

The Mystery of the Locked Journal



Figure 1: A dusty attic lit by a beam of sunlight from a small round window, an old leather journal lying open on a wooden trunk, its pages softly

Maya found an old journal in her grandmother's attic, its pages yellowed and edges torn. "This looks ancient," she said to her friend Devon. "Let's figure out who wrote it." They noticed a date, 1952, and a mention of ration cards. "That tells me it's during a time of food shortages," Devon said, connecting it to a documentary he'd watched. Reading further, they found a line crossed out and rewritten. "Someone changed their mind about something," Maya guessed. "Let's keep reading to see why." Near the end, the writer described feeling scared, then hopeful. "Her perspective changed," Devon said. "Maybe because time passed, or she learned something new." Maya nodded. "This journal isn't just old paper. It's someone's real feelings,."

Words to know

- **context clues:** Hints in a text, like words, pictures, or punctuation, that help you figure out meaning

- **perspective:** A person's point of view, shaped by their experiences and beliefs
- **inferring:** Figuring out something that isn't directly stated by using clues
- **historical context:** The time and place in which something happened, which shapes how it can be understood

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