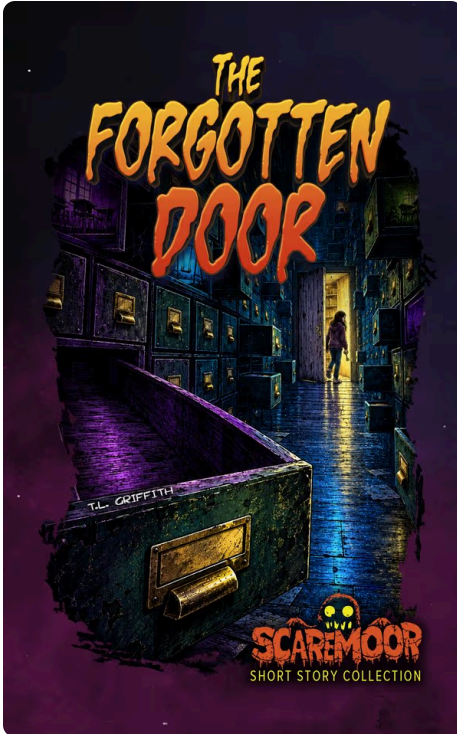




EDUCATOR PACKET • GRADES 3–5

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Dani finds a gray door in the school supply closet that whispers, “Make it better.” Every wish comes true, and every wish takes something away. A short, safe-for-school scary story about choices and who we really are.

Read-aloud time: about 20 minutes • **Themes:** Choices, Consequences, Identity, Be careful what you wish for

WHAT'S INSIDE

The story

Grade 3: Story Elements, What Happened First?, Word Detective, The Hallway of Drawers

Grade 4: Cause and Effect, Theme Detective, Who Is Dani?, Your Drawer
Grade 5: Read Between the Lines, Plot Mountain, Figurative Language Hunt, Write a New Ending

Puzzles: Word Search, Crossword, Secret Codes, Word Scramble, Escape Room, Who Said It?, Hidden Message
Answer keys for everything

HOW TO USE IT

Read the story aloud. It's spooky, not gory, and safe for school.

Pick the worksheets for your grade. Each one takes 10–30 minutes and needs no prep.

The puzzles are great for early finishers. Story Bingo for the read-aloud is a separate download, with a different card for every student.

Students can also do every worksheet online at scaremoor.com/worksheets. Answer keys are at the back.





READ-ALoud STORY • GRADES 3–5

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

CHAPTER 1

Most kids hated supply closet duty.

Dani didn't mind it. It meant leaving class.

Plus, the closet smelled like dust, old hand sanitizer, and printer paper—a weird combo she'd grown to like.

She was halfway through seventh grade and still not sure if she liked school.

Mostly she liked the parts where she wasn't being looked at. Or talked to. Or asked why she ate lunch alone sometimes.

"Grab the microscope kit," Mr. Devlin said, tossing her the closet key without looking up.

Dani knew that closet by heart.

But today was different.

Today, there was a door.

Not the usual metal panel in the back that led to pipes and wires.

This one was wooden. Old. Painted a kind of gray that looked like it forgot how to be any other color.

Dani froze.

"Hello?" she whispered. Which was dumb. Doors don't answer.

The ceiling bulb buzzed and flickered like it always did.

The door was still there.

It didn't match the walls. Or the school. Or *anything*.

There was no knob. Just a tarnished keyhole and a long, hairline crack down the middle.

Dani took a step closer.

Then another.

She pressed her fingers against the wood. Cold. Solid. Real.

Her skin prickled all the way up her arm.

Something shifted behind it, like a breath let out after a long, long time.

She didn't hear a voice.

Not really.

But the words showed up in her head anyway, quiet as a thought she didn't think:

Make it better.

And the weird part was, she knew exactly what it meant. Lunch. Ava. Trevor. All of it.

Dani yanked her hand back. Her fingertips stung with cold, like she'd squeezed an ice cube.

"Hey!" Mr. Devlin called from down the hall. "You find it or not?"

"Got it!" she yelled back. Her voice shook.

She grabbed the microscope kit, shut the closet, and locked it. She checked the knob twice.

A door that wasn't there yesterday.

A whisper she didn't really hear.

And the feeling, the cold-fingers feeling, that whatever was behind it—

Was waiting for her.

CHAPTER 2

Dani didn't mention the door.

Not to Mr. Devlin. Not to anyone.

She walked back into class clutching the microscope kit like it might keep her feet on the floor.

Mr. Devlin gave her a thumbs up. "Thanks, Dani."

She stopped.

He never used her name.

Usually it was "you" or "somebody grab that" or, on a good day, a wave in her general direction.

Weird.

She took her seat and blinked.

Ava was sitting next to her.

Ava. Her best friend since third grade. Until winter break, when Ava got moved to the other seventh-grade class and found a whole new group of friends with matching scrunchies who didn't need Dani at all.

But there she was. Smiling. Taking notes. Like she never left.

Dani stared. Her stomach dropped.

"Earth to Dani!" Ava waved a hand in front of her face. "What's with you today? You look like you saw a ghost."

"Since when are you in this class?"

Ava laughed. "Since forever, goofball."

Dani laughed. It came out weird and thin.

She scanned the room. Something else was wrong.

It took her a second.

Trevor's desk—the one right behind her, the one where he flicked her hoodie strings every single day and muttered "weirdo" under his breath—was empty.

Not empty like he was absent. Empty like it was nobody's desk. No pencil scribbles. No gum stuck underneath.

Dani turned to Ava. "Where's Trevor?"

Ava raised an eyebrow. "Who?"

The bell rang. Kids shuffled out, backpacks dragging.

Dani moved like she was underwater. On the bulletin board by the door, she found the class list.

No Trevor.

And Ava's name was there. Typed. Like it was always there.

By lunch, the fog in her head started to clear.

Maybe she was remembering it wrong.

Maybe the door didn't mean anything.

Maybe she was just tired.

Then she unzipped her lunch bag.

Instead of her usual smashed almond butter sandwich, there was a slice of pepperoni pizza.

Her favorite.

The one she wasn't allowed to eat anymore. Not since the day her throat swelled up at Ava's birthday party and her mom drove her to urgent care with all the windows down.

Dani stared at it.

Her stomach growled. Her mouth watered.

She knew the rule. No pizza. Not ever.

Who packed this?

She zipped the bag shut so fast she pinched her finger. Then she unzipped it again, just a crack, because something under the pizza was shining.

A key.

Old. Brass. Heavy.

The same tarnished color as the keyhole in the door.

Kids were laughing, eating, trading chips. Normal. Fine.

And yet...

Dani felt like somebody picked her up and set her down half an inch to the left. Like the world was almost the same.

But not quite.

CHAPTER 3

Dani didn't sleep that night.

She kept the key under her pillow. It was heavy. Cold. Real.

She kept replaying the day. Ava, back. Trevor, gone. Mr. Devlin saying her name. The pizza she didn't dare eat.

It was like somebody went into her life with a red pen and started fixing it.

And somehow, she liked it.

The next day, in science, she raised her hand.

"Mr. Devlin? Want me to put the microscope kit back?"

He tossed her the closet key without even looking up.

Dani walked the long hallway like she was in a dream.

Only this time, the dream had directions.

The closet was as dim and dusty as ever.

But the door was waiting.

Same peeling gray paint. Same crack. Same hush.

She pulled the brass key from her pocket.

Slid it into the keyhole.

It turned with a soft *click*, like it was oiled just for her.

She hesitated.

If just one thing could go right... just one...

She'd trade anything for that.

The door swung open.

No creak. No groan.

Just a hallway.

Long. Glowing. Lined with drawers on both sides, floor to ceiling, like the world's biggest filing cabinet.

Dani gasped.

Each drawer had a label in neat, slanted handwriting:

"Science Class"

"Lunchtime"

"Best Friends"

"Allergies"

"Secrets"

Dani stepped inside.

Her sneakers made no sound on the shiny floor. The light came from nowhere and everywhere, soft and blue, like a fish tank in a dark room.

She ran her fingers along the drawers.

There were hundreds.

Thousands.

One caught her eye: *"First Grade: The Spelling Bee."*

She opened it.

Inside was a tiny, flickering picture, like a snow globe with a memory in it.

She was standing on a stage, six years old, spelling the word *pigeon*.

"P-I-D-G-E-O-N!" said tiny Dani, loud and proud.

Wrong.

Her cheeks burned just watching it.

Dani slammed it shut.

Another drawer slid open on its own.

"Locker."

She looked inside. It showed her locker—but the cat sticker was gone. In its place was a sleek black spiral with neon stars.

Cooler. Way cooler.

Then the whisper came again, clearer this time.

Choose wisely.

The hallway pulsed. The drawers shimmered.

Dani looked at the drawer marked
"Lunchtime."

She thought about her lunch table by the trash cans. About Max, who sat with her, and the days Max was out, when she sat alone. About Ava's new friends laughing at the round table by the windows.

She touched the drawer.

It glowed.

The light swelled—

And everything went black.

CHAPTER 4

Dani blinked.

She was standing in the hallway.

Not the glowing one with the drawers. *Her* hallway. At school.

Kids bumped past her like nothing happened. The same buzzing lights. The same stained tile floor.

Except everything was a little brighter. A little sharper. Like somebody turned the colors up on real life.

Her backpack felt heavier. She looked down.

It wasn't hers.

Same brand. But newer. Black, not navy.

Instead of the stitched cat keychain, there was a silver moon charm.

She opened it. Inside was her lunch bag. Pizza again. And a sticky note in her mom's handwriting:

"So proud of you for speaking up in class yesterday! Love you."

Dani froze.

She didn't speak up in class yesterday. She never spoke up in class.

And Mom didn't leave notes anymore. Not in months.

She checked her phone. A group chat with Ava and two other girls. Seventeen new messages.

They were making plans. *With her.*

Friday night. Movies. Sleepover.

Her thumb hovered over the screen. Joy and something sick crawled up her spine at the same time.

At lunch, she sat at the round table by the windows.

Ava's table.

She stared at the pizza for a long time. Mom packed it. Mom, who read every label twice. Mom would never.

Dani took one tiny bite and waited for the itch.

It never came.

It tasted like Ava's birthday party. The good part. The part before the car ride.

Ava was talking about her new shirt and whether Dani wanted to trade snacks. Dani nodded. She felt like she was floating. This version of her life was better. Brighter. Easier.

Then she looked across the cafeteria at her old table.

The one by the trash cans.

It was empty.

She scanned the room. No Max. Not his bulky backpack. Not his weird socks with the tacos on them.

She turned to Ava. "Hey. Where's Max today?"

Ava paused with a chip halfway to her mouth. "Who?"

"Max. Tall? Loud laugh? Always gets yogurt on his chin?"

Ava frowned. "You mean Matt?"

"No. Max."

Ava shrugged. "I don't think I've ever met him."

Dani put the pizza down.

Trevor, gone. Then Ava, back.

Max, gone. Then this table.

She asked for better.

And somebody was paying for it.

CHAPTER 5

Dani told herself she wouldn't go back.

She went back the next day.

By fourth period, she was rolling the brass key between her fingers under her desk like a lucky coin. She needed to know if she could fix it. If she could get Max back.

They used the microscopes again in science, and she volunteered to put the kit away. Mr. Devlin tossed her the closet key and smiled. "Thanks, Dani."

The door at the back of the closet was waiting.

Same peeling paint. Same crack. Still wrong.

She unlocked it and stepped inside.

The hallway looked the same.

But the drawers were different.

Some glowed. Some flickered like dying flashlights. One near the floor had caved in

completely, its label scorched away.

She searched the rows for a drawer that said "Max."

There wasn't one.

She opened a drawer marked "Family."

Inside was a memory: her dad in the kitchen, laughing, stirring spaghetti.

Only... the laugh was wrong.

Deeper. Slower. Like somebody copied it from memory and got the pitch wrong.

She slammed the drawer shut.

Another one swung open on its own.

"Reputation."

A quick flash: kids high-fiving her in the hall. Somebody yelling, "Dani's hilarious!"

A spotlight feeling. Warm. Delicious.

She shut it with shaking hands.

Make it better, the hallway whispered.

But it didn't sound gentle anymore.

It sounded hungry.

Dani backed out, locked the door behind her, and told herself that was the end of it.

That night, her mom didn't remember the movie they watched together last weekend. The one with the dog. The one where they both cried and pretended they didn't.

"I think you're mixing it up with something else, sweetie," Mom said, smiling. "You've got that writer's imagination."

You've got that writer's imagination.

This mom said it like she said it all the time.

Dani's real mom never said it once.

Dani's chest went tight.

The next morning, she walked into school and froze.

Her locker was gone.

Not moved. Not changed. *Gone*.

A smooth wall stood where it should be, like there was never a locker there at all.

She touched the paint. Cold and seamless. No dent. No scrape. No scuff mark where she once peeled off a glittery sticker.

She turned and found Ava beside her.

"Hey," Dani said, trying to sound normal.

"Where's my locker?"

Ava blinked. "You don't have a locker. You carry your stuff. Remember?"

"I... what?" Dani pulled her backpack around and unzipped it.

Books. A pencil pouch. A wrinkled folder. None of it hers. The math binder was full of handwriting that was too neat. Too loopy. Definitely not hers.

She checked the tag inside the backpack.

Her name was there.

But not in her handwriting. And not the way she wrote it—not *Dani*, not the heart over the i.

It was printed in neat black ink: *Danielle M. Harmon*.

She never wrote her middle initial. Ever.

Something cold started behind her ribs.

In science, Mr. Devlin called roll.

"Danielle?"

Dani raised her hand. "Here."

Mr. Devlin blinked. "Danielle... who?"

He stared at her like he didn't remember calling her name at all.

The room went quiet. A few kids turned around. Nobody said anything.

Dani's voice came out too small for her throat. "Dani Harmon."

He scanned his sheet. Flipped it over. Checked again.

"No Harmon on here," he said flatly.

Then he moved on.

Dani didn't breathe. Didn't blink.

She was still in her seat.

Still raising her hand.

Still here.

Wasn't she?

CHAPTER 6

She grabbed the closet key off the hook by Mr. Devlin's desk.

He didn't look up. Why would he? He didn't know who she was.

Then she ran.

Down the hall. Into the closet. Door. Key. Turn. *Click*.

The hallway was darker this time.

Not dim. *Swallowed*. The light didn't reach the corners anymore.

And one drawer was already open.

Wide open.

It was bigger than the others. Long and deep. Big enough for a kid to lie down in.

The label glowed in neat silver script:

"Dani Harmon."

Empty.

Waiting.

The air shivered.

Then the whisper came. Not shy anymore. Not hiding. Loud.

"Better means gone."

Dani's skin prickled from her scalp to her sneakers.

Down the rows, labels flickered across the drawer fronts like cards being shuffled.

"Campfire Stories."

"Secret Crushes."

"Embarrassments: Cafeteria Spills."

"Fears: Letting People Down."

It wasn't offering her a better life.

It was offering her a smaller one. A version of her without the stumbles. Without the weirdness.

Without *her*.

And for one second, she wanted it. No more eating alone. No more awkward silences. No more "Who's that?"

Then she thought about Max. His taco socks. His yogurt chin.

And Trevor. Even Trevor.

"No," Dani said.

She turned and ran.

The hallway roared.

Drawers shot open on both sides, slamming out into her path like a hundred tongues. She ducked one. Jumped another. One caught her hip and spun her around.

Something yanked her backward by the neck.

Her hoodie string. A drawer snapped shut on it, and now the drawer was sliding back into the wall, reeling her in, inch by inch, toward the long open drawer with her name on it.

Dani clawed at her collar. The string bit into the back of her neck.

Behind her, the big drawer slid out farther. Ready.

She grabbed the string with both hands, braced her sneakers against the floor, and *pulled*.

The string snapped.

She fell forward, scrambled up, and ran.

Far ahead, the door was closing. The line of light around it got thinner. And thinner.

Dani threw herself at it, shoulder first.

She hit the closet floor so hard her teeth clacked.

Behind her, the door slammed. It went through her like a firecracker.

The supply closet was silent.

Dim.

No drawers. No whispers. Just dust, and printer paper, and old hand sanitizer.

The back wall was a metal panel again, with pipes and wires behind it.

The door was gone.

Dani opened the closet and stepped out.

Her locker was back. Cat sticker and all.

Max walked by with yogurt on his chin and yelled "YOLO!" at no one in particular.

Down the hall, Ava waved from the door of the other seventh-grade class. Just a wave. Then she went inside with her scrunchie friends.

It stung.

But it was real.

Back in science, somebody tugged what was left of her hoodie string.

"Nice string, weirdo," Trevor muttered.

Dani almost hugged him.

Mr. Devlin looked up from his desk. "Dani. Seat, please."

Her name.

Said like it belonged to her.

Everything was normal.

Mostly.

At dinner, Mom put a plate of spaghetti in front of her. "And don't even think about pizza, missy. You know the rule."

Dani laughed so hard her eyes watered.

That night, she lay in bed holding her pillow with both hands.

The brass key was gone. So was Mom's sticky note.

But her name was back in her math book. Back on the attendance sheet. Back in the world.

She closed her eyes.

And just before she fell asleep, she heard something.

Faint. Soft. Familiar.

"Choose wisely..."

Dani opened her eyes.

Her dresser stood against the wall where it always stood. Three drawers. It always had three drawers.

Now it had four.

The new one was at the very bottom. It had a label in neat, slanted handwriting.

Dani Harmon.

And it was open.

THE END



GRADE 3 • STORY ELEMENTS

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

STORY ELEMENTS

Every story has characters, a setting, a problem, and a solution. Fill in each box with details from The Forgotten Door.

CHARACTERS

Who is in the story?

SETTING

Where and when does it happen?

PROBLEM

What goes wrong?

SOLUTION

How does it end?





GRADE 3 · WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

These events are mixed up. Number them 1 to 7 in the order they happened in the story.

☐

Dani unlocks the door and finds a long, glowing hallway full of drawers.

☐

Back in class, Ava is sitting next to Dani, and Trevor's desk is empty.

☐

Dani snaps her hoodie string and escapes, and the door disappears.

☐

Mr. Devlin can't find Dani's name on his list.

☐

Dani finds pepperoni pizza and a brass key in her lunch bag.

☐

Dani finds a gray wooden door with no knob and feels the words "Make it better."

☐

Mr. Devlin sends Dani to the supply closet for the microscope kit.





GRADE 3 • WORD DETECTIVE

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORD DETECTIVE

Read each sentence from the story. Use the clues around the bold word to figure out what it means.

1. *There was no knob. Just a **tarnished** keyhole and a long, hairline crack down the middle.*

I think **tarnished** means:

2. *It turned with a soft click, like it was oiled just for her. She **hesitated**.*

I think **hesitated** means:

3. *The hallway pulsed. The drawers **shimmered**.*

I think **shimmered** means:

4. *She touched the paint. Cold and **seamless**. No dent. No scrape.*

I think **seamless** means:





GRADE 3 • THE HALLWAY OF DRAWERS

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE HALLWAY OF DRAWERS

Draw it. Then write about it.

Draw the hallway of drawers. Label at least three drawers with what you think is inside. Then write 2–3 sentences about the one drawer you would NEVER open, and why.

Draw here





GRADE 4 • CAUSE AND EFFECT

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Each thing Dani does causes something else to happen. Read each cause, then write the effect.

CAUSE

Dani touches the gray door and feels the words "Make it better."



Dani touches the drawer labeled "Lunchtime."



Dani keeps going back to the door.



Dani says "No" and escapes through the door.



EFFECT





GRADE 4 · THEME DETECTIVE

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

THEME DETECTIVE

The theme is the big lesson of a story. Answer each question to find the theme of The Forgotten Door.

1. The door whispers, "Make it better." What does Dani think "better" means at first?

2. List two things Dani gains and two things she loses because of the door.

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.





GRADE 4 · WHO IS DANI?

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHO IS DANI?

A trait is a word that describes what someone is like. Write three of Dani's traits and the evidence from the story that proves each one.

TRAIT 1 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY

TRAIT 2 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY

TRAIT 3 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY





GRADE 4 • YOUR DRAWER

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name:

Date:

YOUR DRAWER

Write a short story. Use details that help the reader see, hear, and feel what happens.

You find the hallway of drawers, and one drawer has YOUR name on it. What is inside? Do you open it? Write what happens next.

CHECK YOUR WORK

- ☐ 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 • READ BETWEEN THE LINES

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

An inference is a smart guess that uses clues from the story. Answer each question and include your clue.

1. Why do you think the door appears to Dani and not to other students? What clue makes you think so?

2. The whisper changes from “Make it better” to “Better means gone.” What does the door really want?

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?





GRADE 5 • PLOT MOUNTAIN

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

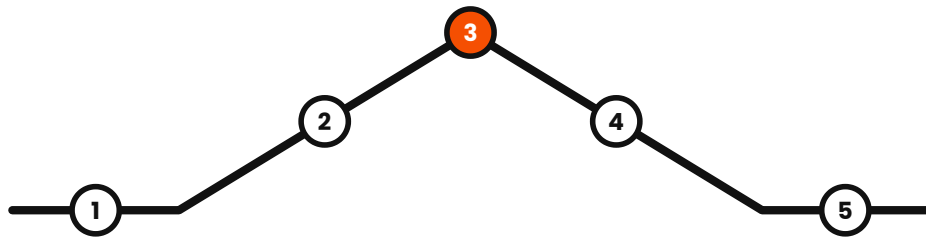
Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

PLOT MOUNTAIN

Every plot climbs to a climax and comes back down. Write what happens at each part of the mountain.



1. EXPOSITION (The beginning)

2. RISING ACTION (Trouble builds)

3. CLIMAX (The scariest moment)

4. FALLING ACTION (Things calm down)

5. RESOLUTION (How it ends)





GRADE 5 • FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

Authors compare things to help us picture them. For each quote, write the type (simile, metaphor, or personification) and what it means.

QUOTE FROM THE STORY

TYPE

WHAT IT MEANS

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

"Her fingertips stung with cold, like she'd squeezed an ice cube."

"It was like somebody went into her life with a red pen and started fixing it."

"But it didn't sound gentle anymore. It sounded hungry."





GRADE 5 • WRITE A NEW ENDING

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name:

Date:

WRITE A NEW ENDING

Rewrite the ending. Keep Dani and the door, but change what she chooses.

Go back to the moment Dani sees the big, empty drawer labeled “Dani Harmon.” Write a new ending where she makes a different choice. What happens to her?

CHECK YOUR WORK

- ☐ 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

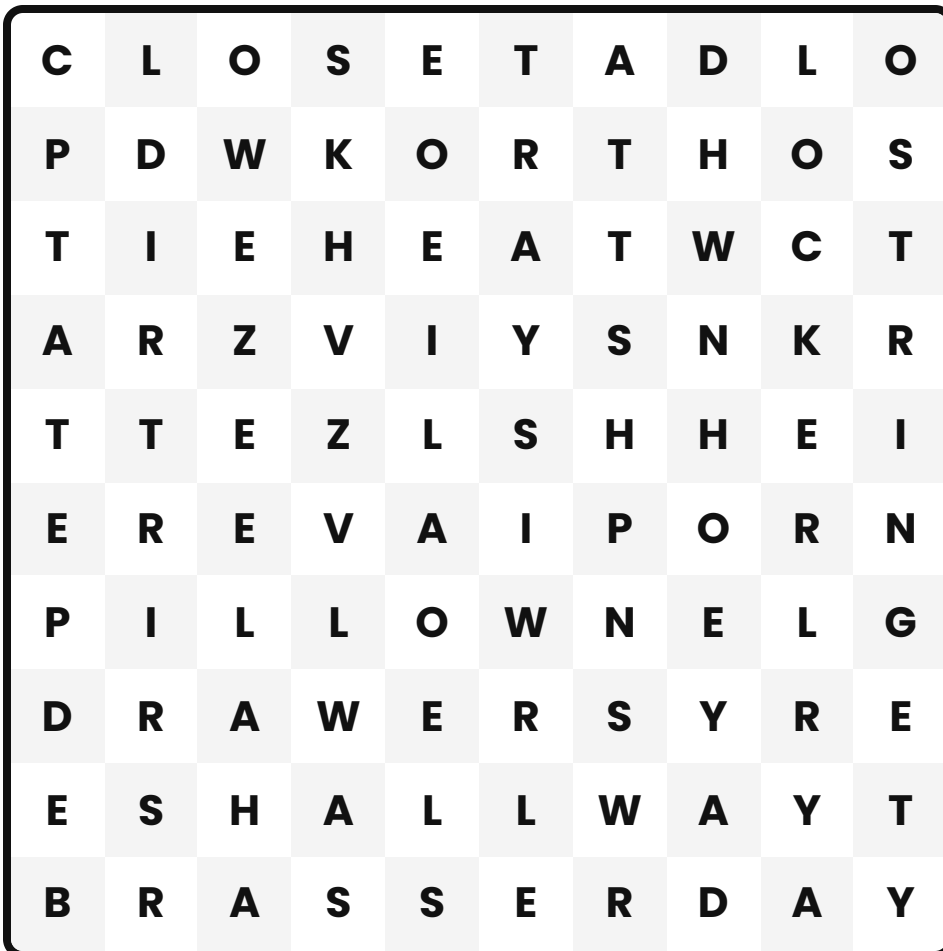
THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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





CROSSWORD · VERSION A

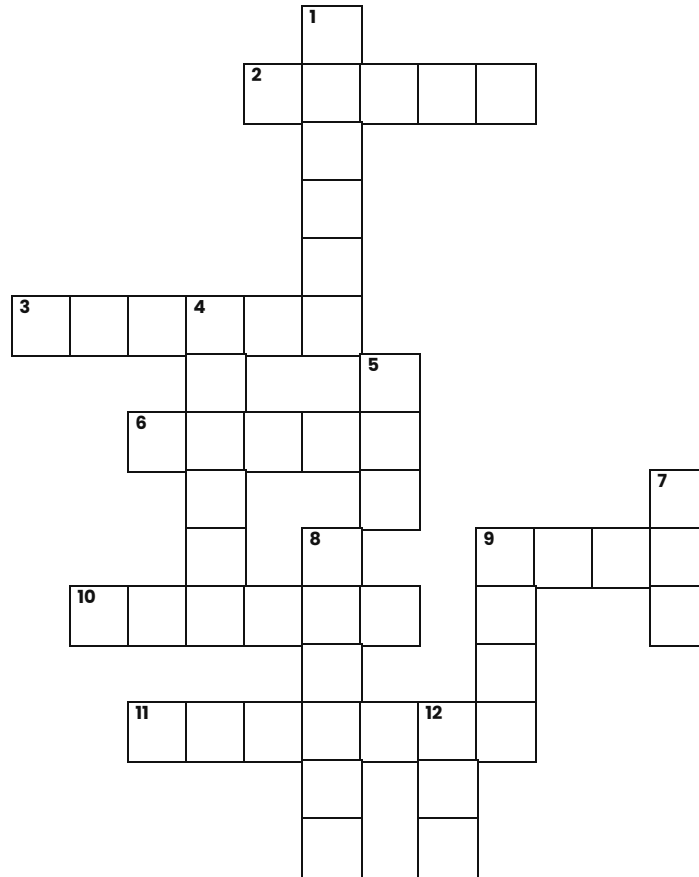
THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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
3. Each one holds a piece of Dani's life
6. The pepperoni surprise in Dani's lunch bag
9. "Better means ____."
10. Where Dani finds the door
11. Behind the door is a long, glowing ____ of drawers

DOWN

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





SECRET CODES

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

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

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





WORD SCRAMBLE • VERSION A

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

C O S E L T

1. Clue: Where Dani finds the door

E H Y L K E O

2. Clue: The door has no knob, only this

E S P R H W I

3. Clue: How the door seems to talk

D R W A E S R

4. Clue: Thousands of them line the hallway

S L A E R I G L E

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

P E S R M O O C C I

6. Clue: Mr. Devlin sends Dani to get this kit

U E N S R C S H I C

7. Clue: Ava's new friends all wear matching ones

A N O M R H

8. Clue: Dani's last name





HIDDEN MESSAGE

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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? _____

When Dani asks where Trevor is, Ava raises an _____

4. _____

Dani's fingertips stung with cold, like she'd squeezed an _____ cube. _____

6. Whose desk is suddenly empty? _____

7. What metal is the key made of? _____

Ava waves a hand in front of Dani's face: "_____ to Dani!" _____

9. What does Mr. Devlin do with the closet key? He _____ it to Dani. _____

10. How many drawers are in the hallway? Hundreds, maybe _____. _____

What is inside the drawer labeled "Dani Harmon"? **11.** Nothing. It is _____. _____

When Mr. Devlin forgets who she is, Dani grabs the **12.** key and _____ to the closet. _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE

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





ESCAPE ROOM

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Team: _____

Date: _____

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?
2. How old was Dani at the spelling bee?
3. At the end, how many drawers does Dani's dresser have?

CODE

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





ESCAPE ROOM • PART 2

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. _____
- O** Dani finds pizza and a brass key in her lunch bag. _____
- G** Dani finds a gray door in the supply closet. _____
- H** Ava is back in class, and Trevor's desk is empty. _____
- S** Max disappears from the cafeteria. _____

CODE

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.
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

All four locks open? Bring your codes to your teacher. If they're right, you escaped!





WHO SAID IT?

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Some doors change your life. Others erase it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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. *"Grab the microscope kit."*

2. *"Earth to Dani!"*

3. *"Where's Trevor?"*

4. *"You mean Matt?"*

5. *"You've got that writer's imagination."*

6. *"No Harmon on here."*

7. *"YOLO!"*

8. *"Nice string, weirdo."*





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



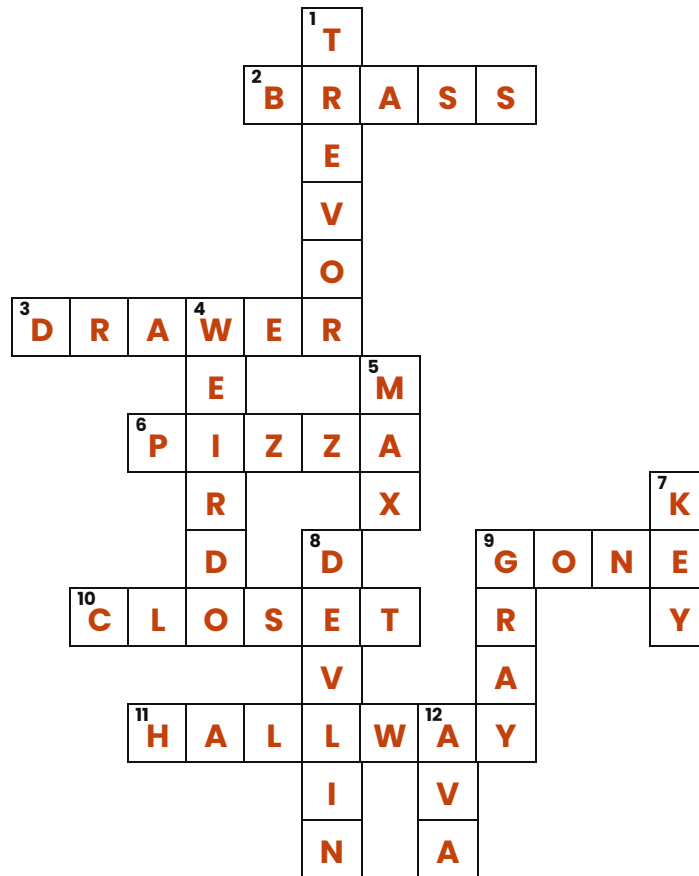


CROSSWORD · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

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**





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





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. "Grab the microscope kit."

Mr. Devlin

2. "Earth to Dani!"

Ava

3. "Where's Trevor?"

Dani

4. "You mean Matt?"

Ava

5. "You've got that writer's imagination."

Mom

6. "No Harmon on here."

Mr. Devlin

7. "YOLO!"

Max

8. "Nice string, weirdo."

Trevor

