

## Willow Words Answer Key

### Sample powerful lines students might choose:

- *"The willow bows with gentle grace."* → Stands out because of personification and sets the peaceful mood.
- *"The breeze collects their echoes near."* → Stands out for imagery, showing how memories linger in nature.
- *"The willow weeps, yet keeps their trace."* → Stands out because it captures the theme of time, memory, and loss.

### Why it stands out (sample explanations):

- The line is powerful because it uses **personification** ("the willow weeps") to express sadness and memory.
- It connects to the theme by showing how nature holds onto memories even when people move on.
- The imagery of the tree "keeping their trace" suggests permanence of memory in contrast to fleeting childhood.

### Bonus rewritten line (examples):

- *"The willow mourns but remembers still."*
- *"Though children leave, the tree holds on."*

### Teacher Notes:

- Accept varied answers as long as students provide a **clear explanation and connection** to the poem's theme.
- Emphasize that "quote connection" is about personal interpretation supported with textual evidence.
- Extension idea: Have students compare their chosen lines in groups and discuss why different lines stood out to different people.