

Name _____

Timeless Terror

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Some may argue that he would have confessed anyway due to guilt, while others may say he would have stayed calm if not for the imagined heartbeat.
2. The narrator's paranoia makes it unclear whether the heartbeat is real or imagined, making readers question his perception of reality.
3. Stories about guilt and fear remain popular because they reflect real emotions that people still experience today.
4. Answers may vary, but students might suggest a different reaction from the police, a different ending for the narrator, or a twist where the old man survives.

