Case 10

Word detectives

Use the story to work out a word

The old garden gate was stiff. Mira pushed it gently, but it did not move. “Let's ask for help,” she said. The caretaker loosened the hinge with a few drops of oil. Now the gate swung easily. Mira thanked him and walked through.



WORD CLUES

Read the sentences **around** a new word.
Ask: what meaning would make sense here?
Put your meaning in the sentence. Does it still make sense?

1. Which meaning fits “stiff”?

   hard to move **very colourful**

2. Find the word in the story that means “in a soft, careful way”.

3. Which part of the gate did the caretaker loosen?

4. Why did Mira ask for help?

5. Write a new sentence using the word “gently”.

Grown-up tip If your child is stuck on a word, read the sentence aloud with a gap and ask what would fit.

Play online with a grown-up: **Choose the Precise Word** · tinytotsplay.in/games/vocabulary

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Answers for grown-ups

Word detectives. Check together and praise good thinking. Open answers say what to look for.

1. hard to move
2. gently
3. The hinge
4. The gate did not move when she pushed it
5. Open answer, e.g. “I closed the door gently.”

Where this page comes from

This activity is page 22 of Puzzle & Story Detectives (ages 7–9), a printed Tiny Tots Play workbook.

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