

Name _____

Growing Pains

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The poem portrays the transition as a journey from a carefree, innocent childhood to the complexities and challenges of adulthood. It emphasizes the loss of innocence as a bittersweet farewell while embracing the lessons learned along the way.
2. The speaker's perspective on growing up and retaining the heart of a child can be valuable because it encourages individuals to approach life with a sense of wonder, curiosity, and resilience, regardless of their age. It reminds people to stay open to new experiences and to maintain a youthful spirit.
3. The poem teaches us that change is a natural part of life, and growing up doesn't mean losing the lessons and values of childhood. It encourages us to embrace the journey of life, recognizing that each stage has its own unique gifts and challenges.
4. Answers may vary. Students may share personal experiences or examples of individuals they know who faced the challenges of growing up and leaving behind childhood innocence, such as starting a new school, taking on new responsibilities, or facing difficult decisions.

