

The loan of a compass

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

Mr Vale handed the walking group a compass before they left the outdoor centre. “Return it to the desk when you finish,” he said. Leena slipped it into the front pocket of her rucksack, pleased to be trusted with something useful.

At the first junction, she held it flat while Omar checked the route card. The arrow settled. They compared the direction with the path shown on the card, then chose the narrower track beside the stone wall.

An hour later, rain began to fall. Everyone hurried into a shelter to pull on waterproofs. Leena moved the compass to her jacket pocket so she would not need to open the rucksack again.

Back at the centre, she reached into the rucksack and found the pocket empty. A cold feeling rose in her stomach. She pictured the muddy shelter, the last junction and the path beside the wall.

“I think I’ve lost it,” she told Mr Vale.

“Start with the last time you remember using it,” he said.

As Leena described the shelter, her hand touched the outside of her jacket. The small round shape was there. She returned the compass, but her face remained warm. Mr Vale thanked her for saying something rather than leaving without it.

Before the next walk, Leena wrote a short list on the route card: map, compass, waterproofs. At the bottom she added: Check both pockets before the desk. Being trusted, she realised, included telling someone when she was unsure, as well as keeping things safe.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. Why did Leena move the compass into her jacket?

- A. So Omar could use the rucksack
- B. So she could leave the compass in the shelter
- C. So the compass would point in a new direction
- D. So she would not need to reopen her rucksack in the rain

2. Where was the compass when she returned to the centre?

- A. Beside the stone wall
- B. At the last junction
- C. In her jacket pocket
- D. On the route-card desk

3. What does “settled” mean when describing the arrow?

- A. Sank into the ground
- B. Solved the walking group's argument
- C. Became quieter
- D. Stopped moving enough to show a direction

4. Why did Leena first believe the compass was lost?

- A. The arrow had pointed at the wrong path
- B. She checked its original pocket and forgot she had moved it
- C. Omar said he had left it outside
- D. Mr Vale had lent it to another group

5. Why did Mr Vale thank her?

- A. She had bought a replacement compass
- B. She reported the uncertainty rather than leaving it unmentioned
- C. She had completed the route faster than anyone else
- D. She had kept the compass in one pocket throughout

6. How does the final paragraph extend the idea of responsibility?

- A. It means never asking an adult for help
- B. It requires carrying every object for the group
- C. It means remembering a route without a card
- D. It includes checking and being honest about uncertainty

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. D. So she would not need to reopen her rucksack in the rain

The third paragraph gives keeping access without opening the rucksack again as the reason.

2. C. In her jacket pocket

The round shape she feels in her jacket is the compass.

3. D. Stopped moving enough to show a direction

The group waits for the compass arrow to settle before comparing the direction.

4. B. She checked its original pocket and forgot she had moved it

The empty rucksack pocket alarms her until retelling the shelter visit reminds her of the jacket.

5. B. She reported the uncertainty rather than leaving it unmentioned

The text directly contrasts saying something with leaving without resolving the missing compass.

6. D. It includes checking and being honest about uncertainty

The list supports checking, and her reflection includes telling someone when she is unsure.

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