

Interpret With Evidence Answer Key

Sample Mini-Essay Response:

The passage suggests that Clara is caught between fear and the need to move forward, highlighting the theme of facing difficult choices. The suitcase at her feet, “packed neatly, ready for a journey she had delayed again and again,” symbolizes her long-standing hesitation. The storm imagery, with “rain hammered the tin roof” and “each roll of thunder,” mirrors her inner turmoil, showing that her emotions are as intense as the weather outside. Together, these details reveal that Clara feels both pressure and fear, but also a sense that the moment for change has finally come.

Teacher Notes:

- Students' interpretations may vary (e.g., some may emphasize Clara's fear, others her readiness). What matters is that they **state a claim and defend it with text evidence**.
- Remind students to use quotation marks when citing phrases directly.
- Encourage them to go beyond summarizing; their goal is to analyze how the details suggest deeper meaning.
- Extension: Have students expand their mini-essay into a full essay by adding a counterclaim (an alternative interpretation) and refuting it with more evidence.