



Name _____

Diverging Paths

Directions: Read the story passage carefully. Think about the challenges the siblings face and the different choices they make. Identify the **theme** of the story. Track how this theme develops through the characters' actions and decisions. Use complete sentences when answering the questions.

Different Roads

When their father lost his job, Elena and David both felt the weight of responsibility on their small family. Elena immediately began looking for part-time work after school, determined to help with bills. She often came home exhausted, but her determination gave her mother hope. David, on the other hand, retreated into long nights with his friends, avoiding the tension at home. He told himself he couldn't fix things anyway, so why try?

Weeks later, Elena's steady contributions allowed the family to catch up on rent, while David's absence created quiet disappointment that lingered between him and their mother. Still, he watched Elena grow stronger and more resilient through her efforts. Though he did not say it aloud, David began to wonder whether he too had the ability to face challenges rather than run from them.

1. What is the central **theme** of the story?

2. How does Elena's response to the crisis help develop the theme?

3. How does David's response to the crisis contribute to the theme?

4. By the end of the passage, how has the theme been reinforced or deepened?
