

## Footprints Erased Answer Key

Since this activity requires **student-created endings**, there is no single “correct” response. However, strong answers will:

- Stay consistent with the eerie tone and mysterious events (e.g., Jonah follows the disappearing footprints into the ocean, discovers a hidden cave, or meets someone who explains the phenomenon).
- Offer closure or a twist that shifts the story's direction.

### Possible Alternate Ending Example:

Instead of leaving the beach, Jonah decides to follow the vanishing trail. As he steps into the wet sand, his own body begins to fade, and he realizes the beach is pulling him into another world. The footprints weren't disappearing—they were being claimed by something hidden beneath the surface.

### Theme Change Example:

- Original ending: Focuses on mystery and the unknown, suggesting some secrets are not meant to be uncovered.
- Alternate ending: Could emphasize bravery, fate, or the danger of curiosity, depending on the student's version.

### Teacher Notes:

- Accept a wide range of creative endings as long as they stay connected to the story's setup.
- Encourage students to explain how their ending shifts the story's **theme, tone, or character development**.
- This activity builds skills in **creative thinking, text connection, and theme analysis**.