

## The Midnight Wish

**Directions:** Read the story carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow to explore its meaning and theme.



The final seconds of the year ticked away as fireworks lit up the cold night sky. **Lena** and **Noah** stood on the hill behind their neighborhood, their breath visible in the winter air. "You ready?" Lena asked, clutching two tiny pieces of paper in her gloved hand. Noah nodded. They had written their New Year's wishes earlier that day, each keeping theirs a secret.

When the clock struck twelve, cheers echoed from every house below. Together, they whispered their wishes and tossed the papers into the wind. The scraps fluttered upward, glowing faintly as the fireworks burst above them. For a moment, it felt like the stars themselves were listening.

A week later, their wishes began to take shape; not through magic, but through effort. Lena's wish to overcome her stage fright came true when she signed up for the school talent show. Noah's wish to make new friends started when he invited someone new to sit with him at lunch. They both realized that midnight had not cast a spell—it had lit a spark.

When the next New Year arrived, Lena and Noah met on the same hill again. This time, they didn't write down wishes. They just looked at the sky, smiling. "Hope doesn't wait for midnight," Lena said. Noah nodded. "It just needs a reason to begin."

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What did Lena and Noah do with their wishes at midnight?
2. How did their wishes begin to come true?
3. What does the story suggest about the real "magic" of midnight?
4. Why do Lena and Noah decide not to write down wishes the following year?
5. What is the main theme of the story?