

“Just One Touch”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

I am sitting in a chair next to Momma’s bed. I am watching her get ready for a party.



She opens the beautiful jewelry box on her nightstand.

It is the size of a shoebox. It is wooden. It has colorful stones on top. They are red, green, yellow and blue. To me, the box looks **magical**. It looks like it has special powers.

“Now, you know you must never touch this box, right?” Momma says. I feel like she knows exactly what I am thinking.

*I just want to touch it. I just want to open it.
I just want to try on all the jewelry inside and dance around
the room!*

“Yes, Momma,” I say. “I know.”

What do I know?

I know Momma has always told me not to touch the box. She has said it since I was a little girl.

“You are not old enough to wear my jewelry,” Momma says.

I am 11-years-old now! What is the **big deal** ?

I know that when Momma puts on the rings and bracelets from the box, she looks different. She seems to glow.

There is one necklace with a yellow stone like a tiger’s eye. When Momma puts this on, she seems to **float** instead of walk. Her feet do not seem to touch the ground. She moves lightly and gracefully. She moves without effort.

Momma kisses me goodnight. She leaves for the party. I run to the window to wave to her, but she is already gone.

Tonight I am very curious.

Just one touch

I sit on the edge of Momma’s bed. I place my hand on the nightstand. I pause. I think.

My hand moves up and rests on the jewelry box. The box quickly flips open by itself! Jewels fly into the air. They dance around my head. I feel strange. I fall down to the floor.

I wake up in a place I have never seen before.

Questions:

1) Where does most of this story take place?

- A. at a party
- B. in a pretend place
- C. outside a window
- D. in Momma's bedroom

2) Who is telling the story?

- A. Momma
- B. a young girl
- C. Momma's friend
- D. a make-believe person

3) At the beginning of the story, where is the girl sitting?

- A. in a chair
- B. on the bed
- C. on the floor
- D. next to the window

4) The jewelry box looks **magical**. What does this mean?

- A. It looks simple.
- B. It looks expensive.
- C. It looks like it has special powers.
- D. It looks like it was made a long time ago.

5) What does Momma tell her daughter about the box?

- A. that it is magical
- B. that she must never touch it
- C. that the jewels are expensive
- D. that she can touch it when she is older

6) Where is Momma going?

- A. _____

7) What does the jewelry box look like?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. It is brown.
- B. It is wooden.
- C. It is the size of a shoebox.
- D. It has colored stones on top.

8) Which word best describes how the girl feels about the jewelry box?

- A. angry
- B. curious
- C. in love
- D. scared

Questions (continued):

9) When does the girl say Momma seems to glow?

- A. when she puts on make-up
- B. when she puts on a necklace
- C. when she puts on the rings and bracelets
- D. when she puts on nice shoes and a fancy dress

10) What does the girl seem to be thinking about when she sits on the edge of the bed?

- A. going to a party
- B. how to open the box
- C. dancing around the room
- D. if she should touch the box

11) How old is the girl?

- A. _____

12) What does the reader learn about the box?

- A. It is evil.
- B. It can fly.
- C. It is very heavy.
- D. It has special powers.

13) What does it mean if something is a **big deal** ?

- A. It is a heavy thing.
- B. It is very important.
- C. It cannot be forgotten.
- D. It can make a lot of money.

14) What does the girl mean when she says that Momma seems to **float** ?

- A. that Momma is swimming
- B. that Momma looks like a boat
- C. that it is difficult for Momma to move
- D. that Momma moves without much effort

15) How might the end of the story make a reader feel?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. unsure of what has happened
- B. curious about the power of the box
- C. sure that the girl is in danger
- D. wondering what happens next