

Name _____

The Mystery of the Midnight Circus

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Max's curiosity and love for mysteries made him a determined and adventurous character. These traits led him to investigate the Midnight Circus when he saw the distant glimmer of lights and heard the circus music, believing that it held the key to an exciting and mysterious adventure.
2. Max's friends, especially Lily, played a crucial role in the story by joining him in the investigation of the Midnight Circus. Lily believed that the circus held the key to unlocking her family's mysterious past, aligning her motivation with Max's quest for discovery and adventure.
3. The Midnight Circus symbolized more than just a traditional circus; it represented mystery, adventure, and the preservation of Willowbrook's heritage. To the characters in the story, it was a vessel of hidden knowledge and the unity of their town, carrying a deeper significance beyond entertainment.
4. Readers can take away the message that sometimes, the most valuable treasures are not material wealth but the unity, history, and sense of community in a place. The story emphasizes the importance of preserving heritage and the magic of discovery, even in the most unexpected of places.

