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## THE SCHOOL OF LABYRINTH BOOKS

At the end of a road in a dark forest there is a school called the School of Labyrinth. It is different to any other school you may know. Students come here from all over the world; some choose to come, others have no choice. It's not easy to get into the School of Labyrinth, but it is even harder to get out. The students will have to face many dangerous and difficult puzzles and traps and only one of them can win the final prize – and only you can decide who that student will be.



### Meet Nina.

Nina doesn't like school very much. She doesn't like home much, either. She hates puzzles, and she doesn't usually trust anyone. So why do her parents send her to summer school at the School of Labyrinth? Can she learn to trust the other students there? Can she make it through the challenges and impress the teachers? Will she be able to leave?



### Meet Rafael.

Unlike Nina, Rafael chooses to come to the School of Labyrinth for a very special reason. What is his reason? Can Nina help him solve the puzzles? Will he do what he needs to do?

*Summer School* is one of the books in the School of Labyrinth mystery adventure series. Each book is a maze reader, which means that you, the reader, can make decisions along the way about what the characters do next in the story. Each decision you make will lead you to a different version of the story and a unique ending: so choose carefully!

**To help you make the best decisions you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.**

**puzzle      solve**

## BEFORE READING

- 1**  Read the definition. Then circle the best synonym from the box below.

### **labyrinth**

place made from a complicated series of paths so that it is difficult to find your way through.

challenge  
garden  
maze  
puzzle

- 2** What do you know about labyrinths? Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

|                                                                                                                          | T                        | F                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Archaeologists believe the first labyrinth was in Spain.                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b People built the oldest known labyrinth around 2000 BCE.                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c The most famous labyrinth appears in a story from ancient Greece.                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d The story says that Daedalus built a labyrinth for King Minos.                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e King Minos wanted a labyrinth to keep a monster in.                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f The monster was called the Gorgon.                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g The monster was half man and half lion.                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h The story says that Theseus, a Greek prince, went into the labyrinth to kill the monster.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i Theseus found his way back out of the labyrinth because he had a map.                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j The labyrinth is sometimes used as a symbol of a journey through life. You change as you travel through the labyrinth. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 3** Find out more about the first labyrinth, and the story of King Minos and the Minotaur. Then correct the false sentences in Exercise 2.



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- 4** What other stories or films do you know about labyrinths? What happens in them? Share your ideas in small groups.





## CHAPTER 1

# Welcome to the School of Labyrinth

**GUESS! WHY IS THE SCHOOL CALLED  
"THE SCHOOL OF LABYRINTH"?**

- A** Because students need to cross a labyrinth to enter it.
- B** Because the school is in the shape of a labyrinth.
- C** Because students learn to build labyrinths there.
- D** Because students need to cross a labyrinth to leave it.



Nina got out of the car and closed the door.

‘And don’t slam the door!’ said her mother from inside the car.

‘UGH!’ said Nina, ‘I did NOT slam it!’

‘Don’t talk to your mother like that,’ said her father. He held out his hand to Nina. He did not smile. ‘Goodbye.’ Nina shook his hand. Did her father want to say something? ‘Good luck,’ he said.

‘Don’t forget, we paid a lot of money for this! This is your last chance!’ her mother said. She didn’t look up from her phone. The car drove away.

Nina was alone in the forest. She took her headphones out of her jacket pocket and put them on. She looked around. Everywhere she looked there were tall, dark trees. She was at the end of the road. In the trees, there was a large building. There were no windows, only two large doors.

It was getting cold. She did not want to be here. She walked up the steps to the doors. She knocked. Nothing. She knocked again, louder. No one came. She waited. Then she kicked the door with her foot. ‘OW!’ she said.

She looked closer at the doors. There was writing on the left door. It said:

Back and forward is the same.

Speak the password, say your name.

Well that didn’t make sense. She saw that on the other door there was a picture. It was a picture of some spinning dice. Great, a puzzle! Nina hated puzzles.

‘My name is NINA. Open the door,’ she said. Nothing happened. ‘Password! ABC! 123! Dice... AH!’ She kicked the door again.

Something touched her shoulder. She jumped.

## Glossary

- **didn’t make sense:** wasn’t easy to understand

- **headphones:**



- **knocked:** (here) hit (the door)

- **last chance:** (here) last time to show that she can be good

- **shook (his hand):** held his hand to say hello or goodbye

- **slam:** close in a quick and loud way



‘HEY!’ she shouted and took her headphones off. Standing behind her on the steps was a large boy with short hair. He had a big backpack<sup>•</sup>, and he was wearing big boots for walking.

‘You’ve got headphones on,’ he said.

‘I KNOW!’ What a stupid boy!

‘You can’t get in.’ It wasn’t a question.

‘I KNOW! Do you think *you* can?’ Nina asked.

The boy looked at the doors. ‘Back and forward is the same. Speak the password, say your name,’ he read. ‘Hmm... dice.’

Then he said to the door, ‘Never odd or even. My name is Rafael.’

The doors opened.

‘What? How? What does that mean? Who told you that? Why didn’t anyone tell me?’ said Nina.

The boy looked at her. ‘No one told me. Think about it. Numbers on a dice are odd or even. But you can’t see the numbers on a moving dice. The puzzle says ‘Back and forward the same’. The words ‘never odd or even’ are the same when you read them left to right, or right to left. See? Easy! Oh, and my name is Rafael.’

He walked past her and into the building. Nina didn’t move. That was quite clever.

‘Are you coming?’ Rafael asked. She ran in after him.

There was nothing inside, only stairs going down. They walked down the stairs and into a large hall. The hall was full of other students. At the front, was a tall man in a black cloak<sup>•</sup>. All the students turned around<sup>•</sup> and looked at them.

‘Finally! Our last<sup>•</sup> two students – perhaps the first test was too difficult for them!’ said the tall man. Some of the students giggled<sup>•</sup>.

‘STOP!’ the man shouted. Everyone was quiet. ‘I am the headteacher. You all know why you are here. This is the hardest test of your lives. Pass, and you can have anything you want. Fail, and you can never leave.’ He smiled. No one smiled with him.

‘Welcome to the School of Labyrinth!’

## Glossary

- **backpack:** bag one carries on one’s back
- **cloak:** long piece of clothing one wears over one’s clothes
- **giggled:** laughed like children
- **last:** who came after the others
- **turned around:** moved to face the other direction

# AFTER READING VOCABULARY

**1** Label each object with a word from the box.

jar   matches   metal pieces   packet   paper towel  
plastic bottle   powder   washing-up liquid



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Tick (✓) the items in Exercise 1 that Nina and Rafael use in the science experiment.

**3** Find someone who has ticked different items from you. Explain the experiment that Nina and Rafael did in the version you read. Use the words from Exercise 1.

## **K** A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 3

### **1** Read the text below. For each question, tick (✓) the correct answer (A, B or C).

'Martha, Olive and Simon, you are team 1. Nina, Rafael and Sophie, you are team 2,' said Minor Tour, the games teacher. 'It's time to choose. Basketball, hockey or football?'

'Basketball, please!' said Sophie.

'OK! Let's play basketball,' said Minor Tour. 'What?! That's not fair!' said Simon. Sophie stuck her tongue out at him.

'Too late! We are playing basketball. Do you have any questions?' said the teacher. 'No? Good. Remember every year students come here hoping to win a great prize. Now, some of you already know about this school, and you are here because you want the prize. But some of you are here because you were bad in your school, and this is your last chance,' he said. 'Now, let's play basketball. I'm going to blow a whistle. Then you have 10 minutes to score as many points as you can. Good luck!'

Nina didn't know what to do. She wasn't very good at basketball.

'Don't worry,' said Sophie, 'I'm excellent at basketball.' She jumped high in the air and hit the ball away from the other team.

Rafael caught it. He ran fast, bouncing the ball all the way to the basketball hoop. Rafael threw the ball past Olive to Sophie. She jumped and threw the ball. It went into the hoop.

The other team were talking together. They picked up the ball and started running back to their hoop. Olive threw the ball. It hit Simon on the head.

Sophie quickly picked it up. She ran all the way down the court on her own. Nina and Rafael ran to help her.

'Pass the ball,' said Nina.

'Over here!' said Rafael.

Sophie didn't look at them. She ran past Martha. She jumped and threw the ball.

The basketball hoop moved – it went high up in the air! The ball didn't go into the hoop.

'WHAT?' shouted Sophie.

'Ah!' said Minor Tour. 'You have to work together in this game, or it gets harder!'

Rafael picked up the ball. Nina was standing near the hoop. He turned in a circle and threw the ball high into the air. Nina saw it coming... she jumped and hit it. The ball flew into the hoop.

'Team 2 wins!' said the teacher. Nina couldn't believe it.