

## Echoes of Meaning Answer Key

### Sample Interpretations (teacher may expand):

1. *"She would of been a good woman... if it had been somebody there to shoot her every minute of her life."*
  - **What It Says:** The Misfit reflects after killing the grandmother.
  - **What It Means:** True goodness only emerged in the grandmother when she faced death; O'Connor suggests grace often comes at moments of crisis.
2. *"Why you're one of my babies. You're one of my own children!"*
  - **What It Says:** The grandmother speaks to The Misfit just before he kills her.
  - **What It Means:** In a moment of compassion, she recognizes their shared humanity, showing her final act of grace.
3. *"A good man is hard to find."*
  - **What It Says:** The grandmother recalls an old saying to justify her judgments.
  - **What It Means:** The phrase highlights shifting values and questions what "goodness" truly means in a flawed world.
4. *"She said she thought the house was in Tennessee."*
  - **What It Says:** The grandmother realizes she was mistaken about the location of the old house.
  - **What It Means:** Her selfish manipulation causes the detour that leads to disaster, symbolizing how error and sin set tragedy in motion.
5. *"People are certainly not nice like they used to be."*
  - **What It Says:** The grandmother laments about the state of society.
  - **What It Means:** Her nostalgic view is hypocritical; she criticizes others but fails to recognize her own flaws.
6. *"It's no real pleasure in life."*
  - **What It Says:** The Misfit explains his worldview after the killings.
  - **What It Means:** This bleak statement shows his despair and rejection of meaning, contrasting with the grandmother's last grasp of grace.