

Name _____

The Red Shoes

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The red shoes in the story symbolize vanity and materialism. They represent Karen's desire for external beauty and the consequences of prioritizing appearance over character.
2. Karen's character transformation is evident as she initially values the red shoes for their beauty but later learns the importance of inner qualities. Her experience with the red shoes serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of vanity and materialism.
3. Repentance and seeking forgiveness are central to the story's resolution. Karen's actions and prayers demonstrate her remorse and desire for redemption, leading to the removal of the curse imposed by the red shoes.
4. The villagers' reaction to Karen's uncontrollable dancing reflects their judgmental attitudes and their lack of understanding. They view her with a mix of wonder and fear, highlighting the importance of empathy and compassion in society.

