

Reading Homework: 18-25.09.26

The Case of the Vanishing Violin

Mia stood at the door of the music room, staring at the empty space where her violin had been just yesterday.

"I know I left it *right* here," she whispered, panic rising in her chest.

Her best friend, Josh, frowned. "You're sure?"

Mia nodded. "Completely. Mr Sanders even complimented my playing before I left."

Josh glanced around. "Let's think. Who was here last?"

Mia bit her lip. "Emma was practising flute... and Callum was packing up drums. But they'd never—"

Josh pointed to the open window. A chilly breeze blew in, rustling the sheet music.

"Could someone have climbed in?"

"It's the second floor," Mia replied. "They'd need wings!"

They scoured the room. Behind the curtain, something shiny caught Mia's eye. She pulled it back and gasped. Her violin case sat neatly behind the upright piano.

"But... I didn't put it there."

Josh opened the case—it was empty. Tucked inside was a folded note.

"Nice music. I borrowed it for inspiration. I'll return it soon."

"No name," Josh muttered. "But look—music notes drawn in the corner. That's Emma's doodle."

Mia narrowed her eyes. "She *did* say she needed help composing..."

They glanced at each other. The mystery was just beginning.

Questions

1. Why do you think Mia and Josh suspect Emma took the violin?
2. What does the word *scoured* mean in the sentence, "They scoured the room."?
3. What impression does the ending of the story give about Emma and what might happen next? Use evidence from the text.