

# The Map That Drew Itself

A Fleydo English School Story

A2 Level | Kids (6-10) | Reading | Story | 14 Pages

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*Kai finds a strange blank map in his grandmother's attic. When he walks through town, the map draws itself, marking places with golden stars. At each star, Kai discovers a hidden story about one of his neighbours — the baker who was a sailor, the florist who paints murals, the postman who writes poetry. He learns that every ordinary person has an extraordinary story.*

## Learning Objectives

- Read and understand an A2-level adventure story (14 pages)
- Learn 15 new vocabulary words in context
- Practise vocabulary with matching and fill-in-the-blank exercises
- Test reading comprehension with 10 multiple-choice questions
- Discuss themes: curiosity, community, and hidden stories

## 1 Read the Story

### Chapter 1: The Attic

Kai was bored. It was the rainiest Saturday in history. He sat by the window in his grandmother's house, watching the puddles grow bigger.

"Grandma, there's nothing to do," Kai said for the tenth time.

His grandmother looked up from her knitting. "Nothing to do? Have you looked in the attic?"

"The attic? But you always said I shouldn't go up there."

"I said you shouldn't go up there alone. But today, I think you're old enough."

Kai ran up the narrow staircase into the dark, dusty attic. Old furniture was covered with white sheets. There were boxes of photographs, a broken rocking chair, and a globe showing countries that no longer existed.

In the darkest corner, he found a leather tube with tiny golden stars stamped into it. Inside was a rolled piece of paper — a map. But when he unrolled it, the map was completely blank.

"Why would someone keep an empty map?" Kai asked his grandmother.

"It's not blank, Kai. It's waiting. Take it outside tomorrow and watch it carefully."

### Chapter 2: The First Star

The next morning, the rain had stopped. Kai walked out with the map in his backpack. After five minutes, he unrolled it and nearly dropped it in surprise.

Lines had appeared on the paper — streets, houses, trees — all drawn in golden ink. The map was drawing itself! And a bright golden star was glowing right where Mr. Costa's bakery stood.

Kai pushed open the bakery door. "Mr. Costa, have you always been a baker?"

Nobody had ever asked him that. He sat down and told Kai his story. Before becoming a baker, he had been a sailor for fifteen years. He had visited Japan, Brazil, Egypt, and New Zealand. He survived three storms and swam with dolphins.

"Why did you stop sailing?"

"Because I fell in love. I met my wife Rosa in Lisbon, and I decided that the best voyage was the one that brought me home."

Outside, the star on the map now showed a tiny sailing ship. And a new star was glowing at Mrs. Yamamoto's flower shop.

### Chapter 3: The Flower Lady

Mrs. Yamamoto's flower shop was the prettiest shop in town. Kai asked her if she had any hobbies.

She led him behind the shop. Covering the entire wall of a building was the most beautiful mural Kai had ever seen — a Japanese garden with cherry trees, a red bridge, mountains, and hundreds of tiny birds flying across a sunset sky.

"YOU painted this?" Kai gasped.

"I paint at night, when nobody is watching. I have painted twelve murals around the town. Most people walk past them every day without noticing."

"But this is incredible! Why do you keep it a secret?"

"Because art is not about being famous. Art is about making the world more beautiful, even if nobody knows you did it."

## Chapter 4: The Postman's Poems

Mr. Singh had been the town postman for forty years. He was seventy-five and retired now. Everyone knew him, but nobody really KNEW him.

When Kai asked if there was something special about him, Mr. Singh brought out a thick notebook filled with tiny, neat handwriting. "These are my poems. I have been writing poetry for fifty years. I have never shown them to anyone."

He read one poem about the morning light falling on the town's rooftops. It was so beautiful that Kai felt tears in his eyes.

"Why don't you show your poems to people?"

"Because who wants to read poems by an old postman?"

"Everyone," Kai said firmly. "Everyone would want to read them."

One last star was glowing on the map — at Grandma's house.

## Chapter 5: The Last Star

Kai ran home. "Grandma, you're the last golden star."

And then she told him. Fifty years ago, Grandma had been an explorer. She had travelled to the Amazon rainforest, climbed mountains in Nepal, and lived with a tribe in the Sahara desert. She had discovered three species of butterfly that nobody had ever seen before. One was named after her.

"Every person is many stories, not just one," she said. "The map showed you that today."

"But Grandma — who made the map?"

"I did. Fifty years ago. So that one day, someone curious would discover what I discovered: that every person in this town has an extraordinary story. You just have to ask."

## Chapter 6: The Story Festival

That weekend, Kai organised a Story Festival in the town square. Mr. Costa told his sailing adventures. Mrs. Yamamoto showed her twelve secret murals. Mr. Singh read his poems and the whole square went silent. When he finished, everyone cheered.

Other people started sharing too. The librarian had been a circus performer. The dentist could speak seven languages. The school cook had won a national singing competition.

By the end of the day, the whole town was talking, laughing, and listening to each other in a way they never had before. The community felt closer and more connected.

Kai looked at his map. Every star was now filled with a tiny, beautiful picture. The map was complete.

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## The End

*Every person is a book. You just have to open them.*

*The most extraordinary stories are hiding in the most ordinary people. You just have to be curious enough to ask.*

## 2 Key Vocabulary

These words from the story will help you improve your English.

Word	Type	Definition	Example
<b>attic</b>	<i>noun</i>	a room at the top of a house, under the roof	<i>Kai found the map in the attic.</i>
<b>map</b>	<i>noun</i>	a drawing showing streets and places	<i>The map drew itself with golden ink.</i>
<b>curious</b>	<i>adj</i>	wanting to know or learn	<i>Kai was a curious boy.</i>
<b>blank</b>	<i>adj</i>	empty; with nothing on it	<i>The map was completely blank at first.</i>
<b>appeared</b>	<i>verb</i>	became visible; started to be seen	<i>Golden lines appeared on the paper.</i>
<b>bakery</b>	<i>noun</i>	a shop where bread and cakes are made	<i>The first star was at the bakery.</i>
<b>sailor</b>	<i>noun</i>	a person who works on a ship	<i>Mr. Costa used to be a sailor.</i>
<b>voyage</b>	<i>noun</i>	a long journey, especially by sea	<i>His best voyage brought him home.</i>
<b>secret</b>	<i>noun</i>	something kept hidden from others	<i>Mrs. Yamamoto kept her art a secret.</i>
<b>mural</b>	<i>noun</i>	a large picture painted on a wall	<i>She had painted twelve murals.</i>
<b>poetry</b>	<i>noun</i>	beautiful writing with rhythm and feeling	<i>Mr. Singh wrote poetry for fifty years.</i>
<b>ordinary</b>	<i>adj</i>	normal; not special at first glance	<i>The postman seemed ordinary.</i>
<b>extraordinary</b>	<i>adj</i>	very unusual, special, surprising	<i>Every person has an extraordinary story.</i>
<b>community</b>	<i>noun</i>	all the people living in an area	<i>The festival brought the community together.</i>
<b>festival</b>	<i>noun</i>	a special event or celebration	<i>Kai organised a Story Festival.</i>

### 3 Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Kai found the old map in his grandmother's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The map was completely \_\_\_\_\_ when Kai first unrolled it.
3. Golden lines \_\_\_\_\_ on the map as Kai walked through town.
4. Mr. Costa used to be a \_\_\_\_\_ who travelled the world by ship.
5. Mrs. Yamamoto painted a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ on the wall.
6. Mr. Singh had been writing \_\_\_\_\_ for fifty years in secret.
7. Kai was a \_\_\_\_\_ boy who loved asking questions.
8. Everyone thought Mr. Singh was just an \_\_\_\_\_ old postman.
9. Grandma's story was the most \_\_\_\_\_ of all.
10. The Story Festival brought the whole \_\_\_\_\_ together.

#### Answer Key:

1. attic
2. blank
3. appeared
4. sailor
5. mural
6. poetry
7. curious
8. ordinary
9. extraordinary
10. community

## 4 Comprehension Quiz

Choose the correct answer for each question.

### Question 1. Where did Kai find the map?

- A. In the garden
- B. In his grandmother's attic
- C. At school
- D. In the library

### Question 2. What was strange about the map?

- A. It was very old
- B. It was completely blank
- C. It was torn
- D. It was in a foreign language

### Question 3. What happened when Kai walked through town?

- A. The map folded itself
- B. The map drew itself with golden ink
- C. The map disappeared
- D. The map talked

### Question 4. What was Mr. Costa's secret?

- A. He was rich
- B. He used to be a sailor
- C. He could paint
- D. He wrote poems

### Question 5. What did Mrs. Yamamoto do at night?

- A. Baked bread
- B. Read books
- C. Painted murals on walls
- D. Wrote songs

### Question 6. What was Mr. Singh's hidden talent?

- A. Singing
- B. Dancing
- C. Writing beautiful poetry
- D. Cooking

### Question 7. Who made the magical map?

- A. Mr. Costa
- B. Mr. Singh
- C. Kai's grandmother
- D. Mrs. Yamamoto

### Question 8. What had Grandma been when young?

- A. A teacher and explorer
- B. A doctor
- C. A singer
- D. A baker

**Question 9. What did Kai organise?**

- A. A party
- B. A concert
- C. A Story Festival
- D. A sports day

**Question 10. What is the main lesson?**

- A. Maps are valuable
- B. Every person has an extraordinary story
- C. Grandmothers know everything
- D. Bakers make the best food

**5 Quiz Answer Key**

Q	Correct Answer
1	<b>B. In his grandmother's attic</b>
2	<b>B. It was completely blank</b>
3	<b>B. The map drew itself with golden ink</b>
4	<b>B. He used to be a sailor</b>
5	<b>C. Painted murals on walls</b>
6	<b>C. Writing beautiful poetry</b>
7	<b>C. Kai's grandmother</b>
8	<b>A. A teacher and explorer</b>
9	<b>C. A Story Festival</b>
10	<b>B. Every person has an extraordinary story</b>