A STORY ACTIVITY BOOK

The Secret of Lantern Hill

A Story Activity Book for Kids Ages 7-9: Read 10 Chapters, Solve 40 Puzzles and Crack Every Password

10 CHAPTERS · **40** PUZZLES · **10** PASSWORDS

Harper Lane

Sample pages

The Secret of Lantern Hill

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and events are products of the imagination. Any resemblance to real persons or places is coincidental.

Every puzzle in this book was checked by computer: each word search word appears exactly once, every logic puzzle and letter sudoku has exactly one answer, and every password in the story matches its puzzle.

First edition, 2026

Welcome, Code Cracker!

Mia and Leo are spending the summer at Grandma June's tall blue house on top of Lantern Hill. On a rainy day they find an old wooden box in the attic, and inside it waits a treasure hunt that nobody has solved in fifty years. They will need your help to finish it.



1. Read a chapter
Every chapter of the story ends with puzzles made from that chapter: its words, its people and its places.



2. Solve the password puzzle
In each chapter, one puzzle has a lock on it. Its answer is a secret password.



3. Write it down
Write every password in your Password Log on page 6.



4. Turn the page
The next chapter tells you if you were right: look for the password in bold.

THE PUZZLES IN THIS BOOK



Word Search
Find the chapter words in the grid.



Crossword
Fill in the missing words from the story.



Secret Code
Decode a secret note from a character.



Letter Sudoku
Each letter once in every row, column and box.



Logic Puzzle
Use clues to match people and things.



Reading Check
Show how carefully you read.



Spot the Mistakes
Find the words that changed.

Stuck? The answers to every puzzle start on page 68. Use a pencil, so you can erase and try again.

Sample pages

Meet the Characters



Mia Park

Nine years old. Carries a notebook everywhere, because you never know when you might find a clue.



Leo Park

Mia's little brother, seven. Loves jokes, frogs and anything with frosting on it.



Grandma June

Lives in the tall blue house on Lantern Hill and bakes the best pancakes in Maple Falls.



Walter Park

Great-Grandpa. He made puzzles for the whole town and hid one last treasure hunt long ago.



Mr. Finch

The mail carrier. He knows every street, every dog and every secret shortcut in town.



Mrs. Lee

The librarian at Maple Falls Library. She can find any book in under a minute.

Sample pages

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My Password Log

Every time you crack a password, write it here. Then check the next chapter to see if you were right!



Chapter 1
The Box in the Attic



Chapter 2
The Acorn Lock



Chapter 3
The Owl in Willow Park



Chapter 4
The Bell Tower



Chapter 5
Down by the River



Chapter 6
Under the Stone Bridge



Chapter 7
The Blue Book



Chapter 8
Something Sweet



Chapter 9
The Tower Room



Chapter 10
The Lantern

Sample pages

CHAPTER ONE



The Box in the Attic

Rain drummed on the roof of Grandma June's tall blue house. The house sat at the very top of Lantern Hill, and on gray days it looked like a ship lost in the clouds.

Mia Park pressed her nose to the window. "It has rained for three whole days," she said. "Summer is supposed to be sunny."

"Summer is supposed to have snacks," said her little brother, Leo. He was seven, and he was always hungry.

Grandma June laughed from the kitchen. "I have a better idea than snacks. Why don't you two explore the attic? Nobody has opened those old trunks in years."

Mia grabbed her notebook and her pencil. She took them everywhere. You never knew when you might find a clue.

The attic stairs creaked under their feet. At the top, the air smelled like dust and old paper. A round window let in a little gray light. There were trunks and hat boxes, a broken rocking chair, and a tall mirror with a crack down the middle.

"Look at this!" Leo said. He pulled a blanket off a small wooden box.

The box was about as big as a loaf of bread. Someone had carved tiny leaves and stars all over it. On the front was a brass lock with five little wheels. Each wheel had letters on it instead of numbers.

Sample pages

“It’s a word lock,” Mia whispered. “You have to spell the right word to open it.”

On the lid, burned into the wood, were rows and rows of letters. Under them, someone had written in neat, curly handwriting: To whoever finds this box, the hunt begins with a word. Look closely, and the leftover letters will tell you what it is. W.P.

“Who is W.P.?” Leo asked.

Mia hurried down the stairs with the box in her arms. “Grandma! Who is W.P.?”

Grandma June put down her rolling pin. She looked at the box, and her eyes went wide. “Oh my,” she said softly. “That is my father’s box. Walter Park. Your great-grandpa.”

She sat down at the kitchen table and ran her fingers over the carved stars. “Papa loved puzzles more than anything. He made them for the whole town. Every summer he hid a treasure hunt, and the children raced all over Maple Falls to solve it.”

“What happened to this one?” Mia asked.

“The last summer before he moved away, he made one more hunt. He called it the Lantern Hunt. But nobody ever found the first clue.” Grandma smiled. “I guess it was in the attic the whole time.”

Leo leaned over the lid. “So if we find the password, the box opens?”

“And then the hunt begins,” said Grandma.

Mia opened her notebook to a fresh page. Outside, the rain kept falling, but she did not mind anymore. “Leo,” she said, “get a pencil. We have a puzzle to solve.”

Sample pages

Reading Check

CHAPTER 1 · READING CHECK

How carefully did you read? Circle the letter next to the right answer. You can look back at the chapter if you need to.

1 **Why could Mia and Leo not play outside?**

- **A** It was too hot
- **B** It had rained for three days
- **C** Grandma said no

2 **What did Mia take everywhere?**

- **A** Her notebook and pencil
- **B** Her bike
- **C** A flashlight

3 **What was special about the lock on the box?**

- **A** It had no keyhole
- **B** It was made of wood
- **C** Its wheels had letters, not numbers

4 **Who made the box?**

- **A** Walter Park
- **B** Grandma June
- **C** Mr. Finch

Sample pages

Spot the Mistakes

Here is a part of the chapter, told again. But five words are wrong! Read it carefully, circle each wrong word, and write the right word from the story on the lines below.

Grandma June laughed from the kitchen. “I have a better idea than snacks. Why don’t you two explore the attic? Nobody has opened those old trunks in years.” Leo grabbed her notebook and her pencil. She gave them everywhere. You never knew when you might find a clue. The attic stairs creaked under their hands. At the bottom, the air smelled like dust and old paper. A round door let in a little gray light.

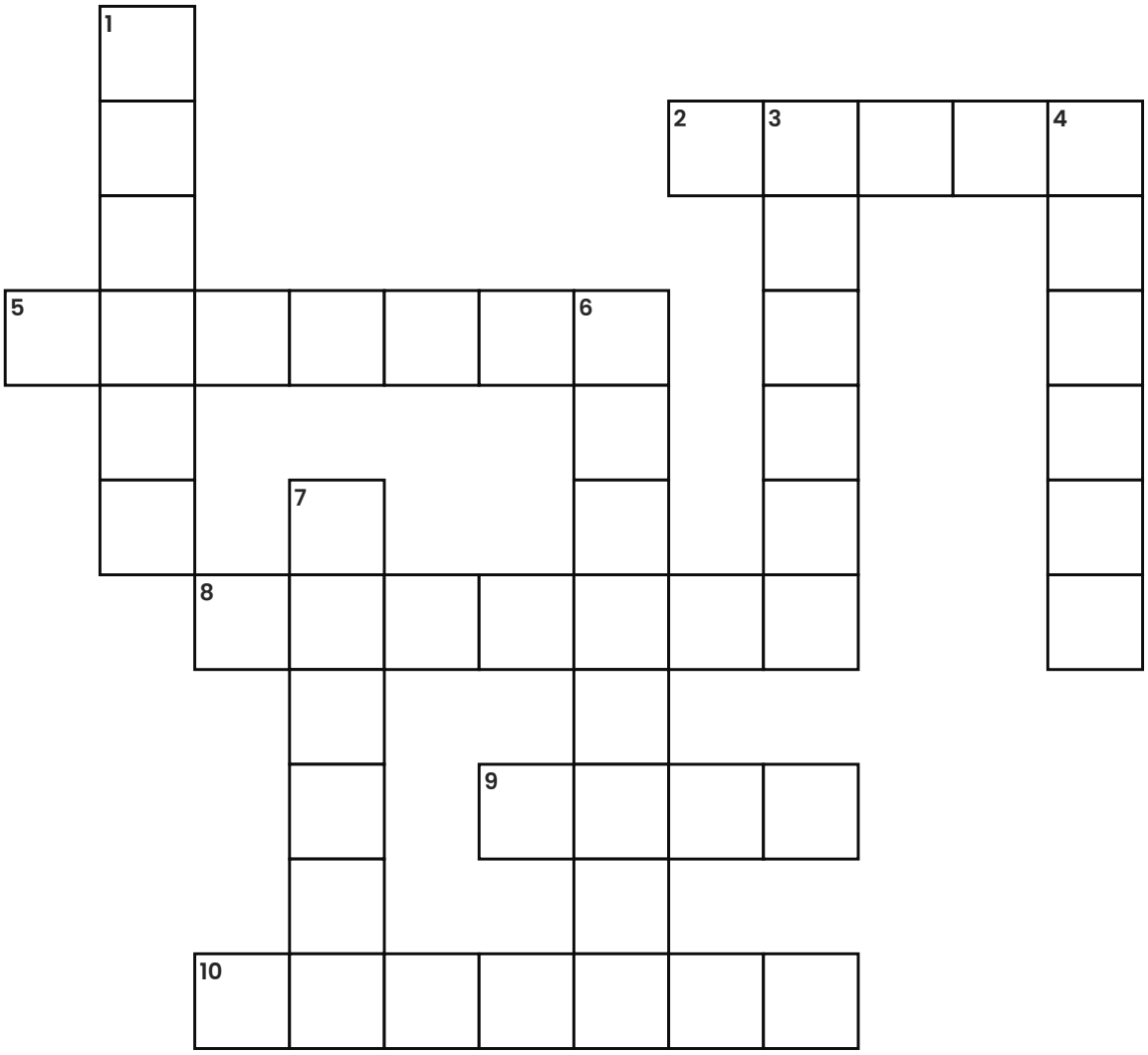
	WRONG WORD		RIGHT WORD
1.	_____	→	_____
2.	_____	→	_____
3.	_____	→	_____
4.	_____	→	_____
5.	_____	→	_____

Sample pages

Story Crossword

CHAPTER 1 · CROSSWORD

Every clue comes from the chapter: fill in the missing word. Write one letter in each square.



ACROSS

2. I guess it was in the _____ the whole time.
5. Grandma June laughed from the _____.
8. Each wheel had _____ on it instead of numbers.
9. It's a word _____, Mia whispered.
10. He pulled a _____ off a small wooden box.

DOWN

1. The hunt _____ with a word.
3. Nobody has opened those old _____ in years.
4. She sat down at the kitchen table and ran her fingers over the _____ stars.
6. Mia opened her _____ to a fresh page.
7. Mia grabbed her notebook and her _____.

Sample pages

The Letters on the Lid

CHAPTER 1 · WORD SEARCH

PASSWORD PUZZLE

Find the 18 words from the chapter. They go across, down and on a slant. Then write the letters you did not use, in order from left to right and top to bottom, in the boxes. They spell a secret message.

P	E	N	C	I	L	T	S	A	H	E
N	F	I	R	S	T	L	P	R	T	D
O	A	R	M	S	E	D	O	E	E	L
T	P	A	S	E	N	R	K	N	L	L
E	W	S	H	A	R	N	E	A	W	O
B	I	W	R	I	A	P	M	O	R	C
O	N	G	M	L	O	S	D	F	I	K
O	D	S	B	L	E	T	T	E	R	S
K	O	L	E	F	T	O	V	E	R	A
C	W	O	A	T	T	I	C	T	R	N
T	R	U	N	K	S	S	E	V	E	N

- ☐ ARMS
- ☐ ATTIC
- ☐ BLANKET
- ☐ FEET
- ☐ FIRST
- ☐ GRANDPA
- ☐ LEFTOVER
- ☐ LETTERS
- ☐ LOCK
- ☐ MIRROR
- ☐ NOTEBOOK
- ☐ OPENED
- ☐ PENCIL
- ☐ SEVEN
- ☐ SMALL
- ☐ TRUNKS
- ☐ WHEELS
- ☐ WINDOW

THE SECRET MESSAGE

The last word is the password for Chapter 2.

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Sample pages