

The Collision of Everything All at Once

The machine had been silent for three days.

Its brass levers remained untouched, its glass chamber dark and empty. Dust settled slowly across the wooden workbenches, and even the ticking clocks that lined the laboratory walls seemed quieter than usual. Elias stared at the enormous machine from across the room, wondering whether his father had finally abandoned the experiment for good.

“Curiosity can be dangerous,” his father had warned him many times before.

Yet Elias could not stop thinking about the strange blue light he had seen inside the machine on Wednesday evening. It had appeared for only a few seconds, flashing brightly before disappearing into darkness once again. Since then, his father had locked himself away in his study, refusing to explain what had happened.

Elias stepped carefully across the creaking floorboards and approached the machine. A small brass plaque attached to its side read:

PARTICLE COLLISION APPARATUS

The words sounded important, though Elias did not fully understand them.

Books and papers were scattered everywhere. Equations covered the blackboard behind him, written so hurriedly that some of the chalk had crumbled onto the floor. One sentence, however, had been underlined several times:

Everything is connected.

Elias reached out and rested his hand on one of the cold metal levers. At once, the machine shuddered softly. A deep humming noise filled the laboratory as glowing blue light burst inside the circular chamber.

Elias stumbled backwards.

The clocks on the walls began spinning wildly. Books trembled on the shelves. The air itself seemed to ripple like water.

Then, through the centre of the machine, Elias saw something impossible.

A city.

Not the city outside his window, but another one entirely — filled with towering silver buildings, floating lights and enormous bridges suspended high in the sky.

Elias froze in disbelief.

Before he could move, a voice behind him whispered quietly:

“You were never supposed to turn it on.”

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the word *abandoned* suggest in the first paragraph?

- A) Hidden carefully
- B) Forgotten or given up on
- C) Repaired successfully
- D) Moved somewhere else

2. Why is Elias curious about the machine?

- A) He wants to sell it
- B) He believes it belongs to him
- C) He saw a strange blue light inside it
- D) He wants to impress his father

3. Which sentence best shows that Elias' father is worried about the experiment?

- A) "Dust settled slowly across the wooden workbenches"
- B) "Books and papers were scattered everywhere"
- C) "Curiosity can be dangerous"
- D) "The clocks on the walls began spinning wildly"

4. What can we infer about Elias from the text?

- A) He is careless and selfish
- B) He is intelligent and adventurous
- C) He is frightened of science
- D) He dislikes his father

5. What is the main purpose of the sentence:

Everything is connected.

- A) To explain how clocks work
- B) To warn Elias not to touch the machine
- C) To hint that the experiment may affect many things
- D) To show the laboratory is untidy

6. The phrase:

“The air itself seemed to ripple like water”

is an example of:

- A) A metaphor
- B) Personification
- C) A simile
- D) Alliteration

7. How does Elias most likely feel when he sees the city?

- A) Angry
- B) Embarrassed
- C) Relieved
- D) Shocked and amazed

8. Which word best describes the atmosphere of the passage?

- A) Humorous
- B) Mysterious
- C) Peaceful
- D) Cheerful

9. What does the final line suggest?

- A) Elias has broken an important rule
- B) The machine is broken forever
- C) The city is imaginary
- D) His father is proud of him

10. Which of the following best summarises the passage?

- A) A boy secretly sells his father’s invention
- B) A scientist teaches his son about machines
- C) A curious boy accidentally activates a mysterious machine with extraordinary consequences
- D) A family moves to a futuristic city

Answers

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. C