Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Night Garden: Reading Comprehension

Fiction story · about 260 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🌙 The Night Garden

Every summer, Aunt Ruth's garden looked ordinary during the day: tidy rows of beans, a few tomato plants, and a patch of pale, droopy flowers by the fence. So when she invited Isaiah to see "the real garden" at nine o'clock one evening, he thought she was joking.

They sat on the back steps as the sky turned from orange to deep blue. "Watch the fence," Aunt Ruth whispered.

Slowly, the droopy flowers began to move. Their tightly twisted buds loosened and unfurled, opening into white blossoms as big as Isaiah's hand. A sweet smell drifted across the yard. "Moonflowers," Aunt Ruth said. "They bloom only at night."

Then came the visitors. A fat moth with wings like gray velvet hovered in front of a blossom, its long tongue uncurling to reach the nectar. Another followed, then another. Fireflies blinked over the beans. Somewhere in the grass, crickets started their chirping chorus.

"Why do they open at night?" Isaiah asked.

"Because their partners work the night shift," Aunt Ruth said. "White flowers are easier to see in the dark, and the strong smell helps moths find them. The moths get a meal, and the flowers get their pollen carried to other flowers."

Isaiah grabbed his notebook and began sketching the moths by flashlight. He counted eleven before Aunt Ruth said it was bedtime.

The next morning, the moonflowers had closed again, looking just as droopy as before. But Isaiah no longer thought they were ordinary. He knew the garden kept a secret, and now he was part of it.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?
   A. a family goes camping B. an aunt teaches cooking C. a boy discovers the secret life of a garden at night D. a boy plants a vegetable garden

2. **Detail:** What were the droopy flowers?
   A. sunflowers B. tulips C. roses D. moonflowers

3. **Detail:** What visited the flowers?
   A. moths B. butterflies C. bees D. hummingbirds

4. **Inference:** Why are white flowers helpful at night?
   A. They need less water. B. They are easier to see in the dark. C. They stay warm. D. They scare away moths.

5. **Vocabulary:** Unfurled means...
   A. fell off B. closed tightly C. opened or spread out D. dried up

6. **Character:** How did Isaiah's view of the garden change?

ANSWER KEY

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   A. fell off B. closed tightly **C. opened or spread out** D. dried up

6. **Character:** How did Isaiah's view of the garden change?
   At first he thought it was ordinary, but later he saw it held a special secret.