

Name _____

The Whispering Oak

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The group of friends were motivated by curiosity and a desire to unravel the oak tree's mystery. Whether their curiosity was justified is subjective; it led to a terrifying experience and haunting consequences.
2. The whispers and visions challenge the characters' understanding of reality by blurring the line between the natural and the supernatural. They introduce elements of the unknown and the eerie into their lives.
3. The Whispering Oak may symbolize forbidden knowledge and the consequences of delving into the unknown. It contributes to the horror by presenting a source of supernatural terror that haunts the characters and leaves them forever changed.
4. The experiences beneath The Whispering Oak are likely to leave the teenagers traumatized and haunted. They may have difficulty coping with the haunting whispers and may become isolated from each other as they struggle to understand and deal with their shared ordeal.

