

City Detective

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Vocabulary Words

<p>city A city is a place where many people live and work. A city has many buildings and streets.</p>	<p>pearl A pearl is a white jewel that has grown inside an oyster. A string of pearls is a necklace made of pearls.</p>
<p>inspect Inspect means to look carefully at something.</p>	<p>Try defining the next word. Then, look the word up in the glossary.</p>
<p>magnificent Something that is great is magnificent. Another word for "great" is "magnificent."</p>	<p>apartment Start with "An apartment is a place...."</p>

Maya the Magnificent

CHAPTER 1

The Lost Pearls

I live in the city. I am nine years old. I wear beads in my hair. I like to sing. I have a big smile, and people say I have pearly white teeth. My favorite book is *Nate the Great*. Nate is a detective. I have decided that I too can be a detective. My name is Maya the Magnificent.

It was a Monday afternoon. I had just gotten home from school when there was a tap at the door. It was old Mrs. Jefferson from Apartment 8A. We call her Mrs. J.

Mrs. J usually has a big smile for me. Today, there was no smile. Her mouth looked puckered and sad. Mrs. J got right down to business. She said, "Your door says, 'Maya the Magnificent, City Detective.' Do you find things?"

I nodded.

Mrs. J asked, "What is your fee?"

I said, "If I find what you are looking for, my fee is one dollar."

Mrs. J said, "I have lost my pearls. If you find them, I will pay you five dollars!"



Who is the main character? What do you know about Maya? What is Mrs. J's problem? What are pearls? Read the next chapter to find out whether Maya takes the job.

CHAPTER 2

Bruce

I thought of Mrs. J in her Sunday best. She always wore her red dress, a red hat, and a string of big white pearls. Mrs. J was willing to pay me five dollars to find her lost pearls.

I said, "Do not fear. I, Maya the Magnificent, will help you find your pearls."

Mrs. J nodded, but she did not smile. I said, "We have work to do. Where did you have the pearls last?"

Mrs. J said, "I do not remember. If I remembered where I had them last, I would have them now."

I said, "You are right. I will get Bruce." (Bruce is my little brother. He is six. He goes where I go.) "We might find the pearls in your apartment. We will come look for clues."

What is the problem? Who will help Mrs. J find her pearls?

CHAPTER 3

The New Case

What is the story about? Who is the main character? What do you know about Maya? Who else is in the story? What is Mrs. J's problem?

My little brother, Bruce, was watching TV. I, Maya the Magnificent, had a new case. I had been hired to find Mrs. J's string of pearls. I couldn't leave Bruce alone, so I said, "Bruce, I have a case. We need to go down the hall to Mrs. J's."

Bruce thought about that, but he didn't move.

So I said, "You can be my assistant."

Bruce thought about that too, but he still didn't move.

So I said, "If we find the pearls, I will give you fifty cents." Bruce got up and came with me.

We went down the hall to Mrs. J's apartment. "Wa, waaaa . . ." We could hear Mr. Miller in Apartment 8D practicing his trombone. "Wa, waaa."

Mrs. J's door was open. She was waiting for us. Mrs. J sat in her rocking chair. She had a frown on her face, and her mouth still looked puckered and sad. She said, "Come in. Come in."

I inspected Mrs. J's small apartment. Nothing seemed out of place.

I said, "Mrs. J, everything looks pretty good here. It doesn't look like you've been robbed."



What did Maya inspect? What does "inspect" mean? Read the next chapter to find out what happened to the pearls. Are there any clues to follow?

CHAPTER 4

No Smile

I, Maya the Magnificent, was on a case with my assistant, Bruce. Old Mrs. J had lost her pearls.

Mrs. J said, "Without my pearls, I have no smile for the delivery boy. I have no smile for the mailman. I have no smile for the preacher. Come Sunday, if I don't have my pearls back, I can't go to church." Then Mrs. J shook her head and looked discouraged.

Bruce and I got to work. We decided to start with the bedroom. We looked on the bed. We looked in the bed. We looked under the bed. We made a mess, so Bruce and I remade the bed. Then we sat on the bed. There were no pearls in the bed.

I noticed a gray velvet box on the dresser. It was tucked behind some books. I opened the box. Mrs. J's pearls were right on top. Bruce and I were excited. We had found the pearls!

We ran to the living room with the pearls, but Mrs. J didn't smile. She just muttered, "Not those pearls! I am missing my pearly whites!"

There was a tap at the door. It was Mom.



What was the problem? What did Maya and Bruce do to find the pearls? Were they successful?

CHAPTER 5

The Clue

What is the story about? Who is the main character? What do you know about Maya? Who else is in the story? What is Mrs. J's problem?

Bruce and I were on a case—the case of the missing pearls. We had found Mrs. J's string of pearls, but Mrs. J still insisted she was missing her pearly whites. I, Maya the Magnificent, was puzzled. It was a mystery. We had found the pearls, but the pearly whites were still missing!

Bruce and I always get home before Mom does. When Mom gets home, we make dinner together. Bruce can't have milk, so he makes juice. Bruce likes juice. While Bruce was mixing up the juice, I told Mom about my case.

Mom said, "What do you think happened to Mrs. J's pearls?"

Bruce said, "They're gone. Someone took 'em."

I said, "Mrs. J says her pearls have gone missing. We found a string of pearls, but Mrs. J said they weren't the right ones. Mrs. J said that she won't go to church without her pearls."

Mom said, "That's strange. I wouldn't have thought Mrs. J would be so vain."

I said, "She won't smile without her pearls. Her mouth even looks puckered and sad."

Mom said, "I think there's a clue in what you just told me. Maya, smile for me. What does Mrs. J tell you when you smile?"

It was then that I, Maya the Magnificent, had the answer. I whooped, "Mrs. J is missing her teeth!"



What was Mrs. J missing? What was the clue that helped Maya figure out what was missing? Read the next chapter to see if the mystery is solved.

CHAPTER 6

The Pink Box

Old Mrs. J wouldn't smile. She was missing her false teeth. That's why her mouth looked puckered and sad. I grabbed Bruce, and we ran up the stairs to Apartment 8A.

We tapped on Mrs. J's door. I said, "Mrs. J, we want to find your pearly whites."

Mrs. J nodded and said, "Come in."

Mrs. J gave each of us a cookie. I said, "Mrs. J, you had your teeth when we played checkers after school." Mrs. J nodded.

Bruce said, "I'm thirsty."

Mrs. J said, "Maya, please get Bruce some juice." I went to the refrigerator. The juice pitcher was in the back. I spotted it right away. There was a little pink box on top of the pitcher. I picked up the box and gave it to Mrs. J.

What do you think is in the pink box?

CHAPTER 7

Case Closed

Who is the main character? Who else is in the story? What was Mrs. J's problem? How was the case solved?

I gave Mrs. J the small pink box that I found in the refrigerator. Mrs. J covered her mouth and began laughing. She laughed all the way to the bathroom. When Mrs. J came back, she had the biggest smile I ever saw. She was wearing her pearly white false teeth.

We each had another cookie. Mrs. J explained, "I remember now. I was getting ready for bed. I had put my teeth in the pink box. I had the box in one hand, and I was putting the pitcher away. Then someone came to the door. I put the pitcher in the refrigerator. I must have put my pearly whites in the refrigerator right along with the juice."



Mrs. J gave us our fee of five dollars. I gave Mrs. J a hug. Mrs. J said, "You are great detectives! I will recommend you to anyone who is missing their teeth!"

That night, I brushed my teeth three times. Then I lay in bed. I could see snow falling in the flashing city lights. I could hear the wind howling. I snuggled into my blanket and thought, "I, Maya the Magnificent, City Detective, have solved another case." It had been a good day.



How did Maya's case end? Describe Maya. What was Maya's fee for finding Mrs. J's false teeth? How did everyone feel at the end of the story? Why do you think Maya brushed her teeth three times? Show me what your mouth would look like if you had no teeth.

MAYA THE MAGNIFICENT AND CARLOS THE CURIOUS

Maya the Magnificent	Carlos the Curious
<p>Main Character</p>  <p>Favorite Book: <i>Nate the Great</i></p> <p>Job: Detective</p> <p>Age: Nine</p> <p>Girl</p> <p>Problem Mrs. J was missing her pearls.</p>	<p>Main Character</p>  <p>Favorite Book: <i>Nate the Great</i></p> <p>Job: Detective</p> <p>Age: Eight</p> <p>Boy</p> <p>Problem George was missing the key to his bike lock.</p>

What's the same about the main characters? What's the same about the problems?

Maya the Magnificent <i>(continued)</i>	Carlos the Curious <i>(continued)</i>
<p>Goal • To solve the problem Maya needed to find the missing pearls.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked questions • Inspected the apartment • Talked it over with Mom <p>Conclusion Maya found the missing teeth in Mrs. J's refrigerator. Case closed.</p>	<p>Goal • To solve the problem Carlos needed to find the missing key.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked questions • Inspected at school • Wrote down clues <p>Conclusion Carlos and George found the missing key in George's shoe. Case closed.</p>

What's the same about the goals? In both stories, the main characters needed to . . . At the end of the stories or in the conclusions, both characters . . . What happened in each of the cases?

Unit 43 Glossary

apartment

An apartment is a place where people live. Many people live in an apartment building.



city

A city is a place where many people live and work. A city has many buildings and streets.

inspect

Inspect means to look carefully at something.



magnificent

Something that is great is magnificent. Another word for "great" is "magnificent."

pearl

A pearl is a white jewel that has grown inside an oyster. A string of pearls is a necklace made of pearls.



Storybook Decoding Review

Words with and without the Bossy E:

clue

car

care

juice

excite

place

wore

Words you can sound out:

jewel

beads

paid

grown

pencil

inspect

dresser

found

grabbed

smells

saw

space

magnificent

detective

fantastic

● Words you have learned:

change

enough

move

here

most

open

through

thought

♥ Phrases you can read:

Two heads are better than one.

Where there's a will there's a way.

■ Sentences you can read:

At the beginning of the story, Mrs. J was missing her pearls.

In the middle of the story, Maya looked for Mrs. J's pearls.

At the end of the story, the detectives found Mrs. J's pearly white false teeth.