

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Bus to Friendship Answer Key

### Expected Implied Theme (sample):

- Unexpected challenges can lead to new opportunities and friendships.

### Other Acceptable Themes:

- Helping others can turn problems into positive experiences.
- Difficulties can become valuable when they bring people together.

### Evidence Examples:

- Tara missed the bus but chose to keep walking, which led her to meet a younger student.
- Instead of giving up, she supported someone else, and they became friends.

### Teacher Notes:

- Stress that students are **detectives** looking for hidden meanings.
- The passage never says, "The theme is friendship" or "Helping others matters"; students must infer it.
- Accept variations of the theme if they capture the **same underlying lesson**.