

Name _____

Ride into the Sunset

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The theme of adventure underscores Billy's character development throughout the story. His initial dreams of adventure and the allure of the Old West motivate him to join Sam on the quest for the treasure. As the story unfolds, Billy faces challenges and learns the value of determination and resourcefulness, which shape his character and readiness for further adventures.
2. The hidden cave filled with treasure symbolizes the allure and mystique of the Old West, where riches and opportunity awaited those willing to explore its vast landscapes. In the broader context of the Old West, the treasure represents the untapped potential and rewards of taking risks and embracing adventure.
3. Billy and Sam's ability to outsmart Black Bart and his gang is rooted in their quick thinking, knowledge of the cave's layout, and resourcefulness. These qualities were essential in the unforgiving environment of the Old West, where survival often depended on wit and adaptability.
4. After their successful treasure quest, Billy and Sam may continue to explore the Old West, encountering new challenges and opportunities for adventure. Their experiences in the story have likely strengthened their bond and prepared them for future journeys into the vast, untamed frontier.

