

Name _____

Life's Journey

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

(Responses will vary, but here are sample ideas.)

1. Some may argue the boy was only doing what people naturally do, while others may feel he was selfish and should have given back to the tree.
2. The story shows that material things like money and houses are temporary, but relationships last longer and provide true happiness.
3. A rewritten ending might have the boy planting a new tree, caring for the tree in its later years, or realizing his mistakes before it was too late.
4. Many readers see the tree as a symbol of a parent, teacher, or mentor who gives selflessly, just as caregivers do in real life.

