

Name _____

The Journey Home

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Hank's statement implied that journeys have the potential to help individuals gain insight, overcome challenges, or find solutions to their problems. In Alex's case, the journey allowed them to clear their mind and gain perspective on their situation.
2. The silence during the journey with Hank created a sense of contemplation and reflection, emphasizing the vast, serene desert landscape. It conveyed a feeling of solitude and introspection, allowing readers to connect with Alex's inner thoughts and emotions.
3. The desert landscape symbolized the vastness of the journey and the sense of isolation and self-discovery that can come with it. Hank's ranch represented a place of tranquility and a safe haven where one could find clarity and purpose.
4. The story suggests that unexpected journeys and encounters with strangers can lead to personal transformation and self-discovery. It highlights the idea that the journey home, both physically and metaphorically, can be a powerful source of insight and growth.

