

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Balancing Act

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The theme of responsibility and time management is central to the story, as Alex must juggle their duty as a young superhero with their responsibilities as a student. Their unique powers offer opportunities to help others, but they also create challenges in terms of prioritizing tasks and managing their time effectively. Alex's journey emphasizes the importance of responsibility, seeking help when needed, and learning to balance competing demands.
2. Answers may vary. Students might express feelings of excitement and responsibility. They may make choices similar to Alex's by seeking support from trusted friends and finding ways to manage their time effectively. Handling the challenges could involve prioritizing tasks and recognizing the importance of seeking help.
3. Seeking help and confiding in a friend allowed Alex to share their burden and receive support in managing their responsibilities. This decision helped Alex grow personally by showing them the value of collaboration and opened up possibilities for finding a healthier balance in their life. It also strengthened their friendship.
4. In an alternative ending where Alex never confided in a friend, their life could continue to be challenging as they struggle to balance their responsibilities in isolation. They might face increasing stress, exhaustion, and difficulties in maintaining their secret identity. Consequences could include a strained social life, declining academic performance, and potential exposure of their powers, leading to complications in both their superhero and student lives.

