
 - b) Sparse and empty
 - c) Dimly lit with many items
 - d) Filled with only clocks
4. What did Sophia go to the shop to find?
 - a) An old clock
 - b) A golden bird
 - c) A clockwork sparrow
 - d) A magical toy
5. What did the message from the sparrow say?
 - a) Time flies swiftly.
 - b) Cherish the moments, for they are fleeting.
 - c) The past is a treasure.
 - d) Look ahead, not behind.

6. Who used the phrase from the sparrow's message?
- a) Sophia's mother
 - b) Sophia's grandfather
 - c) Sophia's grandmother
 - d) Marv
7. How did Sophia react to the message from the sparrow?
- a) She laughed.
 - b) She was indifferent.
 - c) She cried.
 - d) She was angry.
8. What did Marv say about the sparrow's message?
- a) It tells the future.
 - b) It always brings good news.
 - c) It gives what you need, not always what you want.
 - d) It is always accurate.
9. What age is Sophia?
- a) Twelve
 - b) Thirteen
 - c) Fourteen
 - d) Fifteen
10. What did the clockwork sparrow do after being wound up?
- a) It flew around the room.
 - b) It stood still.
 - c) It chirped melodiously.
 - d) It transformed into a real bird.

Answers:

- 1) Answer: b) In a quiet town | *Explanation:* The passage mentions, "In the quiet town of Willowbrooke."
- 2) Answer: c) Marv's Magical Mechanisms | *Explanation:* The sign outside the shop reads, "Marv's Magical Mechanisms."
- 3) Answer: c) Dimly lit with many items | *Explanation:* The passage describes the shop as "dimly lit by flickering lamps, casting shadows on the countless shelves packed with trinkets, toys, and tools."
- 4) Answer: c) A clockwork sparrow | *Explanation:* Sophia said, "I've heard tales of a clockwork sparrow."
- 5) Answer: b) Cherish the moments, for they are fleeting. | *Explanation:* The paper from the sparrow read, "Cherish the moments, for they are fleeting."
- 6) Answer: c) Sophia's grandmother | *Explanation:* Sophia remembers her grandmother always using the phrase.
- 7) Answer: c) She cried. | *Explanation:* The passage mentions, "A tear rolled down Sophia's cheek."
- 8) Answer: c) It gives what you need, not always what you want. | *Explanation:* Marv stated, "It gives what you need, not always what you want."
- 9) Answer: c) Fourteen | *Explanation:* The passage mentions Sophia was "a curious girl of fourteen."
- 10) Answer: c) It chirped melodiously. | *Explanation:* The passage mentions, "As its gears began to turn, it chirped melodiously."