

Burning The Midnight Oil Answer Key

Corrected Paragraph:

I stayed up **for** five hours last night to finish my science project. My lamp flickered **during** the storm outside, but I kept working. **During** the late night, my cat sat by me, watching quietly. I took a short break **for** a midnight snack. **In the morning**, I finally finished my display board and felt proud **of** my hard work.

(Note: The last two minor edits are for natural flow and correctness.)

Teacher's Guide:

- **Skill Focus:** Strengthens understanding of **for** (duration) versus **during** (time period or event) through paragraph-level editing. Students also learn to maintain sentence fluency while correcting errors.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Provide color-coded hints for students needing support (e.g., underline time phrases that need *for* vs. *during*).
 - Encourage advanced learners to justify each change by explaining *why* their choice fits the sentence meaning.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Turn it into a peer-editing activity where students trade papers and check each other's corrections.
 - Have a class "editing race," timing groups as they fix all errors correctly.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Ask students to write their own short paragraph with at least three *for* and three *during* sentences.
 - Challenge learners to transform their corrected paragraph into a diary entry or short narrative, expanding the context while keeping prepositions accurate.