



GRADE 3 • ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

STORY ELEMENTS

CCSS RL.3.1, RL.3.3 • VA SOL 3.5

Characters: Dani, Ava, Trevor, Max, Mr. Devlin, and Dani's mom

Setting: Dani's middle school (the supply closet) and a glowing hallway of drawers behind the door

Problem: The door makes Dani's life "better," but every change erases something. People vanish, and then Dani's own name disappears.

Solution: Dani says "No," snaps free of a drawer, and escapes through the door. Her real life comes back. But that night, her dresser has a fourth drawer with her name on it.

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

CCSS RL.3.2, RL.3.3 • VA SOL 3.5

- 1: Mr. Devlin sends Dani to the supply closet for the microscope kit.
- 2: Dani finds a gray wooden door with no knob and feels the words "Make it better."
- 3: Back in class, Ava is sitting next to Dani, and Trevor's desk is empty.
- 4: Dani finds pepperoni pizza and a brass key in her lunch bag.
- 5: Dani unlocks the door and finds a long, glowing hallway full of drawers.
- 6: Mr. Devlin can't find Dani's name on his list.
- 7: Dani snaps her hoodie string and escapes, and the door disappears.

WORD DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.3.4, L.3.4a • VA SOL 3.4

tarnished: dull and dark from age, no longer shiny

hesitated: stopped for a moment because she wasn't sure

shimmered: shone with a soft, wavy light

seamless: smooth all over, with no cracks or lines

THE HALLWAY OF DRAWERS

CCSS RL.3.7, W.3.3 • VA SOL 3.5, 3.7

Answers will vary. Look for: The drawing shows a hallway with drawers. At least three drawers are labeled. The sentences name one drawer and give a reason.





GRADE 4 · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

Dani touches the gray door and feels the words “Make it better.”: Ava is back in Dani’s class, and Trevor is gone like he never existed.

Dani touches the drawer labeled “Lunchtime.”: She gets a new backpack, a note from her mom, and a seat at Ava’s table, but Max disappears.

Dani keeps going back to the door.: Her mom forgets their movie, her locker vanishes, and Mr. Devlin can’t find her name on his list.

Dani says “No” and escapes through the door.: Her real life comes back: her name, her locker, Max, and even Trevor.

THEME DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.4.2 · VA SOL 4.5

1. The door whispers, “Make it better.” What does Dani think “better” means at first?: Having friends, eating pizza again, being noticed and liked, getting rid of Trevor: an easier, happier life. (She thinks, “Lunch. Ava. Trevor.”)

2. List two things Dani gains and two things she loses because of the door.: Gains (any two): Ava back, pizza she can eat, a seat at Ava’s table, new friends, a note from her mom. Loses (any two): Trevor, Max, her locker, her mom’s real memories, her name.

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.: Be careful what you wish for; a “perfect” life isn’t worth losing who you are. Detail: the whisper changes to “Better means gone,” or, when Ava only waves at the end, “It stung. But it was real.”

WHO IS DANI?

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

lonely: She eats lunch alone sometimes and likes the parts of school where no one looks at her.

caring: She goes back through the door to try to get Max back.

brave: She pulls until her hoodie string snaps and throws herself through the closing door. Other traits are fine if the evidence supports them.

YOUR DRAWER

CCSS W.4.3 · VA SOL 4.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Describes what the narrator sees, hears, or feels. The narrator makes a choice, and the choice has a result.





GRADE 5 • ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

CCSS RL.5.1 • VA SOL 5.5

1. Why do you think the door appears to Dani and not to other students? What clue makes you think so?: Dani is lonely and unhappy (she eats lunch alone sometimes), so a door that promises to “make it better” tempts her. The door seems to know exactly what she wants: “Lunch. Ava. Trevor.”

2. The whisper changes from “Make it better” to “Better means gone.” What does the door really want?: It wants to take Dani away and leave a smaller, “perfect” version. The big empty drawer labeled “Dani Harmon” is big enough for a kid to lie down in.

3. At the very end, Dani’s dresser has a fourth drawer labeled “Dani Harmon,” and it is open. What does this suggest might happen next?: The door is not really gone. It followed Dani home and is still waiting for her.

PLOT MOUNTAIN

CCSS RL.5.2, RL.5.5 • VA SOL 5.5

Exposition: Dani, a quiet seventh grader on supply closet duty, finds a strange gray door.

Rising action: Her life starts changing: Ava is back, Trevor and Max vanish, and she gets pizza, a brass key, and new friends. Then her locker and her name disappear.

Climax: In the hallway, a kid-sized drawer labeled “Dani Harmon” waits for her. A drawer catches her hoodie string and reels her toward it.

Falling action: Dani pulls until the string snaps and throws herself through the closing door.

Resolution: Her real life is back, but that night her dresser has a fourth drawer labeled “Dani Harmon,” and it is open.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

CCSS RL.5.4, L.5.5a • VA SOL 5.4

“Painted a kind of gray that looked like it forgot how to be any other color.”:

personification: The paint is so old and faded it seems to have “forgotten” it was ever another color.

“Her fingertips stung with cold, like she’d squeezed an ice cube.”: **simile:** The door is so cold it hurts to touch, like holding ice.

“It was like somebody went into her life with a red pen and started fixing it.”: **simile:** Her life is being changed bit by bit, like a teacher correcting a paper.

“But it didn’t sound gentle anymore. It sounded hungry.”: **personification:** The whisper now sounds greedy, like it wants to eat up Dani’s life.

WRITE A NEW ENDING

CCSS W.5.3 • VA SOL 5.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Starts at the drawer labeled “Dani Harmon.” Dani makes a different choice than in the story. The new ending shows the result of that choice. Keeps the story’s spooky mood.





WORD SEARCH · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

1. Find the 12 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. 2. Circle each word and cross out its letters. 3. The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Brass
- ☐ Closet
- ☐ Devlin
- ☐ Drawers
- ☐ Hallway
- ☐ Keyhole
- ☐ Locker
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Pizza
- ☐ String
- ☐ Trevor
- ☐ Whisper

SECRET MESSAGE

A DOOR THAT WASNT THERE
YESTERDAY





WORD SEARCH · VERSION B · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

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FIND THESE

- ☐ Brass
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- ☐ Keyhole
- ☐ Locker
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Pizza
- ☐ String
- ☐ Trevor
- ☐ Whisper

SECRET MESSAGE

A D O O R T H A T W A S N T T H E R E
Y E S T E R D A Y



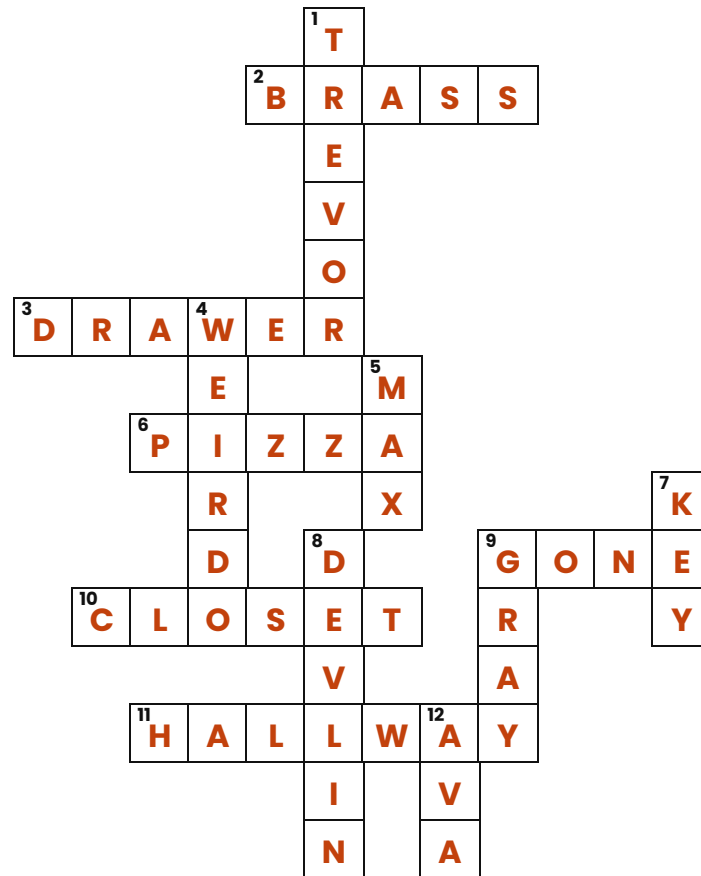


CROSSWORD · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

1. Read each clue. 2. Write one letter in each square. Every answer comes from the story.



ACROSS

2. The key in Dani's lunch bag is made of this metal **BRASS**
3. Each one holds a piece of Dani's life **DRAWER**
6. The pepperoni surprise in Dani's lunch bag **PIZZA**
9. "Better means ____." **GONE**
10. Where Dani finds the door **CLOSET**
11. Behind the door is a long, glowing ____ of drawers **HALLWAY**

DOWN

1. The boy whose desk is suddenly empty **TREVOR**
4. The mean word Trevor mutters at Dani **WEIRDO**
5. The tall kid who always gets yogurt on his chin **MAX**
7. Dani hides it under her pillow **KEY**
8. Dani's science teacher, Mr. ____ **DEVLIN**
9. The color of the forgotten door **GRAY**
12. Dani's best friend who is suddenly back in class **AVA**



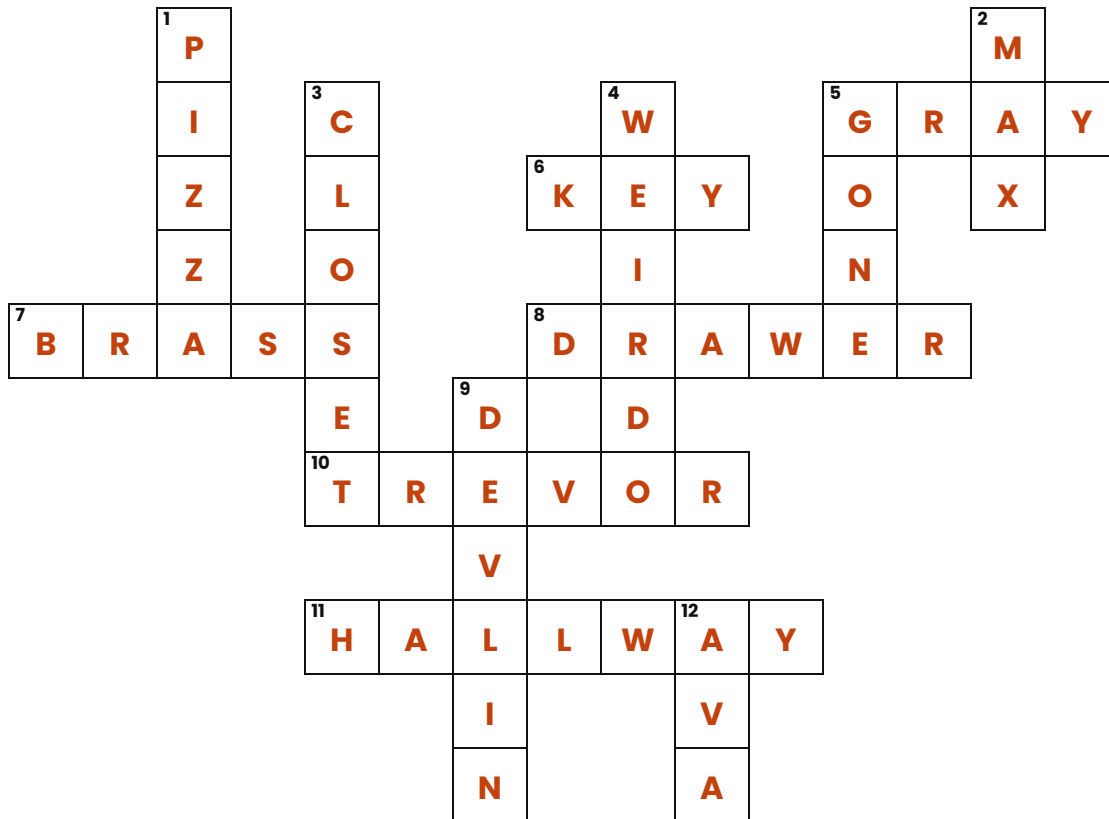


CROSSWORD · VERSION B · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

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ACROSS

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SECRET CODES · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Three messages from the story are written in code. Use each code's key to crack it, one letter at a time.

CODE 1: SHIFT CODE

Every letter moved 3 places forward in the alphabet. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

P D N H L W E H W W H U

M A K E I T B E T T E R

CODE 2: MIRROR CODE

The alphabet is flipped: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

Y V G G V I N V Z M H T L M V

B E T T E R M E A N S G O N E

CODE 3: BACKWARDS CODE

Each word is written backwards. Read every word from right to left.

E H T R O O D S A W G N I T I A W

T H E D O O R W A S W A I T I N G





WORD SCRAMBLE · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

1. C O S E L T

Clue: Where Dani finds the door

CLOSET

2. E H Y L K E O

Clue: The door has no knob, only this

KEYHOLE

3. E S P R H W I

Clue: How the door seems to talk

WHISPER

4. D R W A E S R

Clue: Thousands of them line the hallway

DRAWERS

S L A E R I G L E

Clue: One drawer label, and the reason Dani can't eat pizza

ALLERGIES

5. P E S R M O O C C I

Clue: Mr. Devlin sends Dani to get this kit

MICROSCOPE

6. U E N S R C S H I C

Clue: Ava's new friends all wear matching ones

SCRUNCHIES

7. A N O M R H

Clue: Dani's last name

HARMON





WORD SCRAMBLE • VERSION B • ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

1. O L T S E C

Clue: Where Dani finds the door

CLOSET

2. E H K E O L Y

Clue: The door has no knob, only this

KEYHOLE

3. R P I E S H W

Clue: How the door seems to talk

WHISPER

4. E R S A D R W

Clue: Thousands of them line the hallway

DRAWERS

E L G S I E R L A

Clue: One drawer label, and the reason Dani can't eat pizza

ALLERGIES

6. C I P M O R E C S O

Clue: Mr. Devlin sends Dani to get this kit

MICROSCOPE

7. N S E H I C C S U R

Clue: Ava's new friends all wear matching ones

SCRUNCHIES

8. H O N R A M

Clue: Dani's last name

HARMON





HIDDEN MESSAGE • ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

1. Answer each question from the story. 2. Write the **first letter** of each answer in the matching numbered blank below. 3. Read the hidden message!

1. Who always gets yogurt on his chin?
2. Which friend is suddenly back in Dani's class?
What does Dani find in her lunch bag that opens the door?
3. When Dani asks where Trevor is, Ava raises an _____.
4. Dani's fingertips stung with cold, like she'd squeezed an _____ cube.
5. Whose desk is suddenly empty?
6. What metal is the key made of?
Ava waves a hand in front of Dani's face: "_____ to Dani!"
7. What does Mr. Devlin do with the closet key? He _____ it to Dani.
8. How many drawers are in the hallway? Hundreds, maybe _____.
9. What is inside the drawer labeled "Dani Harmon"?
Nothing. It is _____.
10. When Mr. Devlin forgets who she is, Dani grabs the key and _____ to the closet.

MAX

AVA

KEY

EYEBROW

ICE

TREVOR

BRASS

EARTH

TOSSED

THOUSANDS

EMPTY

RAN

HIDDEN MESSAGE

M A K E I T B E T T E R

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12





ESCAPE ROOM · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

ESCAPE THE HALLWAY OF DRAWERS

The door in the supply closet just slammed behind you. Drawers are sliding open on both sides, and one of them has your name on it. Work as a team. Open all four locks to escape.

LOCK 1: THE NUMBER LOCK

Answer each question with a number from the story. Put the three numbers together, in order, to make the code.

1. What grade is Dani in? **7**
2. How old was Dani at the spelling bee? **6**
3. At the end, how many drawers does Dani's dresser have? **4**

CODE

7

6

4

LOCK 2: THE WORD LOCK

This word from the story is in Mirror Code: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it. Hint: The word Dani spelled wrong at the spelling bee.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

IN CODE: **K R T V L M**

CODE

P

I

G

E

O

N





ESCAPE ROOM · PART 2 · ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

LOCK 3: THE ORDER LOCK

These events are mixed up. Put them in story order, then read the letters in that order to get the code word.

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| T | Mr. Devlin can't find Dani's name on his list. | <u>5</u> |
| O | Dani finds pizza and a brass key in her lunch bag. | <u>3</u> |
| G | Dani finds a gray door in the supply closet. | <u>1</u> |
| H | Ava is back in class, and Trevor's desk is empty. | <u>2</u> |
| S | Max disappears from the cafeteria. | <u>4</u> |

CODE

G H O S T

LOCK 4: THE FAKE FACT LOCK

Five of these happened in the story. One is made up. The number of the fake one opens the lock.

1. Dani's lunch bag holds a slice of pepperoni pizza.
- 2. Ava has a pet hamster named Pickles. (fake)**
3. Max wears socks with tacos on them.
4. A drawer catches Dani's hoodie string.
5. Dani's real backpack is navy.
6. Mr. Devlin tosses Dani the closet key.

CODE

2

When a team opens all four locks, they escape. Read them the last line: "The door was gone."





WHO SAID IT? • ANSWER KEY

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

1. Read each line from the story. 2. Write the name of the character who said it. Some characters say more than one line.

CHARACTERS

Ava Dani Max Mom Mr. Devlin Trevor

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | <i>"Grab the microscope kit."</i> | <i>Mr. Devlin</i> |
| 2. | <i>"Earth to Dani!"</i> | <i>Ava</i> |
| 3. | <i>"Where's Trevor?"</i> | <i>Dani</i> |
| 4. | <i>"You mean Matt?"</i> | <i>Ava</i> |
| 5. | <i>"You've got that writer's imagination."</i> | <i>Mom</i> |
| 6. | <i>"No Harmon on here."</i> | <i>Mr. Devlin</i> |
| 7. | <i>"YOLO!"</i> | <i>Max</i> |
| 8. | <i>"Nice string, weirdo."</i> | <i>Trevor</i> |

