

Name _____

Breaking Free

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The poem portrays the conflict by highlighting the tension between the family's hopes and dreams for the speaker and the speaker's desire to break free and pursue their own path in life.
2. "I'd make my own path, at my own pace" means that the speaker intends to choose their own direction in life and set their own speed or timeline for achieving their dreams.
3. The speaker's journey of breaking free from family expectations relates to the experiences of young people striving for independence by emphasizing the struggle to balance familial obligations with personal aspirations and the courage needed to pursue one's own path.
4. Answers may vary. Students may share personal experiences or examples of how they or someone they know balanced family expectations and desires for independence.

