

Name _____

The Midnight Carnival

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Midnight Carnival blurs the line between dreams and nightmares by presenting a seemingly alluring and mysterious world that gradually reveals its dark and malevolent side. This contributes to the story's atmosphere by creating a sense of eerie charm that is gradually replaced by a growing sense of dread and horror as Sarah explores the carnival's twisted attractions.
2. The theme of trapped souls and malevolent forces is central to the story, as it revolves around the Midnight Carnival's power to trap the souls of the damned and perpetuate their torment. Mr. Malachi, the carnival's ringmaster, embodies the malevolent force that holds sway over the trapped souls. The story explores the consequences of confronting these malevolent forces and the impact on both the protagonist, Sarah, and the town of Cedarville.
3. The spectral Ferris wheel serves as a symbol of the Midnight Carnival's malevolent presence and the boundary between the real world and the carnival's nightmarish dimension. It represents the gateway to the horrors hidden within the carnival and the eerie allure that draws people into its dark secrets.

