

## Through the Microscope Answer Key

### 1. The Handle of an Old Teapot

**Zoom-In Paragraph:** The handle curves upward like a question mark, its once-glossy ceramic now dulled with fine spiderweb cracks. A thin line of grime hugs the joint where it meets the pot, like a shadow clinging to memory. The surface is chipped at the top, revealing a rougher texture beneath the glaze. It feels cool and grainy under the fingers, holding the ghost of a hundred gentle pours.

**What It Reveals:** The teapot has been used often, perhaps in a cozy kitchen long ago. Its handle shows signs of both care and time—it was important, but not spared from wear.

### 2. The Edge of a Tattered Book Page

**Zoom-In Paragraph:** The edge of the page is jagged like torn lace, each fiber fraying in a quiet rebellion. It's yellowed to a warm, toasted hue, and when touched, it crinkles like dried leaves. A small corner is folded back—permanently creased into a memory. Dust settles into the tiny crevices, softening the once-sharp cut of the page.

**What It Reveals:** This page has been handled many times, possibly reread or saved as important. The book it belongs to is aged, loved, and probably holds stories worth returning to.

### 3. The Surface of a Metal Coin

**Zoom-In Paragraph:** The surface is uneven, pocked with time's fingerprints. Once-shiny ridges are worn smooth, and the etched letters have softened into whispers. A dark patina clings to the edges, hinting at hands long gone. It smells faintly metallic, like rain on old iron, and feels heavy with untold worth.

**What It Reveals:** The coin is old—perhaps ancient. Its worn surface tells a tale of many pockets, many trades, and the slow erosion of memory.

### 4. The Seam of a Well-Worn Leather Glove

**Zoom-In Paragraph:** The seam traces the glove like a careful stitch through time, thread faded to the color of parchment. It's tight in places but pulling loose at the knuckle, like it's tired from bending. The leather around it is soft and wrinkled, like skin in winter. A faint scent of worn suede lingers when you press your nose close.

**What It Reveals:** This glove has seen long use—possibly for labor or travel. Its seam shows not only wear but endurance, like it's held together out of habit and necessity.

### 5. The Label on a Glass Medicine Bottle

**Zoom-In Paragraph:** The label is faded to a dull tan, its edges curling like dried leaves. Letters once crisp are now ghostly outlines—"Tonic" barely readable beneath a smudge of time. The paper flakes at the corners, rough to the touch, and stained with something the color of old tea. It peels gently if tugged, as if it might crumble into dust.

**What It Reveals:** The bottle is from another time, perhaps even a century ago. The label hints at a once-common cure, now forgotten, and makes the bottle feel like something rescued from history's medicine cabinet.

### 6. The Key Teeth of a Rusty Skeleton Key

**Zoom-In Paragraph:** The teeth of the key are jagged and rust-bitten, their shapes worn like mountains chipped by wind. One notch curves slightly, not by design but by time. Rust blooms in tiny red patches along the base, and the grooves feel rough, almost crumbly. It's cold in the hand, but it buzzes with a quiet mystery.

**What It Reveals:** This key is old, maybe very old. It's no longer just a tool—it's a relic, hinting at a door that no longer exists or a lock that hasn't turned in decades.