

Cole's Kingdom

After arriving at Grandma Jenny's house, Cole and his family begin sorting out her belongings ready for her to move out. Cole has the very special job of clearing out the attic...

Grandma's Attic

The attic was long and gloomy and filled with mixed-up shapes and threatening angles. Faint light seeped in from three grimy skylights and the air swam with dust. Fresh rain tapped its fingertips on the roof and wind whipped through the trees outside. Cole felt very far away from everyone, as if the world and everything in it were trapped within the attic itself. He stuffed Grandma Jenny's keys into his pocket and fumbled around the doorway until he found an old-fashioned light switch on a chain. When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.

"Woah," Cole breathed.

He had expected mouldy boxes and bags full of old clothes and toys, like his family's attic at home, but, as he stepped closer, he saw that Grandma's could not have been more different.

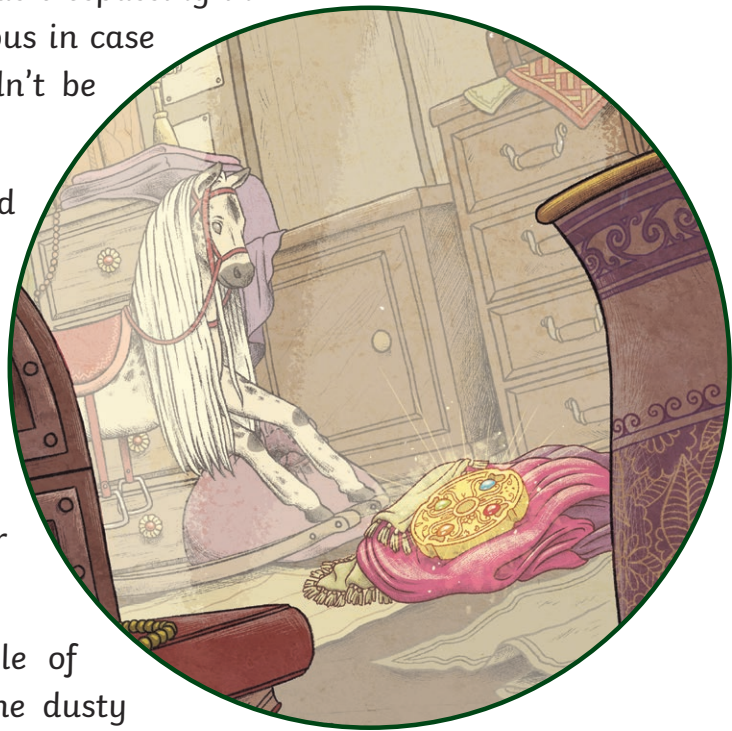
Cole was standing on the edge of what looked like a model town made up of the strangest collection of objects he had ever seen, piled up in towers and heaps with narrow avenues of floorboard between them. There were cupboards and dressers made of dark wood with leaves and flowers carved into their grain. When Cole opened their drawers, he found them stuffed full: silver tankards and brass candlesticks and ancient, hard-backed books with golden, stamped titles. Cole opened a large chest which was filled with clothes that looked like they came from Victorian times. Then, he opened a small chest and found row upon row of large, dangling earrings arranged on a cushioned tray. He was going to need a bigger box.

He brushed by an old rocking horse and set it swinging



back and forth, its white mane swishing. "There, boy. Shh, now." He stroked the horse's ears until it became still, as though it were real. He knew that it was silly, but he felt like he was trespassing in a sleeping world. He was nervous in case he woke anything that shouldn't be disturbed.

As he picked his way around the attic, his eyes slid over oil paintings, porcelain dolls, ornate vases, a rusty bicycle and a leather saddle. Stepping closer to inspect a carved, wooden mirror with a gilded handle, Cole almost tripped over something soft on the ground.



He crouched to look. A tangle of faded fabric was sitting on the dusty floorboards and, even among this strange array of objects, it looked out of place. As Cole mused, a sparkle of light called out to him from the centre of the fabric nest. He pulled at it cautiously, revealing what looked like a piece of fine jewellery snuggled tightly inside.

Questions

1. Why were Cole and his family sorting Grandma Jenny's belongings?

2. Which words best describe the attic? Circle **three**.

long

bright

gloomy

wide

rainy

dusty

3. Look at the paragraph beginning 'The attic was...'. Find and copy a word that means 'pushed quickly'.

4. *When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.* Which phrase best describes 'smattering'? Tick **one**.

a bright light	
a small, scattered amount	
a strong beam of light	
a large amount	

5. Why does the author describe the attic as a 'sleeping world'? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

6. What was Cole inspecting when he tripped over something on the ground?

7. How do you think Cole felt in the attic? Use the text to support your answer.

8. This chapter is called 'Grandma's Attic'. If you had to rename this chapter, what would you call it? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

Answers

1. Why were Cole and his family sorting Grandma Jenny's belongings?

She was moving house/she was going to move house.

2. Which words best describe the attic? Circle **three**.

long

bright

gloomy

wide

rainy

dusty

3. Look at the paragraph beginning 'The attic was...'. Find and copy a word that means 'pushed quickly'.

stuffed

4. *When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.*

Which phrase best describes 'smattering'? Tick **one**.

a bright light	
a small, scattered amount	✓
a strong beam of light	
a large amount	

5. Why does the author describe the attic as a 'sleeping world'? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

Accept any reference to everything in the attic being still, quiet or undisturbed. For example, 'I think that the author has described the attic as a sleeping world because everything inside of it is still and looks like it has been undisturbed for a long time.'

6. What was Cole inspecting when he tripped over something on the ground?

a mirror (accept the extra details 'carved', 'wooden' and 'with a gilded handle')

7. How do you think Cole felt in the attic? Use the text to support your answer.

Accept any feeling that suggests that he is curious, nervous or feels like he shouldn't be there. These should be supported and fully explained using evidence from the text. For example, 'I think that Cole felt uneasy because he was 'trespassing in a sleeping world'. This shows that he felt like he shouldn't really be there and should leave everything in the attic just as it is. I also think that he felt nervous because he began to talk to the moving rocking horse, even though he knew it was 'silly', just to make himself feel better.'

8. This chapter is called 'Grandma's Attic'. If you had to rename this chapter, what would you call it? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

Accept any suitable suggestion that is fully explained. For example, 'I would rename the chapter 'Treasures in the Attic' because Cole is exploring the attic and finding all sorts of valuable items that he had no idea were hidden in there, such as jewellery and oil paintings.'

Cole's Kingdom

After arriving at Grandma Jenny's house, Cole and his family begin to sort out her belongings ready for her to move out. Cole has the very special job of clearing out the attic and he is about to discover a secret hidden among Grandma's treasures...

Grandma's Attic

The door at the top of the stairs was smaller and narrower than a normal door and the keyhole looked ancient. Cole stared at the two keys in his hand and chose the oldest-looking one but, when he jammed it into the rusty keyhole, nothing happened. Selecting the second of the two, he renewed his efforts. It took a little wiggling and jiggling to get the key to turn but, when Cole put his shoulder to the door, it swung open with a heavy clunk, shredding stubborn cobwebs as it went.

The attic was long and gloomy and filled with mixed-up shapes and threatening angles. Faint light seeped in from three grimy skylights and the air swam with dust. Fresh rain tapped its fingertips on the roof and wind whipped through the trees outside. Cole felt very far away from everyone, as if the world and everything in it were trapped within the attic itself. He stuffed Grandma Jenny's keys into his pocket and fumbled around the doorway until he found an old-fashioned light switch on a chain. When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.

"Woah," Cole breathed.

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Cole was standing on the edge of what looked like a model town made up of the strangest collection of objects he had ever seen, piled up in towers and heaps with narrow avenues of floorboard between them.



There were cupboards and dressers made of dark wood with leaves and flowers carved into their grain. When Cole opened their drawers, he found them stuffed full: silver tankards and brass candlesticks and ancient, hard-backed books with golden, stamped titles. Cole opened a large chest which was filled with clothes that looked like they came from Victorian times. Then, he opened a small chest and found row upon row of large, dangling earrings arranged on a cushioned tray. He was going to need a bigger box.

He brushed by an old rocking horse and set it swinging back and forth, its white mane swishing. "There, boy. Shh, now." He stroked the horse's ears until it became still, as though it were real. He knew that it was silly, but he felt like he was trespassing in a sleeping world. He was nervous in case he woke anything that shouldn't be disturbed.

As he picked his way around the attic, his eyes slid over oil paintings, porcelain dolls, ornate vases, a rusty bicycle and a leather saddle. Stepping closer to inspect a carved, wooden mirror with a gilded handle, Cole almost tripped over something soft on the ground.

He crouched to look. A tangle of faded fabric was sitting on the dusty floorboards and, even among this strange array of objects, it looked out of place. As Cole mused, a sparkle of light called out to him from the centre of the fabric nest. He pulled at it cautiously, revealing what looked like a piece of fine jewellery snuggled tightly inside.

The strange object was a metal disc a little bigger than Cole's palm. It was made of gleaming gold, shaped into an intricate pattern and encrusted with dazzling jewels. When he stared into the precious stones, he could swear that they twirled and danced inside themselves. There were four in total, each a different colour: green, yellow, orange and blue. Fascinated, Cole set about running his thumb over each jewel to remove the fine layer of dust coating them.



Questions

1. Why were Cole and his family sorting Grandma Jenny's belongings?

2. Match the noun to the correct adjective.

Noun
keyhole
cobwebs
door

Adjective
ancient
narrow
stubborn

3. *When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.*
Define 'smattering'.

4. Why does the author describe the attic as a 'sleeping world'? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

5. Which items does Cole find in the attic? Tick **three**.

keys	<input type="checkbox"/>	a rocking horse	<input type="checkbox"/>	a rug	<input type="checkbox"/>
earrings	<input type="checkbox"/>	a bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>	a trapdoor	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How do you think Cole felt in the attic? Use the text to support your answer.

7. Look at the second paragraph, beginning 'The attic was...'

Give one example of **personification**.

8. This chapter is called 'Grandma's Attic'. If you had to rename this chapter, what would you call it? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

9. What do you predict will happen next in the story? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

Answers

1. Why were Cole and his family sorting Grandma Jenny's belongings?

She was moving house/she was going to move house.

2. Match the noun to the correct adjective.

Noun		Adjective
keyhole	-----	ancient
cobwebs	-----	narrow
door	-----	stubborn

4. When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.

Define 'smattering'.

Accept a correct definition, such as a small, scattered amount.

5. Why does the author describe the attic as a 'sleeping world'?

Explain your answer as fully as possible.

Accept any reference to everything in the attic being still, quiet or undisturbed. For example, 'I think that the author has described the attic as a sleeping world because everything inside of it is still and looks like it has been undisturbed for a long time.'

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Accept any of the following: the air swam with dust; fresh rain tapped its fingertips on the roof; a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.

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10. What do you predict will happen next in the story? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

Accept any suitable prediction that is fully supported by the text. For example, 'I predict that the object that Cole finds is magical because when he stared at the stones in it, he thought that they 'twirled and danced inside themselves'. This shows that there could be something magical about the stones because they seem to be shining more than normal stones would.'

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Grandma's Attic

He had never been in Grandma Jenny's attic. When they were younger, he, Mara and Liam had often begged to be allowed up there to explore or play games, but Grandma had always said, "It isn't tidy." Now, she had trusted Cole to finish tidying for her and he was going to do his absolute best – dust trolls or no dust trolls.

The door at the top was smaller and narrower than a normal door and the keyhole looked ancient. Cole stared at the two keys in his hand and chose the oldest-looking one but, when he jammed it into the rusty keyhole, nothing happened. Selecting the second of the two, he renewed his efforts. It took a little wiggling and jiggling to get the key to turn but, when Cole put his shoulder to the door, it swung open with a heavy clunk, shredding stubborn cobwebs as it went.

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The strange object was a metal disc a little bigger than Cole's palm. It was made of gleaming gold, shaped into an intricate pattern and encrusted with dazzling jewels. When he stared into the precious stones, he could swear that they twirled and danced inside themselves. There were four in total, each a different colour: green, yellow, orange and blue. Fascinated, Cole set about running his thumb over each jewel to remove the fine layer of dust coating them.

The effect upon Cole's senses when his skin touched the blue stone was immediate, and it knocked him backwards in surprise. He felt cold and tremendously hungry; his shoulders gave a violent shiver and he whipped his hand away. Breathing hard, he placed a finger over the green stone, and was immediately warmed by an inexplicable surge of hopefulness and a breeze which ruffled his hair. The brooch-like ornament was both heavy and weightless and he knew that, above all the other things he had seen in the attic, this was the most precious of all Grandma's possessions.

Questions

1. Why was Cole pleased that he had been trusted to clean the attic?

2. *When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.*
Define 'smattering'.

3. Why does the author describe the attic as a 'sleeping world'? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

4. Using the text, decide whether the following sentences are facts or opinions. Tick one box for each row.

	Fact	Opinion
Cole and his family were helping Grandma Jenny pack up her things to move house.		
Cleaning the attic was the most important job.		
Cole found a brooch-like ornament.		
The brooch-like ornament was beautiful.		

5. Give two examples of personification from the text.

6. This chapter is called 'Grandma's Attic'. If you had to rename this chapter, what would you call it? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

7. Find and copy a word towards the end of the text that means 'not easy to explain'.

8. What do you predict will happen next in the story? Explain your answer as fully as possible.

9. Summarise the events in this chapter using thirty words or fewer.

10. Compare how Cole felt at the start of the extract to how he feels at the end of it. Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers

- Why was Cole pleased that he had been trusted to clean the attic?
Accept that he had never been in the attic or that he had never been allowed to explore or play in there when he was younger. Do not accept that there might be dust trolls.
- When he pulled, a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on.
Define 'smattering'.
Accept a correct definition, such as a small, scattered amount.
- Why does the author describe the attic as a 'sleeping world'?
Explain your answer as fully as possible.
Accept any reference to everything in the attic being still, quiet or undisturbed. For example, 'I think that the author has described the attic as a sleeping world because everything inside of it is still and looks like it has been undisturbed for a long time.'
- Using the text, decide whether the following sentences are facts or opinions. Tick one box for each row.

	Fact	Opinion
Cole and his family were helping Grandma Jenny pack up her things to move house.	✓	
Cleaning the attic was the most important job.		✓
Cole found a brooch-like ornament.	✓	
The brooch-like ornament was beautiful.		✓

- Give two examples of personification from the text.
Accept any two of the following: the air swam with dust; fresh rain tapped its fingertips on the roof; a smattering of ancient bulbs in ornate light fittings blinked on; a sparkle of light called out to him; a piece of fine jewellery snuggled tightly inside; they twirled and danced inside themselves.

6. This chapter is called 'Grandma's Attic'. If you had to rename this chapter, what would you call it? Explain your answer as fully as possible.
Accept any suitable suggestion that is fully explained. For example, 'I would rename the chapter 'Treasures in the Attic' because Cole is exploring the attic and finding all sorts of valuable items that he had no idea were hidden in there, such as jewellery and oil paintings.'
7. Find and copy a word towards the end of the text that means 'not easy to explain'.
inexplicable
8. What do you predict will happen next in the story?
 Explain your answer as fully as possible.
Accept any suitable prediction that is fully supported by the text. For example, 'I predict that the object that Cole finds is magical because when he stared at the stones in it, he thought that they 'twirled and danced inside themselves'. This shows that there could be something magical about the stones because they seem to be shining more than normal stones would.'
9. Summarise the events in this chapter using thirty words or fewer.
Accept any summary that includes the key points from the chapter, such as 'Cole is cleaning his Grandma's attic when he finds a strange brooch-like object that affects his senses.'
10. Compare how Cole felt at the start of the extract to how he feels at the end of it.
 Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
At the start of the extract: accept any feeling that suggests that he is curious, nervous or feels like he shouldn't be there. For example, 'I think that Cole felt uneasy because he was 'trespassing in a sleeping world'. This shows that he felt like he shouldn't really be there and should leave everything in the attic just as it is.' At the end of the extract: accept feelings relating to the strange object, for example, 'At the end of the extract, Cole feels intrigued and excited because he has found something very strange and he calls it 'precious'. He is breathing hard which shows that he is scared or exhilarated.'