

Name _____

Desolation Trail

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. One specific moment in the story when Jake faced a challenge on the desolation trail was when he encountered a vicious sandstorm. He sought shelter and used his knowledge of the desert to protect himself and Midnight until the storm passed.
2. Jake's knowledge of the land played a crucial role in his journey by helping him decipher the cryptic map, locate the hidden Joshua tree, and navigate the treacherous desert terrain.
3. The theme of redemption in the story relates to Jake's quest for the hidden gold as a means to clear his family's name and seek a fresh start. His journey symbolizes the idea that redemption can be a challenging and transformative process.
4. If Jake had chosen not to pursue the hidden gold, he might have continued living with the burden of his family's past and never found the closure he needed. His life would have taken a different path, but the journey of redemption would have remained uncharted.

