

Name _____

The Absurd Adventures of Teenage Tomfoolery

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Tom Johnson's absurd actions challenged the conventional norms of Mundanville by introducing a playful and unconventional approach to daily life. Initially, they were met with resistance because the town's adults were accustomed to a mundane routine and couldn't understand the value of absurdity.
2. Tom's campaign to rename Mundanville to "Whimsyville" and his run for mayor on the platform of "Unlimited Ice Cream for All" added humor and satire to the story. They provoked reactions of bewilderment and debate among the townspeople, emphasizing the clash between Tom's absurdity and the town's conventional norms.
3. The story suggests that absurdity and creativity can break the monotony of daily life, adding excitement and humor to an otherwise ordinary existence. This message may resonate with American teenagers facing the challenges of conformity and routine, encouraging them to embrace creativity and individuality.
4. Tom's character and actions can be seen as a form of satire, critiquing the conformity and routine often found in small towns. His absurdity comments on the societal pressure to conform to norms and highlights the need for spontaneity and humor in life.

