

Name:

Date:

The Locked Room

When Oliver stayed at his grandfather's house, there was one rule he was never allowed to break: **do not enter the locked room upstairs**. The room was at the end of a narrow hallway. Its heavy wooden door was always locked, and whenever Oliver asked about it, Grandpa quickly changed the subject. One rainy afternoon, Oliver was walking past the room when he noticed something unusual. The door was slightly open.

He pushed it gently. Inside, dusty shelves covered the walls. There were old maps, newspaper clippings and photographs of places Oliver had never seen. A large wooden desk stood in the centre of the room. Oliver picked up one photograph. It showed a much younger Grandpa standing beside an aeroplane in the middle of a jungle. Another showed him climbing a snowy mountain. In every photograph, Grandpa wore the same brown leather jacket. Then Oliver noticed a locked metal box beneath the desk.

Before he could examine it, footsteps sounded in the hallway.

Grandpa appeared at the door. Oliver expected him to be angry. Instead, Grandpa looked at the photograph in Oliver's hand and sighed. He walked to the metal box, removed a tiny key from around his neck and unlocked it. Inside were several passports, an old compass and a newspaper article with Grandpa's photograph on the front. Grandpa smiled. "Well," he said, pulling up a chair, "I suppose you're old enough to hear a few stories." Oliver suddenly realised his quiet grandfather had not always lived such a quiet life.



1. What rule was Oliver told not to break?

2. What did Oliver find inside the locked room?

3. What can you infer about Grandpa's younger life?

4. Why do you think Grandpa kept the room locked?

5. What clues suggest that Grandpa had travelled to many places?



Answers

1. He was told not to enter the locked room upstairs.
2. He found old maps, photographs, newspaper clippings, a desk and a locked metal box.
3. Grandpa had an adventurous life and travelled to many different places.
4. He may have wanted to keep his adventurous past private until Oliver was old enough to hear about it.
5. The photographs showed Grandpa beside an aeroplane in a jungle and climbing a snowy mountain, and the box contained several passports and a compass.