



Answer Key.

The Fire Within

1. What does the story tell you about Sam's mindset?

Sam has a determined and resilient mindset. He is passionate about his dream and refuses to give up, even when faced with doubt, fear, and financial obstacles. He is willing to work hard and make sacrifices to achieve his goal.

2. Identify the figures of speech used in the text.

(Any two of the following are acceptable)

Simile: "...like a secret tucked away from the world," "...like a wildfire," "...creeping like a shadow," "...like a small pebble," "his heart soared like a bird."

Metaphor: "The fire within him," "creating a symphony of color," "clutching his painting like a treasure chest."

Personification: "...the sea of professional artists...nearly crushed him."

3. Explain as fully as you can what is meant by 'the rawness in the brushstrokes'?

It means the brushstrokes were not overly polished or perfect. They showed the artist's direct, unfiltered emotion and energy. The texture and visible movement of the paint made the work feel honest, powerful, and deeply personal, as if the viewer could see Sam's passion and struggle directly on the canvas.

4. Do you think that the writer succeeded in delivering the character? Why? Why not?

Yes, the writer successfully delivered the character. We understand Sam's internal conflict (his dream vs. his fear and society's pressure), his motivations (the "fire within"), and his personality (determined, hardworking, humble). The writer uses vivid descriptions of his actions (working late, selling his guitar) and feelings to make him feel real and relatable.

5. How important was the role of the grandmother in the story? Would it make any difference if this character did not exist?

The grandmother's role was crucial. Her advice, "The only way to fail is to stop trying," acts as a key motivator for Sam at his moment of greatest doubt. If this character did not exist, Sam's decision to proceed might seem less grounded, and the story would lose a powerful emotional anchor and a source of its central theme.

6. Comment on the writer's word choice in describing the scene of the night at the gallery.

The writer uses dynamic and sensory words to create a vivid and tense atmosphere. Words like "buzzed," "clutching," "trembling," and "soared" convey the energy and high emotions of the scene. Descriptions like "victory bell" and "bird breaking free from its cage" use powerful imagery to emphasize the significance of Sam's achievement and his feeling of liberation.

7. Infer the meaning of the following words.

a- Clutching: Holding onto something very tightly and closely.

b- Buzzed: Was filled with a loud, excited, and energetic sound of many people talking.