

Character Compass Answer Key

Question 1:

- *Answer:* His actions show nervousness and hesitation.
- *Evidence:* "Alex hesitated before stepping down" and "hands trembled as he shoved the letter into his pocket."
- *Explanation:* These actions reveal that although he has been accepted, he still doubts himself.

Question 2:

- *Answer:* His whispered words show that he is trying to encourage himself despite fear.
- *Evidence:* "You can do this," he muttered under his breath.
- *Explanation:* The phrase highlights his inner conflict: he wants to be brave but struggles with insecurity.

Question 3:

- *Answer:* The worn, crumpled letter suggests that Alex has thought deeply about this opportunity and carries its weight.
- *Evidence:* "crumpled acceptance letter...edges worn from being read too many times."
- *Explanation:* This detail reveals both his excitement and anxiety: the letter represents a chance he doesn't want to lose.

Question 4:

- *Answer:* A possible theme is that true courage means moving forward even when you're afraid.
- *Evidence:* His trembling hands, whispered encouragement, and final quickened pace all show that he chooses action despite fear.
- *Explanation:* Through Alex's lens, readers see that change often requires persistence and self-belief.

Teacher Notes:

- Students may phrase themes differently (e.g., "Facing change requires bravery" or "New beginnings are difficult but worth it"). Accept variations as long as they are supported by evidence.
- This activity is designed to push students beyond surface-level descriptions (he is nervous) toward **deeper insights** about courage, self-doubt, and growth.