

Name _____

The Little Match Girl

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. "The Little Match Girl" highlights the themes of poverty and hardship, emphasizing the harsh living conditions faced by the protagonist. These themes contribute to the story's emotional impact by drawing attention to the plight of vulnerable individuals and encouraging empathy from readers.
2. The matches in the story symbolize hope and the Little Match Girl's desire for a better life. They represent a brief escape from her suffering and a means to kindle her dreams and imagination in the face of adversity.
3. The contrast between the Little Match Girl's difficult life and the ephemeral moments of warmth and happiness created by the matches enhances the emotional impact of the story. It underscores the fleeting nature of joy and the resilience of the human spirit in finding solace even in the bleakest circumstances.
4. "The Little Match Girl" conveys a message about the importance of compassion and empathy towards those less fortunate. It reminds readers of the value of kindness and the need to help those in need, especially during challenging times. The story resonates with people today by highlighting the enduring power of hope and the impact of small acts of kindness on individuals facing adversity.

