The Margin Ledger

B2 Upper-intermediate · Work · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. The Margin Ledger is a novel about a _____ office where every decision must be explained twice.
2. At first, the rule seems absurd, _____ to the new clerk, whose job is filing routine requests.
3. However, _____ records gradually reveal which delays were caused by caution and which by silence.
4. That _____ gives the story more weight than its office setting initially promises.
5. An elderly clerk, who appears merely _____, has been preserving evidence against a costly shortcut.
6. Although the plot _____ pauses for procedural detail, those passages make the conflict credible.
7. Readers may recognize how vague _____ allows avoidable mistakes to survive without anyone choosing them.
8. By the final audit, the new clerk must decide whether _____ matters when it threatens respected colleagues.
9. The ending avoids an easy victory, showing that honest records can expose problems without _____ trust.
10. I _____ it to readers who enjoy workplace fiction with moral tension rather than office gossip.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. municipal 2. especially 3. duplicated 4. distinction 5. obstructive 6. occasionally 7. responsibility
8. transparency 9. repairing 10. recommend

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. The Margin Ledger is a novel about a municipal office where every decision must be explained twice.
2. At first, the rule seems absurd, especially to the new clerk, whose job is filing routine requests.
3. However, duplicated records gradually reveal which delays were caused by caution and which by silence.
4. That distinction gives the story more weight than its office setting initially promises.
5. An elderly clerk, who appears merely obstructive, has been preserving evidence against a costly shortcut.
6. Although the plot occasionally pauses for procedural detail, those passages make the conflict credible.
7. Readers may recognize how vague responsibility allows avoidable mistakes to survive without anyone choosing them.
8. By the final audit, the new clerk must decide whether transparency matters when it threatens respected colleagues.
9. The ending avoids an easy victory, showing that honest records can expose problems without repairing trust.
10. I recommend it to readers who enjoy workplace fiction with moral tension rather than office gossip.

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