

Diverging Paths Answer Key

1. Theme (Model Answer):

The story explores the theme of **responsibility in the face of hardship**, showing how personal choices shape growth and family bonds.

2. Elena's Response (Model Answer):

Elena's decision to work and support the family demonstrates responsibility and resilience, directly reinforcing the theme.

3. David's Response (Model Answer):

David's avoidance contrasts with Elena's actions, highlighting how shirking responsibility can strain relationships and delay personal growth.

4. Theme Reinforced (Model Answer):

By the end, the theme is deepened as David reflects on Elena's strength, suggesting that responsibility is not only necessary for survival but also inspires change in others.

Teacher's Notes:

- Accept alternate phrasing of the theme if it focuses on responsibility, resilience, or choices during hardship.
- Encourage students to see that *both siblings' actions* contribute to the theme: Elena by facing it, David by avoiding it.
- Point out that the story's ending suggests the theme develops over time, with the potential for David's growth still open.
- Extension idea: Ask students to predict what David might do next and explain how that decision would continue the theme.