

THE LIBRARY AFTER CLOSING

STUDENT SHEET • Read, solve, and explain your answers.

1. At closing time, Kit heard the library's last bell, although its rope hung still. The door clicked shut behind him.
2. On the reading table stood three books: a red atlas stamped 4, a green book of poems stamped 7, and a blue book of fables stamped 2.
3. A pale librarian hovered by an open window. Whenever rain blew toward the table, she spread her transparent sleeves over the books.
4. "They must be shelved before I can rest," she whispered. "Begin with the book of fables, then the atlas, and leave the poems until last."
5. Kit reluctantly approached the table: he wanted to stay by the door, but at last he took one small step forward.
6. As he lifted the fables, the librarian smiled. When he held the book near the wet window, her smile vanished and she pointed urgently toward a dry shelf.
7. Kit closed the window and placed the three books on the shelf in the order she had given.
8. The librarian's sleeves fell to her sides. "Every story deserves a tomorrow," she said, and faded into a curl of silver dust.
9. The door clicked open. On the table, one new book waited: The Reader Who Stayed.

1. READING TABLE — Follow a sequence

In what order does the librarian ask Kit to shelve the books? Write their stamps in that order. Use three digits together, with no spaces.

Code: _____

2. WORD SHELF — Use context

What does reluctantly mean in paragraph 5? Choose eagerly, unwillingly or silently. Underline the words in paragraph 5 that helped you decide.

Code (lowercase): _____

3. WINDOW — Work out a motive

What is the librarian most trying to do? Circle one choice.

- Scare Kit away from reading. Code: frighten.
- Keep the books safe from rain. Code: protect.
- Choose a new book for herself. Code: choose.

Code (lowercase): _____

Name two things the librarian does that support your choice.

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TEACHER KEY • Keep this page until students finish.

Ages 9–12 suggested. Plan around 20 minutes for reading, solving and comparing answers. Read aloud together if that supports your class.

READING TABLE: 247

Fables first (2), atlas second (4), poems last (7). The instructions are in paragraph 4. The visible list in paragraph 2 gives 472, a likely wrong turn.

Hint: “Find the librarian’s instructions, rather than the list on the table.”

WORD SHELF: unwillingly

Kit wants to stay by the door but takes a small step forward. That contrast explains his hesitation. Silently describes sound, rather than his willingness.

Hint: “He does approach, but does he want to?”

WINDOW: protect

Paragraph 3: she shields the books from rain. Paragraph 6: she points toward a dry shelf when Kit holds the book near the wet window. Accept the student’s own wording for those two actions.

Hint: “Watch what makes her smile disappear.”

REVEAL AFTER THE THIRD CLUE

“The door is open. You may leave — but the library has saved a place for its next reader.”

RUN IT ON PAPER

Use the illustrated library map if you want physical stations. Check each answer and explanation before students move to the next location. Students can work in pairs and return to the passage whenever needed.

BUILD THE SHORT DECK.TOYS PATH

Reading table → Word shelf → Window → Exit. Use Slide Activities and keep a copy of the passage available. Add a Numbers Lock set to 247, then Text Locks set to unwillingly and protect. Put the ending on the Exit slide.

The blog article links to the established Lock Guide and Paths and Activities instructions.