

I looked at the strange, old box in my bag. It just sat there, and I had no idea where it came from.

“Don’t take anything from strangers¹,” Mom’s voice rang in my head.

“I didn’t take this. Someone else put it in my bag!” I told myself, trying to remember what happened earlier today.

This morning, we seventh graders² went on a history museum field trip³ for our Egyptian studies. The guide was talking about the great Egypt, and I got really bored. The guide asked us if we knew Cleopatra. Who didn’t? We had learned everything in school. Cleopatra VII became the queen of the Ptolemaic Kingdom at the age of 18, and she got married many times to get more power. Yawn!

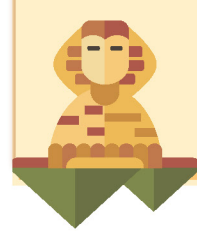
Suddenly⁴, a stranger bumped into⁵ me. He didn’t even say he was sorry. How rude! I didn’t go after him because the guide asked us to move on.

“It must be that guy,” I thought. “Should I open it? Well, maybe not.”

Finally, I decided to open the box. Unfortunately⁶, nothing happened. It was just a scroll⁷ of paper.

Wait, it was a papyrus scroll! I knew it because we tried making papyrus in class. I carefully unrolled⁸ it. It was all in Egyptian, so I couldn’t understand anything. Now, what should I do?





Vocabulary Check

I suddenly remembered my neighbor, Professor Quinn. She was teaching history at a university! I told Mom I needed some help from the professor. Then, I secretly brought the scroll to her place.

Professor Quinn was really surprised to see the scroll, but luckily she didn't ask how I got it. After a long time, she finally looked up at me and said, "This is the diary⁹ of Cleopatra."

"You mean Queen Cleopatra?!" I shouted.

"Yes and no. Yes, it is THAT Cleopatra. No, she's not yet the queen. This diary belonged to the 14-year-old Princess Cleopatra."

Professor Quinn began reading the diary aloud, and I was drawn¹⁰ to Cleopatra's story right away.

I. Match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ unroll | a. sadly or unluckily |
| 2. _____ grader | b. a student in one of the years in school |
| 3. _____ stranger | c. a roll of paper with writing or drawing on it |
| 4. _____ diary | d. to open a roll and make it flat |
| 5. _____ scroll | e. quickly and unexpectedly |
| 6. _____ unfortunately | f. a person you do not know |
| 7. _____ suddenly | g. a book in which you write down your life each day |

II. Choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

- _____ 1. The man walked too fast and _____ the child in front of him.
a. bumped into b. unrolled c. drew
- _____ 2. To see real animals, we took a _____ to the zoo.
a. scroll b. diary c. field trip
- _____ 3. The artist was _____ to the beautiful painting and kept looking at it.
a. unrolled b. drawn c. bumped





Comprehension Check

I. Based on Chapter 1, choose the best answer to each question.

1. Why did the girl go to the history museum?
 - a. She was very interested in Egypt.
 - b. Her mom took her there.
 - c. Her school had a field trip.
2. How did the girl get the box?
 - a. She bought it at the museum.
 - b. A strange man put it in her bag.
 - c. The museum guide gave it to her.
3. Who told the story on the scroll to the girl?
 - a. Her neighbor
 - b. Her mother
 - c. The museum guide
4. Why did Professor Quinn say "THAT Cleopatra"?
 - a. To teach the girl how to pronounce "that"
 - b. To show there were two Cleopatras, this one and that one
 - c. To emphasize that the girl's guess was right

II. Answer the following question in your own words.

What do you know about Egypt?

Chapter

2

Calling of the Fate

