

Mark The Meaning Answer Key

Mark-Ups (Possible Answers):

- **Repeated Word:** *Restless* (lines 2–3). The repetition emphasizes the boy's unease and mirrors the rushing river.
- **Striking Phrase:** "the bridge seemed endless in the dark." This is powerful because it captures both fear and the challenge of moving forward in uncertainty.
- **Unusual Detail:** The boy whispering "restless" back to the river. This detail is unusual because it shows him treating nature as if it could speak, adding mystery and personification.

Questions - Model Answers:

1. The repeated word is *restless*. It reflects the river's movement and the boy's unsettled feelings.
2. One possible striking phrase is "the bridge seemed endless in the dark." It conveys the depth of his fear and the atmosphere of uncertainty.
3. An unusual detail is the boy whispering the word "restless" as if answering the river. It creates a haunting, imaginative mood.
4. The larger theme may suggest **facing fears, crossing into the unknown, or the tension between hesitation and courage.**

Teacher Notes:

- Encourage students to defend *their own choices* of words or phrases if different from the key.
- The purpose of this worksheet is not "one right answer," but training students to notice how repetition, phrasing, and details shape meaning.
- Extension: Have students write one more sentence to continue the passage, using at least one repeated word or striking phrase of their own.