

## The 90-Second Journey Answer Key

### Sample Summaries:

- **Slice 1 Summary:** Ellie waits at a quiet train station and learns that something strange has been happening with the midnight train.
- **Slice 2 Summary:** Ellie boards the eerie, empty train after recalling her grandmother's letter, following mysterious sounds toward the last car.
- **Slice 3 Summary:** Ellie discovers a suitcase with photos revealing her grandmother's connection to the train and the ticket clerk, ending with the train disappearing at dawn.

### Teacher Notes / Guide

**Objective:** Students build **reading fluency, pacing awareness, and comprehension tracking** through segmented, timed reading of a continuous narrative.

### Implementation Tips:

- Use a timer or visual countdown for each 30-second segment.
- Remind students not to reread earlier parts; focus on comprehension “in the moment.”
- Encourage **collaborative sharing** of summaries; compare what details each student retained.
- Discuss how **tone, imagery, and suspense** build across the three “slices.”

### Extension Activities:

- Have students retell the full story in **five sentences**, combining their slice summaries.
- Ask students to write a **new final paragraph** imagining what Ellie tells her grandmother afterward.
- For advanced readers, let them create their own **Time-Slice Story** with three distinct sections.