

Midnight Carnival Answer Key

1. Setting:

- An abandoned carnival at night.

2. Mood:

- Creepy, eerie, or mysterious (all acceptable if explained with evidence).

3. Clues that create the mood:

- “Rusty rides creaked” → shows decay and unease.
- “Striped tents sagged with age” → makes the place feel lifeless.
- “Broken Ferris wheel... seats swaying” → adds an eerie, ghostly vibe.
- “Smell of damp grass and faded popcorn” → suggests things are old and forgotten.
- “Shadows stretched across cracked pavement” → builds a spooky, unsettling atmosphere.

4. Bonus Question (sample answer):

- A bright, lively carnival would create a joyful, exciting, or festive mood because of music, crowds, and fun details.

Teacher Notes

- Encourage students to **connect descriptive words to feelings**. Example: “rusty rides” = old, abandoned = creepy.
- Accept varied mood words (eerie, sad, mysterious) as long as the explanation makes sense.
- Extension: Ask students to **rewrite one sentence** to shift the mood (e.g., change “abandoned carnival” to “colorful carnival buzzing with laughter”).
- This worksheet builds the skill of seeing how **setting details = emotional impact** in stories.