

Name _____

Growing Tension

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

(Answers may vary; examples provided.)

1. If the mitten had unlimited space, the suspense would disappear because there would be no risk of it breaking.
2. Suspenseful stories keep readers engaged by making them anticipate what will happen next. The Mitten does this by gradually increasing the tension.
3. A new ending could include an even bigger animal trying to enter or Nicki discovering the animals before the mitten bursts.
4. The animals must learn to be patient and share space, just as people sometimes have to compromise and cooperate in real life.

