

The Midnight Wish Answer Key

1. They whispered their wishes and tossed them into the wind.
2. Their wishes came true through their own actions and choices.
3. The story suggests that hope and change come from effort and belief, not magic.
4. They learned that hope and progress can start anytime, not just at midnight.
5. The main theme is **hope**-believing in yourself and taking action to make change happen.

Teacher's Guide

Implementation Tips:

- Begin by asking students what "hope" means to them and when they feel it most.
- Read the story aloud dramatically to emphasize tone and reflection.
- After reading, discuss how the characters changed from the beginning to the end.

Differentiation Strategies:

- **Grades 4-5:** Provide guiding questions after each paragraph to build comprehension.
- **Grades 6-8:** Encourage students to identify literary elements such as **symbolism** (the midnight moment) and **theme** (self-driven change).
- **For ELLs:** Pre-teach key words like "fluttered," "stage fright," and "spark."

Engagement Ideas:

- Invite students to write their own short story titled "*My Midnight Wish*" about a moment of hope.
- Create a class "Hope Wall" where students post goals they're working toward.
- Use glow sticks or paper stars as a visual reminder of each student's "spark."

Extension Idea: Encourage art integration; students can illustrate the story's final scene under the fireworks.