

Level 5

The Secret Lake

This was the first time Molly had been to the lake with anyone other than her dad.

“How on Earth did you find this place?” Evie asked, ducking under a low hanging branch.

“Bingo ran off a couple of years ago. Dad and I eventually found him, soaking wet and chasing birds around the lake,” Molly replied. “On the walk back, Dad and I stacked small piles of stones at each turn we took. Now I’ve been here so many times I know the way off by heart.”

Having just passed the small stream, Molly knew they were now almost there. The path to the lake was overgrown and only a faint track was visible. Vines hung low overhead and tree branches dangled awkwardly, forcing the girls to duck and weave.

Molly reached the clearing first. Evie soon joined her.

“Wow!” Evie gasped. “The lake is beautiful!”

A flock of birds stood at the water’s edge searching for their breakfast. Schools of tiny fish darted through the shallow waters at the edge of the lake. The sun was still low in the sky.

Molly ran into the cool water, sending the flock flying to a safe distance. Evie followed closely behind, dropping her bag before she reached the water’s edge. She ran so fast that she toppled over, landing at Molly’s feet.

Molly began to laugh. “Hope you brought a change of clothes,” she teased.

Evie laughed, and brushing the hair out of her face, made her way back to the edge of the lake and changed into her swimmers.

Closing her eyes, Molly floated on her back in the water and smiled. She loved the way the light breeze felt on her face. A chorus of birds sung in the distance. Molly loved how peaceful it was here.



Task A: Comprehension

1. How did Molly know when they were almost there?

2. For how long has Molly known about the lake?

3. How did Molly first find the secret lake?

4. Which word from the text means 'opening'?

5. Why was the path to the lake overgrown?

6. What did Molly do to make sure they didn't forget the way to the lake?

7. Why do you think Molly hasn't told many people about the lake?



Task B: Language and Grammar

1. **Speech marks** are used to show direct speech. For example:

“Wow!” Evie gasped.

Rewrite the following sentences, **adding speech marks** where they are needed.

a. Evie turned to Molly and said, The water is beautiful.

b. What a fantastic way to start our holidays, Molly grinned.

c. I'm tired, Evie groaned. Was the walk here this long?

2. **Synonyms** are words that have a similar meaning. Eg. 'safe' and 'secure'.

Search the text for **synonyms** of the following words:

a. calm- _____

b. gentle- _____

c. fell- _____

d. unclear- _____

Task C: Challenge

Invent your own secret lake. Draw a map showing the way.