

# The Missing Garden

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the text carefully and answer every question clearly.

On Friday afternoon, Maya was helping her school theatre group prepare for its first public performance. Three folding panels, painted to resemble a moonlit garden, stood at the back of the stage. Before leaving, the director, Ms Patel, typed a hurried message in the group chat: "Leo can take the painted panels after rehearsal."

Ms Patel intended him to carry them from the stage to the locked scenery store. Maya, however, thought the message gave Leo permission to decide what to do with them. When he arrived, she repeated it without asking where the panels should go.

Leo had understood "take" to mean that he could borrow the panels and had driven them home in his father's estate car. His sister needed a background for some birthday photographs, so the director's apparent generosity seemed perfectly reasonable. On Saturday morning, Maya found an empty stage and a furious lighting team: without the panels, several lamps could not be positioned safely.

She rang Leo, who answered cheerfully and then fell silent as she explained. Twenty minutes later, his father's car drew up outside the theatre. Together, they carried the panels inside and secured them before the final rehearsal.

Ms Patel apologised for omitting the destination from her message; "take" could mean either carry something elsewhere or remove it for one's own use. That evening, the garden appeared under the lights exactly as planned, apart from one small silver star that Leo's sister had added. Ms Patel noticed it, smiled and left it there.

## Comprehension questions

1. What did Ms Patel intend Leo to do with the painted panels?

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2. Why did Leo take the painted panels home?

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### Reflection questions

1. How did Maya's decision to repeat the message without asking about the destination contribute to the misunderstanding?

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### Opinion questions

1. Do you think Ms Patel was right to leave the silver star added by Leo's sister on the panel? Give reasons based on the story.

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