

# The Map in the Library Wall

A Fleydo English School Story

A2 Level | Teens (11–16) | Reading | Story | 14 Pages

Mia is a curious fourteen-year-old who loves the school library more than any other place. One afternoon, she discovers a loose brick in the wall — and behind it, a hand-drawn map from 1923. Together with her best friend Jake, she follows the map through the old clock tower, a forgotten garden, and a secret underground tunnel. At the end, they find a hidden room full of rare books left behind by the library's original architect, Eleanor Blackwood. They learn that the real treasure is not gold — it is knowledge, curiosity, and the courage to explore.

## Learning Objectives

- Read and understand an A2-level mystery 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, teamwork, and the value of knowledge

## 1 Read the Story

### Chapter 1: The Loose Brick

*Mia finds something strange in the library wall*

Mia loved the school library more than any other place in the world. She was fourteen, with dark curly hair and eyes that were always looking for something interesting. While most students rushed through the library to borrow a book and leave, Mia stayed for hours. She liked the quiet. She liked the smell of old paper. And she liked sitting in the corner next to the big stone wall, where nobody bothered her.

One rainy Thursday afternoon, Mia was leaning against the wall, reading a detective novel. She shifted her back and felt something move. She turned around. One of the bricks in the wall was loose. It was sticking out just a little, about two centimetres more than the others.

Curious, Mia pressed the brick. It moved again. She looked around. The librarian, Mrs Chen, was at the front desk, helping a younger student. Nobody was watching.

Mia pulled the brick carefully. It slid out of the wall with a soft scraping sound. Behind it, there was a dark hole. And inside the hole, there was something. A rolled-up piece of paper, yellow with age, tied with a thin red ribbon.

Mia's heart beat faster. She took the paper out and put the brick back. Her hands were shaking. What was this? Who put it here? And how long had it been hidden inside the wall?

### Chapter 2: The Hidden Map

*Mia and Jake find a 100-year-old map*

Mia didn't open the paper in the library. She put it carefully in her bag and waited until lunch break. Then she found her best friend Jake. Jake was fifteen, tall, and always wearing his favourite green jacket. He loved history and puzzles, and Mia knew he would want to see this.

They sat behind the science building where nobody could see them. Mia untied the ribbon and unrolled the paper very carefully. It was old and fragile. The edges crumbled a little when she touched them.

"What is it?" Jake asked, leaning closer.

It was a map. A hand-drawn map of their town, Millfield. But it looked very different from modern maps. The streets had old names. Some buildings that existed now were missing. And some buildings that no longer existed were drawn carefully with tiny details.

Three places on the map were marked with red circles. Next to each circle, there was a small symbol: a clock, a flower, and a key. At the bottom of the map, there was an inscription in neat handwriting:

*"Follow the circles. Solve the riddles. Find what I have left behind. — E. Blackwood, 1923"*

*"1923!" Jake gasped. "That's over a hundred years ago! Who was E. Blackwood?"*

Mia pulled out her phone and searched. "Eleanor Blackwood," she read aloud. "She was the architect who designed the original school library in 1923. She was one of the first female architects in the country. She was also known for her love of puzzles and secret rooms."

Jake grabbed Mia's arm. "We have to follow this map. We have to find out what she left behind."

They looked at the first red circle. It was marked with a clock symbol. Next to it was the first riddle:

*“I have hands but cannot hold. I have a face but cannot smile. Look behind my voice at twelve.”*

“A clock!” Mia said. “Hands of a clock, face of a clock. And ‘the voice at twelve’ — that must be the bell that rings at noon!”

They agreed to go to the clock tower after school. Their adventure was about to begin.

## Chapter 3: The First Clue

*The old clock tower holds a secret*

The clock tower stood in the middle of Millfield’s town square. It was made of grey stone and was over two hundred years old. Most people walked past it every day without really looking at it. But today, Mia and Jake looked very carefully.

They found a small wooden door at the back. It was old but not locked. Inside, a narrow stone staircase spiralled upwards into darkness.

Mia turned on her phone’s torch and started climbing. The stairs were dusty and covered in cobwebs. After what felt like a hundred steps, they reached the top. The bell hung above them, huge and dark, covered in ancient green metal.

“Behind the bell,” Mia whispered. She walked around it carefully. On the back wall, she saw something carved into the stone — a small arrow pointing down. Below the arrow, one stone was a different colour from the others.

Jake pulled at the stone. It came out, just like the brick in the library. Behind it was a small metal box. Inside was a folded note and a small brass compass. The note said:

“Well done, clever one! You found the first clue. Now follow the compass south-east to the place where flowers never die. — E.B.”

“The Everlast Garden!” Mia said. “My grandmother told me about it. It’s an old walled garden behind the museum. Nobody goes there anymore, but Eleanor Blackwood planted special flowers there that bloom in every season.”

## Chapter 4: The Forgotten Garden

*A hidden garden holds the second clue*

The Everlast Garden was behind a tall stone wall covered in ivy. The gate was rusty, but it opened when Jake pushed hard. Inside, the garden was wild and overgrown, but still beautiful. Roses climbed the walls. Lavender grew in thick purple lines. And in the centre, there was a stone fountain with a carved bird on top.

The second riddle on the map said: “I sing without a voice. I fly without wings. Lift my feet and you will see.”

*“A bird!” Jake said. “The stone bird on the fountain!”*

Together they twisted the bird carefully. It turned like a lid. Under the bird was a small compartment. Inside was a heavy brass key with the number 1923 engraved on it. The note said:

“Almost there! The key opens the final door. Go to where books began in this town. Look where the floor meets the wall, and count thirteen bricks from the east corner. The door is waiting for someone brave enough to open it. — E.B.”

*“The library!” they said together. “The map started in the library, and it ends there too.”*

## Chapter 5: The Underground Tunnel

*A secret passage under the library*

The library was almost empty when they arrived. Mrs Chen gave Mia the spare key and left. When they were alone, they went to the east wall and counted thirteen bricks from the corner. The thirteenth brick looked the same as the others, but when Jake pressed it, they heard a soft click.

A section of the wall moved back slightly. Behind it was a narrow passage with stone steps going down into darkness.

*“A tunnel,” Mia said. “She built a secret tunnel under the library.”*

They went down slowly. After about thirty steps, they found an old oil lantern and matches on the wall. Mia lit the lantern. Warm orange light filled the tunnel.

They followed the tunnel until they reached a solid wooden door with a brass lock. The number 1923 was carved above it. Mia put the key in the lock and turned it. The door opened with a long, low groan.

## Chapter 6: The Final Door

*The builder’s secret room*

The room was full of books. Old, beautiful books, stacked on wooden shelves from floor to ceiling. There were also rolled-up papers — architectural drawings of buildings Eleanor Blackwood had designed. On a small desk, there was a leather journal, a fountain pen, and a photograph of a woman standing in front of the school library.

The first page of the journal said:

“To whoever finds this room — congratulations. You are exactly the kind of person I built it for: someone with courage, curiosity, and the patience to solve problems. These books are my personal collection. They taught me everything I know. Now they belong to you. — Eleanor Blackwood”

Mia looked at the books. There were books about architecture, mathematics, art, science, and adventure. Some were first editions — rare and priceless.

*“She didn’t hide gold or jewels,” Mia said quietly. “She hid knowledge. She hid the books that made her who she was.”*

## Chapter 7: The Real Treasure

*The greatest discovery is not what they expected*

The next day, Mia and Jake told Mrs Chen about the room. Within a week, “The Blackwood Room” was the biggest story in Millfield. The discovery was called “historically important” and “a treasure for

the whole community.”

The school decided to restore the secret room and turn it into a reading space — the “Blackwood Reading Room.” Mia and Jake were invited to choose the first twenty new books.

A journalist asked Mia: “Were you disappointed that the treasure was just books?”

Mia smiled. “Books ARE treasure. Gold just sits there. Books change how you think. Eleanor Blackwood wasn’t hiding something valuable — she was sharing it. She wanted to connect with someone in the future who loved learning as much as she did. And I think that’s better than any amount of gold.”

Jake nodded. “Plus, it was the best adventure we’ve ever had. You can’t buy that.”

“The real treasure is not what you find. It is who you become while looking for it.” — Eleanor Blackwood’s journal

## 2 Key Vocabulary

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

Word	Type	Definition	Example
<b>mysterious</b>	adj	strange and difficult to understand	<i>They found a mysterious map behind the brick.</i>
<b>curious</b>	adj	wanting to know or learn about something	<i>Mia was a curious girl who loved exploring.</i>
<b>discovered</b>	verb	found something for the first time	<i>They discovered a secret room under the library.</i>
<b>ancient</b>	adj	very, very old; from a long time ago	<i>The clock tower was made of ancient stone.</i>
<b>riddle</b>	noun	a clever question or puzzle	<i>The map had a riddle next to each red circle.</i>
<b>hidden</b>	adj	kept where nobody could find it	<i>The map had been hidden for over 100 years.</i>
<b>tunnel</b>	noun	an underground passage	<i>A narrow tunnel led them under the library.</i>
<b>courage</b>	noun	the ability to do something scary	<i>It took courage to go into the dark tunnel.</i>
<b>lantern</b>	noun	a lamp that gives light	<i>Mia lit an old oil lantern in the tunnel.</i>
<b>crumbled</b>	verb	broke into very small pieces	<i>The edges of the old paper crumbled.</i>
<b>treasure</b>	noun	something very valuable or special	<i>Eleanor called her books the real treasure.</i>
<b>inscription</b>	noun	words written or cut into something	<i>There was an inscription at the bottom of the map.</i>
<b>gasp</b>	verb	took a quick breath from surprise	<i>Jake gasped when he saw the date on the map.</i>
<b>passage</b>	noun	a long, narrow way through something	<i>A secret passage led underground.</i>
<b>adventure</b>	noun	an exciting or unusual experience	<i>Following the map was a real adventure.</i>

### 3 Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Mia found a \_\_\_\_\_ map hidden behind a brick in the library wall.
2. She was always \_\_\_\_\_ and loved learning new things.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ a secret room under the library.
4. The clock tower was made of \_\_\_\_\_ grey stone.
5. The map had a \_\_\_\_\_ written next to each red circle.
6. The map had been \_\_\_\_\_ inside the wall for over 100 years.
7. A narrow \_\_\_\_\_ led them underground beneath the library.
8. It took \_\_\_\_\_ to go down the dark steps into the unknown.
9. Mia lit an old oil \_\_\_\_\_ to see in the dark tunnel.
10. Eleanor Blackwood called her books the real \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Answer Key:

1. mysterious
2. curious
3. discovered
4. ancient
5. riddle
6. hidden
7. tunnel
8. courage
9. lantern
10. treasure

## 4 Comprehension Quiz

Choose the correct answer for each question.

### Question 1. Where did Mia find the hidden map?

- A. In a book
- B. Behind a loose brick in the library wall
- C. In the clock tower
- D. In the garden

### Question 2. Who was E. Blackwood?

- A. A teacher at the school
- B. The architect who designed the library in 1923
- C. The school librarian
- D. A famous treasure hunter

### Question 3. What was the first red circle on the map marked with?

- A. A flower
- B. A key
- C. A clock
- D. A star

### Question 4. What did Mia and Jake find behind the bell in the clock tower?

- A. A gold coin
- B. A metal box with a compass and a note
- C. Another map
- D. A key

### Question 5. Where was the Everlast Garden?

- A. Next to the school
- B. In the town square
- C. Behind the museum
- D. In the forest

### Question 6. What was hidden under the stone bird on the fountain?

- A. A compass
- B. A brass key with the number 1923
- C. A photograph
- D. A book

### Question 7. How did Mia and Jake find the secret tunnel?

- A. Mrs Chen showed them
- B. They counted thirteen bricks from the east corner
- C. They found a door behind a bookshelf
- D. Jake fell through the floor

### Question 8. What was inside the secret room?

- A. Gold and jewels
- B. Rare books and architectural drawings
- C. An old computer
- D. Nothing — it was empty

### Question 9. What happened to the secret room after the discovery?

- A. It was closed forever
- B. It became a reading space called the Blackwood Reading Room
- C. The books were sold
- D. It was turned into a museum

**Question 10. What was the main message of the story?**

- A. Old buildings are dangerous
- B. Maps always lead to gold
- C. Knowledge and curiosity are the greatest treasures
- D. Libraries are boring places

## 5 Quiz Answer Key

Q	Correct Answer
1	B. Behind a loose brick in the library wall
2	B. The architect who designed the library in 1923
3	C. A clock
4	B. A metal box with a compass and a note
5	C. Behind the museum
6	B. A brass key with the number 1923
7	B. They counted thirteen bricks from the east corner
8	B. Rare books and architectural drawings
9	B. It became a reading space called the Blackwood Reading Room
10	C. Knowledge and curiosity are the greatest treasures