



&randpa 'ill sipped his tea and shook his head.

Erik knew that meant he was going the wrong way. He headed back to the front door where he'd found the key.

Erik thought about the oldest part of a house. "(he basement. *t's the first part that's built.% He rushed to the basement door and looked at the lock. *t was different from a normal lock. He slid the key inside and turned it. +ith a click\$ the door opened.

Erik switched on the light and walked down the stairs. (he basement was one giant room with a pool table in the middle and a dartboard on the far wall.

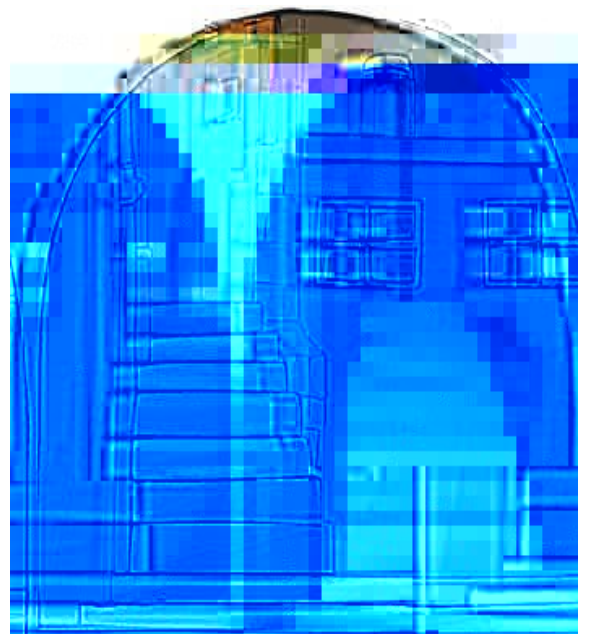
" , wesome.% Erik said.

"E er learn to play pool)% &randpa 'ill asked\$ coming down the stairs.

"No\$% Erik said.

" + ell then\$ grab a cue from the rack and **ll teach you.%

Erik smiled. (he next four hours were going to fly by.



Name: _____

The Skeleton Key

by Kelly Hashway



1. What is the setting of this story?
(ell where and when the story takes place.)

2. Why didn't Erik want to visit his grandparents' house at the beginning of the story?

3. Grandpa told Erik that the skeleton key opened...

- a. a trunk with secrets
- b. the basement door
- c. the attic door
- d. a game room

4. Why did Erik think the key would open the attic door?

Now try this: On a sheet of lined paper, write a continuation of this story. (ell what happens from the time Erik starts playing pool to the time he leaves.)

Name: _____

The Skeleton Key

Vocabulary

Choose the best definition for the underlined word in each sentence.

1. Erik and his grandfather played a game of pool.
 - a. a hole in the ground filled with water
 - b. a game where a large ball is shot into a goal
 - c. a game where a stick is used to shoot balls across a table

2. Grandpa Bill grabbed a cue from the rack.
 - a. a ball used to play pool
 - b. a stick used to play pool
 - c. a storage container for pool equipment

3. Erik noticed a dartboard on the wall in Grandpa Bill's game room.
 - a. a square box where darts are kept
 - b. a piece of wood used to keep score while playing darts
 - c. a target made of cork that is used in a game of darts

In the space below draw a pencil sketch of Erik and Grandpa Bill playing pool. Label the pool table and cue. Draw a picture of a dartboard in the background and label it too.

(N) * "+ K",

The Skeleton Key

by Kelly Hashway

1. What is the setting of this story)

(ell where and when the story takes place.)

-his story takes place at "ri!s %randparents. house on a)aturday afternoon.

2. Why didn't Erik want to visit his grandparents' house at the beginning of the story)

-here were no !ids in the nei%hborhood and he thou%ht he would be bored.

3. Grandpa told Erik that the skeleton key opened... d

- a. a trunk with secrets
- b. the basement door
- c. the attic door
- d. a %a / e roo /

4. Why did Erik think the key would open the attic door)

-he !ey loo!ed old and he thou%ht the attic contained the oldest thin%s in the house.

Now try this: 2n a d i o f r n m o o N o e A t s i c D w t h e @ o p p o b e g o r d

