



Whispers Of Time

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Authors choose titles to capture the **main idea, theme, or mood** of their stories. Imagine you are the author, and you want to rename the story to highlight something important. After reading, suggest a new title and explain why it fits the story better than (or just as well as) the original.

The Clockmaker's Apprentice

Mina had always admired the little shop tucked between the bakery and the post office. Its windows displayed clocks of every shape—grandfather clocks, tiny pocket watches, and cuckoo clocks that chirped at every hour. The shopkeeper, Mr. Olin, was a quiet man who worked with incredible precision, rarely speaking to anyone.

One morning, Mina stopped by and found a note taped to the locked door: "Back in one hour—please keep the shop safe." She hesitated, then peeked inside and noticed the back room door wide open. Curiosity pulled her forward, and she stepped inside, listening to the ticking chorus of clocks around her.

In the workshop, a single unfinished clock sat on the table, its gears glowing faintly as though alive. When Mina touched it, the hands spun backward, and she heard faint whispers, as if the clock were telling secrets of the past. She quickly pulled her hand away, realizing she had stumbled onto something magical.

Activity: Title Reimagining

1. What would be a new title for this story?
2. Why does your chosen title fit the story? Explain using details from the text.
3. What does the original title (*The Clockmaker's Apprentice*) suggest about the story?
4. How can changing the title change the way readers expect or understand the story?