

ONE WISH

"The granting of a wish is a rare and special thing," the genie counseled Angela. "You mustn't rush into a wish. You must take the time to think it out."

Angela gazed at the key in her hand. A moment ago it had flashed brightly enough to illuminate the entire attic, and it still glowed slightly and was warm in her hand. She trembled with excitement. When she'd fit the key into the lock of the mysterious attic room, she had imagined that she might find all sorts of amazing treasures. But a genie? She never could have imagined this.

It had all begun when her parents had spent every last penny they had to buy the strange little blue house in the woods just outside of town. From the moment Angela had stepped inside the front door and stood in the foyer, she had known this house was different from any house where she had ever lived, or would ever live. Being in the house was like being in the company of a friend. She felt comforted, cared for, protected. At night, when she lay in her bedroom, and the nearby trees rustled against her windows, she imagined that it was the house whispering to her, telling her exciting stories and promising her a future that would exceed her wildest dreams. I wish the house would always be my friend, she thought to herself.

The key trembled in her hand, and began to glow once again.

"Your wish is granted," the genie said. Angela cried out in surprise.

"But I didn't make a wish!" she said. "I was just thinking about how I came to live here, and what it's like living in the house, and . . . oh," she said, realizing suddenly what she had done. When the genie has first said the word "wish" to her, she had imagined money, toys, fabulous trips, beautiful clothes. She felt sadness at the realization that she would have none of these things.

"You have chosen wisely," the genie said, as he began to shrink and recede back into the little secret room. "The heart knows what it wants. I know you will be very happy." And with that the genie, the golden key and the little door in the wall disappeared.

Angela sighed, and the floor seemed to heave slightly under her feet, as if the house was sighing too. Within moments she could no longer even remember the little room, the key, the genie, or the house's sigh.

Angela grew up in the house. Sometimes times were hard. Sometimes she went hungry. But things always came around for her and her family, and eventually Angela grew into a beautiful and talented young woman. She lived in the house for all of her days, and never went without an underlying feeling of contentment and a good night's sleep.

Name _____

1. What is the main event of the story?

2. The backstory is what you find out that happened before the point at which the actual story begins. What is the main event of the backstory?

3. How does the main event of the story change Angela?

ANSWERS

1. The main event of the story is that Angela finds a secret room and a key. When she uses the key to open the secret room, she finds a genie who grants her one wish.
2. The main event of the backstory is that Angela's parents buy the strange little blue house in the woods.
3. The main event of the story changes Angela in several ways. One way is that she no longer has a memory of the genie and the wish. Another way is that after her wish, no matter what happens in her life, she always feels content and sleeps well.