

Strings of Hope Answer Key

1. **Possible Theme:** True strength comes from within, not from objects.
2. **Supporting Evidence:** Mateo reminds Clara that “music didn’t come from the violin—it came from her,” and Clara’s concert proves she could still move the audience even without her grandfather’s violin.
3. **Another Theme:** Friendship and support can help us overcome struggles. Mateo’s encouragement and offer of his violin allowed Clara to continue.
4. **Clara’s Change:** At first, Clara feels hopeless and thinks she cannot perform without her violin. By the end, she learns that her music and her grandfather’s love live in her heart, showing her growth and acceptance.

Teacher Notes:

- Stress that **themes are universal ideas** (e.g., perseverance, friendship, loss, resilience).
- Guide students to distinguish between a **theme** and a **topic** (e.g., “music” is a topic, while “music comes from the heart” is a theme).
- Encourage multiple correct answers as long as they are supported with clear evidence.