

The Curious Case of Maya and the Missing Medicine

Maya, a bright and inquisitive 10-year-old, was an **autodidact** (self-taught) when it came to all things science. Her room was a mini-laboratory, filled with bubbling concoctions and flickering circuits. One afternoon, while researching the power of **antioxidants** (substances that fight cell damage) in berries, Maya accidentally knocked over a vial of a mysterious blue liquid.

Panic surged through her. The label, now half-submerged in the colorful mess, only revealed the faint outline of the word "**antidote**" (a substance that counteracts poison). Could the blue liquid be the **antithesis** (opposite) of the medicine her neighbor, Mr. Hernandez, desperately needed? He was suffering from a rare viral infection, and the only known treatment was a powerful, but potentially harmful, medication.

Thinking fast, Maya grabbed her **antiseptic** wipes (used to kill germs) and started cleaning the mess. She needed to decipher the label! But first, she needed her trusty **antiglare** sunglasses (to reduce glare) to examine the faint lettering. With the sunlight dimmed, she could just barely make out the rest of the label: "**Experimental Antiviral Formula.**"

Relief washed over her. This blue liquid might be the missing piece! But how could she be sure? Maya raced to the library, her trusty **autobiography** of Marie Curie (a famous scientist) tucked under her arm. She needed to learn more about viruses, antibodies (proteins that fight infection), and the potential dangers of such an **antiviral** treatment.

Hours flew by as Maya devoured medical journals. Finally, she understood. The blue liquid could potentially counteract the virus, acting as an **antidote**. However, without proper testing, it could have unforeseen consequences.

The next day, Maya, armed with her newfound knowledge and a carefully written report (complete with an **autotimer** set to remind her to take breaks!), presented her findings to a local doctor. Impressed by her dedication and research, the doctor contacted a team of scientists who were researching the very same virus. Together, they embarked on a new path towards finding a cure, all thanks to Maya's curiosity and scientific spirit.

Comprehension and Spelling Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions based on the passage "The Curious Case of Maya and the Missing Medicine."

1. How is Maya described in the story?

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2. Can you explain **autodidact**'s meaning?

- a) Lazy b) (self-taught) c) Messy

3. What was Maya researching when she spilled the blue liquid?

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4. Can you give a synonym for **antioxidant**.

- a) substance that fights cell damage / protector
- b) Colors that don't go together
- c) Medicine the heals all wounds

5. What did the label on the vial reveal?

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6. Can you explain the meaning of **antidote**

- a) Poison that could kill humans
- b) substance that counteracts poison
- c) Warning of electric shock

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7. What did Maya use to clean the mess?

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8. Can you give a synonym for **antiseptic**?

- a) Water for drinking
- b) used to kill germs
- c) Towel to dry your body

9. What kind of sunglasses did Maya use to examine the label?

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10. Can you explain antiglare meaning? (Underline the correct spelling)

- a) doesn't reflect light
- b) Regular light reflection
- c) Tinted or colored window