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Symbols and Secrets

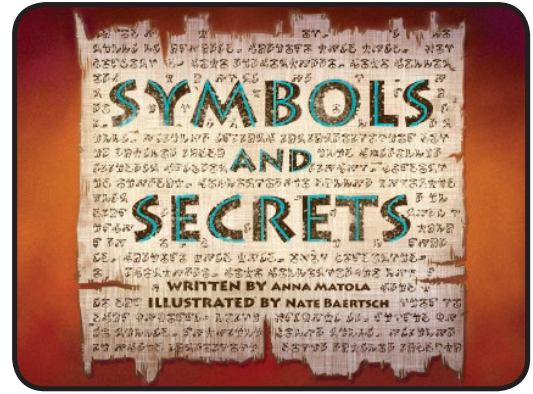
Lesson 72

Paired with *Museums—Advanced*

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“And this symbol often stood for hidden treasure,” said the museum guide, pointing to a framed picture of a rock. Unusual shapes were scratched on its surface.

“I think I’ve seen something like that at my grandpa’s house,” whispered Mike to Kayla.

“Now wait a minute—what are the chances of that?” asked Kayla, looking at him in disbelief.

“C’mon, I’ll show you,” Mike insisted as they hurried from the museum.

They arrived at Grandpa’s house, ten minutes later, out of breath.

“Grandpa,” Mike said excitedly, “we think your house has a hidden treasure!”

Surprised, Grandpa asked, “Now, son, I’ve been living in this house for more than thirty years. If there’s a treasure here, don’t you think I would have found it by now?”

“No, because it’s a *hidden* treasure,” said Mike, emphasizing the word *hidden*. “And I think I know how to find it! So—can we look for it, please?” Mike pleaded.

They looked in every room in the house, but there was no symbol and no hidden treasure. Kayla looked doubtfully at Mike, who was scratching his head. “Are you certain you saw something in this house?” Kayla asked Mike.

“Let’s try the attic,” suggested Grandpa, looking at their disappointed faces.

They looked in every corner of the attic. Again there was no symbol and no hidden treasure.

“I’m tired,” groaned Mike as he headed toward the stairs. “Maybe I was wrong about that symbol. Why would there be a hidden treasure in your house, anyway?”

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“Wait!” said Kayla, as she pointed at the chimney, her mouth wide open. “Look at that brick at the bottom of the chimney! Isn’t that the symbol we’re looking for? Maybe the treasure is hidden in the chimney!”

Mike rushed over to the brick and pulled on it. He gasped in surprise as the brick moved a little. Suddenly, part of the wall slid open, showing the top of a staircase.

“Wow,” whispered Mike as they peered into the dark passage. He looked sideways at Kayla and asked excitedly, “Now do you believe me? I hope the treasure is still down there!” He stared at the dark passage, nervously.

“There’s only one way to find out!” said Kayla, and she bounded down the staircase.

“Hey! Look over here!” shouted Kayla, dusting the cobwebs off an antique box. “I think we found it!”

Mike and Kayla’s discovery made history!

When Mike and Kayla returned the jewel to the museum, they were treated like heroes!

“We have been searching for this jewel for a long time,” said the museum guide. “Thank you so very much for returning it.”

“No problem,” said Mike.

“And to show our appreciation, we’d like to give all of you lifetime passes to the museum.”

Grandpa smiled, looking down at his pass. “I wonder what new adventures we’ll have together!”