



Reading Comprehension

Gold

This Gold passage matches the real SATs Reading paper's most demanding level, with layered meaning and authorial technique to analyse.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Passage

History, Grandfather always said, was written by the people who survived to tell it - which was, he added with a wry smile, precisely why so much of it was nonsense. Nadia had never quite understood what he meant until she found the letters hidden in the attic: her own family's story, contradicting everything she had been taught, written not by the victors but by those history had quietly erased. She sat for a long time before she could bring herself to read the first page.

Questions

1. What is Grandfather's opinion about history, according to the first sentence?

2. Find and copy a phrase suggesting Grandfather is being ironic or sarcastic.

3. What does Nadia discover in the attic, and how does it relate to Grandfather's earlier comment?

4. Why does the writer say the letters were "written not by the victors but by those history had quietly erased"? What does this suggest about whose stories usually get told?

5. Explore the significance of Nadia hesitating "for a long time" before reading. What might this suggest about her feelings, and why might the writer have included this detail?
