

The Lantern Club

Grade 3 · Quarter 1 Workbook

Three friends in a small harbor town find old clues left by a lighthouse keeper — and slowly piece together a kind, hidden story.

What's inside

- 9 weekly story chapters, each with 5 daily lessons
- Vocabulary, comprehension, and writing prompts (~110 words/day)
- Original illustrations for each chapter
- Designed for use with the digital lesson dashboard

WEEK 1 · CHAPTER 1
The Old Lighthouse



Vocabulary for this week

lantern	— a small lamp you can carry
harbor	— a safe place where boats stay
rust	— red-brown spots that grow on old metal
creak	— a long, low sound old wood makes

WEEK 1 · DAY 1

The Old Lighthouse

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Maya, Theo, and Rosa met by the old lighthouse on Saturday morning. The tower was tall and white, with red paint near the top. The door was locked, but a tiny window was open. Maya peeked inside. "There's a lantern hanging on the wall," she whispered. The lantern was old. It had glass on every side. Theo wrote in his notebook. Rosa drew the lighthouse. The three friends called themselves the Lantern Club, because the old lantern made them curious. They wanted to know who had used it last.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 1 · DAY 2

The Old Lighthouse

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

On Sunday they came back with snacks. Rosa brought a small flashlight. They walked all the way around the lighthouse. The grass was tall and the wind smelled like salt. Behind the tower they found a wooden bench. Someone had carved a tiny picture into the wood. It was a star with five points. "Why a star?" asked Theo. Maya touched the carving. The wood felt smooth, like many hands had rubbed it. "This bench is a clue," she said. "I just don't know what it means yet."

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 1 · DAY 3

The Old Lighthouse

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

That night Maya could not sleep. She kept thinking about the star. She drew the star in her notebook ten times. In the morning she ran to the harbor. Theo was already there. Rosa came last with her dog, Pickle. "My mom said the lighthouse keeper used to live here long ago," Rosa said. "His name was Mr. Hollis. He kept a lantern lit every night so the boats could come home safely." The Lantern Club sat on the carved bench and talked. They wanted to find out more about Mr. Hollis.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 1 · DAY 4

The Old Lighthouse

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The friends made a plan. They would visit one new place each week. Each place might have a clue. Theo made a map in his notebook. He drew the lighthouse, the harbor, and a big question mark for the next stop. Maya pointed at the workshop down the hill. "Mr. Hollis must have fixed his lantern somewhere," she said. "Let's start there." Rosa clapped her hands. Pickle barked. The Lantern Club had its first real mission, and the air felt full of small possibilities.

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 1 · DAY 5

The Old Lighthouse

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Before they left the lighthouse, Rosa noticed something new. A thin chain hung from the bench, half buried in the dirt. She tugged gently. At the end of the chain was a small brass key. The key was green from rain, but it still felt strong. "A key with no door yet," Theo whispered. Maya put the key carefully in her pocket. The three friends walked down the hill together. The lighthouse stood quiet behind them, but it did not feel empty anymore. It felt like it was waiting.

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 2 · CHAPTER 2

The Workshop on Pine Lane

**Vocabulary for this week**

workshop	— a small room where someone builds or fixes things
tool	— something you use to do a job, like a hammer
dusty	— covered with soft gray dirt
sketch	— a quick drawing

WEEK 2 · DAY 1

The Workshop on Pine Lane

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The workshop on Pine Lane belonged to Mr. Hollis a long time ago. Now it was empty. The door was unlocked. The Lantern Club pushed it open slowly. Inside, the air smelled like old wood and oil. Sunlight came through a small window. A workbench sat in the middle. Tools hung on the wall in neat rows. Nothing had moved in many years. "Wow," said Theo. "It looks like he just left for lunch." Pickle sniffed every corner. The Lantern Club tiptoed inside.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 2 · DAY 2

The Workshop on Pine Lane

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Maya looked at the tools on the wall. There were hammers, saws, and small jars of nails. One spot on the wall was empty. A square shape was painted there, but no tool hung from it. "Something used to be here," Maya said. Rosa stood on her toes to look closer. "There's writing," she said. Tiny letters were scratched into the wood: "For the lantern." The Lantern Club looked at each other. The missing tool was for the lantern. But where was that tool now? They did not know yet.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 2 · DAY 3

The Workshop on Pine Lane

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Theo opened a drawer in the workbench. Inside were old papers, all dusty and yellow. He picked one up gently. It was a sketch of the lantern. Mr. Hollis had drawn it from many sides. He wrote tiny notes next to each part. One note said, "New glass for west side, summer 1962." Another said, "Oil tank fixed, March." The Lantern Club leaned in close. "He really cared about this lantern," Rosa said. Maya nodded. The lantern was not just a lamp. It was something Mr. Hollis loved.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 2 · DAY 4

The Workshop on Pine Lane

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Under the sketches, Theo found a small leather notebook. The cover was worn soft. Inside, every page had numbers and short notes. "It's a log," Maya said. "My grandpa keeps one for fishing." The notebook listed dates and weather. Some pages had little drawings: a heron, a star, a river bend. "These are places," Rosa said suddenly. "He went to all these places." The Lantern Club crowded around the notebook. The drawings made a kind of map. It was a map of Mr. Hollis's favorite spots in town.

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 2 · DAY 5

The Workshop on Pine Lane

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Before they left, Rosa noticed a small wooden box on a high shelf. Theo lifted her up. She brought the box down carefully. It was locked. Maya took the brass key from her pocket. Her hand shook a little. The key slid in and turned with a soft click. Inside the box was a folded paper and one small smooth stone. The paper said, "Follow the river bend. The next clue waits." The Lantern Club looked at each other and smiled. They had a new place to visit, and they were ready.

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 3 · CHAPTER 3

Down by the Riverbend



Vocabulary for this week

- riverbend** — the place where a river curves
- pebble** — a small smooth stone
- reed** — a tall thin plant near water
- clue** — something that helps you find an answer

WEEK 3 · DAY 1

Down by the Riverbend

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The riverbend sat at the edge of town. The water moved slowly there. Tall reeds grew on both sides. Pickle ran ahead and sniffed the wet ground. Maya carried the smooth stone from the workshop. She held it tight in her pocket. "Mr. Hollis liked this place," Theo said. "It was in his notebook." The friends walked along the bank. The sun made bright patterns on the water. Rosa took off her shoes and stood at the edge. She wanted to feel the cool mud between her toes.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 3 · DAY 2

Down by the Riverbend

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The Lantern Club searched for clues. Theo looked under rocks. Rosa pushed back the reeds. Maya watched the path. After a while, she stopped. A flat gray rock sat by the water. On top of the rock, someone had stacked four smaller stones. They made a small tower. "That's not by accident," Maya said. The four stones were the same color as the smooth stone in her pocket. She held her stone next to the tower. It matched. The Lantern Club felt a happy chill.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 3 · DAY 3

Down by the Riverbend

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Theo pulled out the leather notebook. He turned the pages until he found the river drawing. Next to the river bend Mr. Hollis had written, "Listen to the water before you read the sky." "What does that mean?" Rosa asked. The friends sat on the gray rock and listened. They heard the slow water. They heard a duck call. They heard wind in the reeds. After a few minutes Maya looked up. "He wants us to slow down," she said. "Maybe clues need quiet to be found."

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 3 · DAY 4

Down by the Riverbend

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

While they were quiet, Pickle began to dig. He made a small hole near the gray rock. Rosa crouched down. "Pickle, what did you find?" In the hole was a small glass jar. The lid was screwed on tight. Inside the jar was a folded note and three more pebbles. The pebbles were each a different color: white, gray, and a deep, dark blue. Theo opened the note carefully. It said, "Three colors for three places. White is bright. Gray is full of words. Blue holds a sweet smell."

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 3 · DAY 5

Down by the Riverbend

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The Lantern Club walked home slowly that evening. Maya carried the jar. Rosa held the note. Theo wrote in his notebook. "White is bright," he said out loud. "That could be the library. The lights are always on." "Gray is full of words," Maya said. "That sounds like the library too. Books have words." Rosa laughed. "Then they are the same place." Theo shook his head. "Maybe one is the library, and the other place looks gray." They were not sure yet. But they knew where to start.

Comprehension

- 1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
- 2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
- 3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 4 · CHAPTER 4

At the Library



Vocabulary for this week

librarian	— a person who helps people find books
history	— stories about things that happened long ago
shelf	— a flat board where you keep books
record	— a written paper that saves information

WEEK 4 · DAY 1

At the Library

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The town library had a wide front step and tall windows. Inside, the floor was wood. The books smelled old in a good way. A woman with gray hair sat at the front desk. Her name tag said "Ms. Park, Librarian." The Lantern Club walked up to her quietly. Maya cleared her throat. "We are looking for old papers about Mr. Hollis," she said. "He used to keep the lighthouse." Ms. Park smiled. "You are not the first children to ask," she said. "Come with me."

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 4 · DAY 2

At the Library

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Ms. Park led them to a room in the back. The walls had tall shelves. The shelves were full of folders and big binders. "This is the local history room," she said. "Anything about our town is here." She pulled down a thick folder labeled "Lighthouse, 1955-1995." The folder was heavy. Inside were photos, letters, and old newspaper pages. The Lantern Club sat at a long table. They opened the folder slowly, like it was a present. Theo pulled out a black and white photo of Mr. Hollis. He had a kind face.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 4 · DAY 3

At the Library

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The friends spread the papers out. Rosa found a newspaper story. The story said Mr. Hollis once helped save a fishing boat in a storm. He kept the lantern lit all night. Maya found a letter. It thanked Mr. Hollis for visiting the school. He had given the children a lesson about the stars. Theo found a list of names. It was the names of children who had visited the lighthouse over many years. At the bottom of the list, in pencil, was a name: "Anna Hollis, his daughter."

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 4 · DAY 4

At the Library

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

"He had a daughter," Rosa whispered. The Lantern Club looked at each other. Ms. Park heard them and walked over. "Yes," she said. "Anna grew up here. She still lives in town. She runs the bakery on Maple Street." Maya almost jumped. The note had said one place would hold a sweet smell. A bakery had a sweet smell. The clue made sense now. "So the gray place must be here," Theo said, looking at all the papers. "It is full of words. We can come back. But the bakery is next."

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 4 · DAY 5

At the Library

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Before they left, Ms. Park gave them a thin booklet. "Mr. Hollis wrote this," she said. "It is a guide to the night sky. He printed only a few copies for the school." The booklet had small drawings of stars. On the first page was the same five-pointed star they had seen on the bench. Maya touched it gently. "He drew this," she said. The Lantern Club thanked Ms. Park. They walked out into the late afternoon light. The sky was getting soft and pink. The next stop was the bakery, and they were almost ready.

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 5 · CHAPTER 5

Stargazers



Vocabulary for this week

constellation	— a group of stars that makes a shape
telescope	— a tool that helps you see far away things
orbit	— the path one thing takes around another
compass	— a tool that shows which way is north

WEEK 5 · DAY 1

Stargazers

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

That night, the Lantern Club met on the hill behind Maya's house. They brought the booklet and a small telescope Theo had borrowed. The sky was clear. The stars looked very close. Maya opened the booklet to the page about the five-pointed star. The booklet said the star was part of a constellation called the Lantern. Mr. Hollis had named it himself. The real name in books was different. But to him, those stars looked like the lantern in his lighthouse. The friends found the constellation and smiled.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 5 · DAY 2

Stargazers

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Theo set up the telescope on a flat rock. He looked through it first. "I can see the moon's craters," he whispered. Rosa looked next. She gasped. "The moon has so many shadows." Maya looked last. She saw a bright dot near the moon. The booklet said the dot was a planet. The planet had its own orbit around the sun. Mr. Hollis had drawn the orbit in soft pencil. He wrote, "Even small things travel far if they keep moving." Maya wrote that line in her notebook. She liked it.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 5 · DAY 3

Stargazers

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

On the back of the booklet was a small drawing of a compass. The compass pointed to the bakery on Maple Street. "Look," Rosa said. "He even drew the way." Theo studied the drawing. The compass had two stars on it: the lantern star and another one shaped like a tiny bread loaf. The friends laughed. Mr. Hollis had a sense of humor. He had hidden the bakery on a star map. The Lantern Club agreed they would go to the bakery the next day after school. They could not wait to meet Anna.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 5 · DAY 4

Stargazers

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Before they went home, Maya practiced finding the lantern constellation by herself. She lay flat on the cool grass. The sky was wide above her. She tried not to use the booklet. She looked for the brightest star first. Then she counted four more stars near it. They made the shape, just like in the drawing. "I found it," she whispered. Rosa and Theo lay down beside her. The three friends were quiet for a long time. The sky felt huge. Their small town felt safe inside it.

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 5 · DAY 5

Stargazers

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Walking home, the friends talked softly. Theo said, "I think Mr. Hollis wanted children to learn the stars." Rosa said, "And to listen to the river." Maya added, "And to read old books." They walked past the dark lighthouse. Its windows were black. But the carved star on the bench made a tiny shadow in the moonlight. "He left clues for the future," Maya said. "For people he would never meet." Pickle wagged his tail. The Lantern Club walked the rest of the way without talking. The night did not feel quiet at all.

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 6 · CHAPTER 6

The Bakery on Maple Street

**Vocabulary for this week**

dough	— soft mix of flour and water before it is bread
oven	— a hot box that bakes food
apron	— a cloth you wear over your clothes when you cook
memory	— something you remember from before

WEEK 6 · DAY 1

The Bakery on Maple Street

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The bakery on Maple Street had a red door and a bell that jingled. The Lantern Club walked inside after school. The air smelled like warm bread and cinnamon. A woman with a flour-dusted apron stood behind the counter. Her hair was silver, but her eyes were bright. "You must be the children Ms. Park called about," she said. The Lantern Club nodded. "I am Anna Hollis," she said. "My father told me about his clues. I always wondered if anyone would find them."

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 6 · DAY 2

The Bakery on Maple Street

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna brought them to a small table. She set down a plate of warm rolls. "My father was a quiet man," she said. "He loved this town. He thought the best gifts were small things you find by surprise." Maya took the brass key from her pocket and laid it on the table. Anna's eyes went soft. "I know this key," she said. "He used to wear it on a chain. He said it would open the right door someday." Theo asked, "What door does it open?" Anna only smiled.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 6 · DAY 3

The Bakery on Maple Street

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna stood up and walked to a back room. She came back with a small wooden box. The box looked just like the one in the workshop. "He made two," she said. "One for the workshop. One for me. Both held parts of the same story." She set the box on the table. "I think the time is right," she said. Maya picked up the brass key. Her hand was steady this time. The key slid into the lock. It turned with the same soft click as before. The Lantern Club leaned in.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 6 · DAY 4

The Bakery on Maple Street

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Inside the box was a folded letter, an old photo, and a small map of the community garden. The photo showed Mr. Hollis with a little girl. The girl was Anna. They were standing in a garden with sunflowers. "That was the garden behind the school," Anna said. "He helped plant it. The map shows where he buried something for me." Rosa's eyes grew wide. "Buried?" Anna nodded. "He told me once. But I never went looking. I think he wanted me to go with friends."

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 6 · DAY 5

The Bakery on Maple Street

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The Lantern Club stayed at the bakery until the sun went down. Anna told them stories about her father. He used to make pancakes shaped like stars. He used to read the same poem every Sunday morning. He used to sit on the bench by the lighthouse and watch the harbor. "He was my best friend," Anna said. Her voice was soft. The friends listened carefully. Before they left, Anna gave each of them a small loaf of bread. "Tomorrow," she said, "let's go to the garden. Together."

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 7 · CHAPTER 7

The Hidden Garden



Vocabulary for this week

seed	— a small thing that grows into a plant
trowel	— a small tool for digging in dirt
blossom	— a flower that has just opened
trail	— a path that helps you find your way

WEEK 7 · DAY 1

The Hidden Garden

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The community garden behind the school was full of color. Sunflowers stood tall along one fence. Tomato vines climbed up wooden sticks. Bees moved from blossom to blossom. The Lantern Club met Anna at the gate on Saturday morning. She carried a small trowel. "My father planted the first sunflowers here," she said. "He said they were brave plants. They always face the sun." The friends looked at the garden with new eyes. Every plant seemed to have a story now. They walked carefully on the grass trail.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 7 · DAY 2

The Hidden Garden

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna unfolded the small map. It showed the garden from above. A red X marked a spot near the back fence. "That's where we should look," she said. The Lantern Club walked to the back fence. There was a wooden post with a faded number on it. Beside the post was a patch of bare dirt. Anna knelt down with her trowel. "I will dig," she said. "It is right that I do." The friends watched quietly. Pickle sat very still, like he understood the moment too.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 7 · DAY 3

The Hidden Garden

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna dug for a while. The dirt was soft from a recent rain. After a few minutes, the trowel hit something hard. She brushed away the dirt with her hands. It was a small metal box, painted dark green. The paint was chipped, but the box was strong. Anna lifted it out gently. She set it on the grass. The Lantern Club gathered around. No one said a word. Anna's hands shook a little. She wiped them on her jeans before she opened the box.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 7 · DAY 4

The Hidden Garden

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Inside the box was a packet of seeds, a small painted rock, and a long letter folded into a square. The seeds were sunflower seeds. The rock had a tiny picture of a heron on it. The letter had Anna's name on the front in her father's handwriting. Anna pressed her hand to her chest. "Oh," she whispered. "Oh." Maya quietly put a hand on Anna's shoulder. The Lantern Club waited. They knew this part of the story belonged to Anna. They were happy just to be there.

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 7 · DAY 5

The Hidden Garden

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna did not open the letter yet. She wanted to wait for the right place. "The heron rock points to the next clue," she said. "There is a heron pond on the far side of town. My father took me there when I was small." The Lantern Club promised to go with her. They left the metal box safely in Anna's bag. They each took one sunflower seed and put it carefully in their pocket. They would plant the seeds at home. The story was not over yet. It was growing.

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 8 · CHAPTER 8
Heron Pond



Vocabulary for this week

pond	— a small still body of water
heron	— a tall, thin water bird
reflection	— a picture made by water or a mirror
patience	— the calm feeling of waiting

WEEK 8 · DAY 1

Heron Pond

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Heron Pond was quiet and round. Tall trees grew around it. The water did not move. The pond made a perfect reflection of the sky. The Lantern Club walked there with Anna on Sunday morning. They sat on a long log near the edge. Anna held the painted rock in her hand. "My father said herons taught him patience," she told them. "He said they stand still for a long time. Then they move, but only when the time is right." The friends sat very still too.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 8 · DAY 2

Heron Pond

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

After a while, a real heron flew down. It landed on the far side of the pond. Its feathers were soft gray. Its long neck curved gently. It did not seem to notice them at all. The heron stood on one leg in the shallow water. The Lantern Club barely breathed. Theo whispered, "It looks like the rock." Anna smiled. The heron stayed for a long time. Then it lifted its wide wings and flew up over the trees. The pond was quiet again, but no one felt alone.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 8 · DAY 3

Heron Pond

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna stood up and walked along the edge of the pond. She stopped at a spot where two rocks made a small arch. She bent down and reached behind the rocks. Her hand came back with a glass bottle. The bottle was sealed with wax. Inside was a folded paper, faded but whole. "Another clue," Rosa whispered. Anna looked at the paper for a long moment. "This is the last one," she said. "I can feel it." The Lantern Club gathered close. The pond was the perfect place to read it.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 8 · DAY 4

Heron Pond

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna sat back down on the log. She broke the wax gently and slid the paper out. The paper was thin. Mr. Hollis's handwriting filled both sides. Anna read it quietly to herself first. Her face changed many times as she read. When she finished, her eyes were shiny but her smile was bright. "He wrote about all of his favorite places," she said. "And he wrote about the kind of people he hoped would find his clues." She looked at the Lantern Club. "He was talking about you," she said.

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 8 · DAY 5

Heron Pond

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The Lantern Club did not know what to say. The pond was still. The trees were still. Maya finally spoke. "He didn't know us, though." Anna smiled. "He knew the kind of people he hoped you would be. Kind. Curious. Patient. Willing to listen to a river." Theo blushed. Rosa laughed softly. The friends stayed at the pond until afternoon. Anna folded the paper and put it back in the bottle. "Next week," she said, "I will read the long letter from the garden. At the lighthouse, where the story began."

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.

WEEK 9 · CHAPTER 9

The Letter



Vocabulary for this week

envelope	— a paper cover for a letter
legacy	— something good a person leaves behind
future	— the time that has not yet come
gather	— to come together as a group

WEEK 9 · DAY 1

The Letter

Day 1 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The Lantern Club met Anna at the old lighthouse on a bright Saturday. Anna carried a small basket. Inside was the long letter, the booklet of stars, and three sunflowers from her garden. The friends sat together on the carved bench. The harbor was full of boats. The wind was warm. Anna held the letter in her lap. "Are you ready?" she asked. The Lantern Club nodded. They had waited many weeks for this moment. The carved star under their hands seemed to glow a little.

Comprehension

1. Who is in this part of the story?
2. Where does this part take place?
3. What is one new thing you learned today?

Writing prompt

Describe the setting of today's reading using at least three of your five senses.

WEEK 9 · DAY 2

The Letter

Day 2 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Anna read the letter out loud. Mr. Hollis wrote about being a young man. He wrote about meeting Anna's mother. He wrote about how scared he had been when he first kept the lighthouse alone. He wrote about the night he saved the fishing boat. He wrote about the school children who came to see the lantern. He wrote about Anna learning to read by his side. The Lantern Club listened, very still. Pickle lay on Rosa's feet. The lighthouse stood strong above them. The story felt big and gentle.

Comprehension

1. What problem did the characters face today?
2. Pick one vocabulary word from the chapter — how is it used here?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Writing prompt

Write a short paragraph from the point of view of one of the characters.

WEEK 9 · DAY 3

The Letter

Day 3 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Then Anna read the part Mr. Hollis wrote near the end of his life. "I am leaving you a small map of clues," he wrote. "It is not because I want you sad, my Anna. It is because I want you happy. I want you to walk through the places I loved. I want you to bring friends. I want our town to keep being a place where a child can find a clue and follow it. That is the lighthouse I am keeping for you." Anna's voice was very soft. No one spoke for a long time.

Comprehension

1. What detail surprised you the most?
2. How are the characters feeling in this scene? How can you tell?
3. What did the characters decide to do, and why?

Writing prompt

What do you think one of the characters is feeling right now? Use evidence from the story.

WEEK 9 · DAY 4

The Letter

Day 4 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

Maya finally said, "That is the most beautiful gift I have ever heard about." Theo wiped his eyes quickly. Rosa hugged Anna. Anna hugged her back. The wind moved through the tall grass. Far away, a boat sounded its horn. Anna folded the letter carefully and tucked it inside her coat, near her heart. "My father would be glad you found the clues," she said. "He always said the lantern was not really the light. The light was the people who looked for it."

Comprehension

1. What clue or new information did the characters discover?
2. Choose one sentence you found beautiful or interesting. Why?
3. Connect today's events to something earlier in the chapter.

Writing prompt

Predict what will happen in tomorrow's reading. Give two reasons for your prediction.

WEEK 9 · DAY 5

The Letter

Day 5 of 5

TODAY'S STORY

The Lantern Club agreed to keep meeting at the lighthouse on Saturdays. They wanted to take care of the old bench. They wanted to plant more sunflowers in the garden. Anna gave them each a copy of the star booklet. "Pass it along," she said. "Find another child someday and give them a clue." The friends walked home together at sunset. The sky over the harbor turned gold and pink. The Lantern Club had finished their first adventure. But each of them felt sure it was only the beginning.

Comprehension

1. What changed for the characters by the end of today's reading?
2. What does this part of the story make you wonder about?
3. If you could ask one character a question, what would it be?

Writing prompt

Write a one-paragraph summary of this chapter so far. Include the main events in order.
