

## The Missing Key Answer Key

1. "Key" meaning #1 - A *legend* or list explaining map symbols.
2. "Key" meaning #2 - A *metal object* used to open a lock.
3. "Staff" meanings - A *group of workers* and a *set of musical lines* used for notes.
4. "Seal" meanings - A *sea animal* and a *closure mark* that keeps something sealed shut.
5. Understanding multiple meanings helped Mira realize that the clues referred to different definitions of the same words, leading her to the real key.

### Teacher's Guide

**Skill Focus:** Using **context clues** to interpret **Multiple Meaning Words** and apply critical thinking in reading comprehension.

**Grade Range:** Ideal for Grades 6-10 (adjustable for 4-12).

### Differentiation Ideas

- *Support learners:* Provide visual aids (e.g., a picture of a key, a staff, and a seal) to connect meanings.
- *Challenge learners:* Ask them to identify one additional multiple-meaning word in the story or write a new ending with a twist.
- *ELL support:* Translate each key word into students' home language and discuss why English uses the same word for different meanings.

### Extension Activities

- Have students write their own short mystery using at least three multiple-meaning words as clues.
- Turn the story into a role-play-assign Detective, Partner, and Suspect roles to build comprehension through drama.
- Create a "Word Evidence Board" where students pin examples of words that can have more than one meaning (from books, ads, or songs).