Name: _____ Date: _____

The Secret in the Garden Shed

Year 4 reading comprehension · Story · 12 marks · About 20 minutes

Leo had never been inside Grandpa's shed. It stood at the bottom of the garden like a sleeping animal, with ivy creeping over its roof. The door was always locked.

On Saturday, Grandpa took a small key from his pocket. "I think it's time," he said, with a twinkle in his eye.

Inside, the shed smelled of oil and old wood. Dusty spades hung on the wall. On a shelf sat a rusty tin with a faded label. Leo's heart thumped as Grandpa lifted it down.

"Open it," said Grandpa quietly.

Leo prised off the lid. Inside were dozens of tiny paper packets, each one marked in careful handwriting: sunflower, sweet pea, poppy. At the bottom lay a photograph of a girl in a straw hat, standing in front of a wall of flowers.

"That's your grandma," said Grandpa. His voice wobbled a little. "She grew all of these. I couldn't bear to open the tin after she died. But I think she would want them to bloom again."

Leo looked at the packets and then at his grandad. "Can we plant them today?" he asked.

Grandpa smiled, and the sadness in his face softened. "Fetch the spades," he said.

1. What was inside the rusty tin? (1 mark)

2. What did the packets have written on them? (1 mark)

3. Find and copy one word that means "pulled off with effort". (1 mark)

4. The writer says the shed stood "like a sleeping animal". What does this suggest about the shed? (2 marks)

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5. How did Grandpa feel when he talked about Nana? Use a detail from the story to explain how you know. (2 marks)

6. Why do you think the shed door was always locked? (2 marks)

7. Why did Grandpa decide to open the tin now? (1 mark)

8. Number these events 1 to 4 in the order they happen. (2 marks)

- ☐ Leo asks if they can plant the seeds.
- ☐ Grandpa unlocks the shed.
- ☐ Leo opens the rusty tin.
- ☐ Grandpa lifts the tin off the shelf.

Writing task: Write about a special object that someone in your family keeps, and the story behind it.

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