

Ocean Ending Answer Key

Sample Explanation

The Little Mermaid does not get the prince, but she shows bravery and kindness by not harming him. She turns into sea foam and becomes a spirit of the air. This shows that the story's ending is about sacrifice and the reward of selflessness, even if it is not the happy ending she dreamed of.

Reflection Sample Answer

The author wanted to teach that love and kindness matter more than personal gain. By choosing not to hurt the prince, the mermaid shows her true goodness. The bittersweet ending reminds readers that fairy tales can also teach lessons about sacrifice.

Teacher Notes

- Encourage students to use **symbols in their drawings** (foam, air, prince, sea, or broken heart) to represent the ending.
- Differentiation: Younger readers may simply draw “sad vs. happy” contrasts, while older students can show both the sacrifice and transformation.
- Extension: Compare the fairy tale's ending with a modern retelling (*Disney's The Little Mermaid*) and discuss how different endings change the message.