



The MIDNIGHTERS

Adventures are best served with a drizzle of moonlight and a sprinkling of stars

Written by
Hana Tooke

Illustrated by
Ayesha L. Rubio



TEACHER RESOURCE PACK





The MIDNIGHTERS

BY HANA TOOKE



Find the courage to be extraordinary...

Ema Vašková has always felt different. In a family of famous scientists, there's not much room for superstition or omens – but they seem to follow Ema wherever she goes. It doesn't help that she appears to predict events before they happen, and has a peculiar fear of shadows...

When Ema is sent to stay with her eccentric uncle in Prague, she fears she'll lose the chance to ever fit in. But then she meets Silvie – a girl who finally sees Ema for the extraordinary person that she is. Soon the girls are meeting for secret midnight adventures, and facing Ema's fears together.

But then disaster strikes. Silvie goes missing – and it's up to Ema to find her. Now she must gather the courage to hunt the city, find her friend, and uncover the secrets of the one clue Silvie left as to where she might be – inside the mysterious Midnight Guild...

Activities in this pack explore themes of:

FRIENDSHIP * BELONGING * BRAVERY

Activities can be used to support:

PSHE * LITERACY AND LANGUAGE * CREATIVE WRITING

You will need:

- These activity sheets
- Pen or pencils and paper

Activity 1: **A Prologue - story starter**

Learning Objective: To develop understanding of what a prologue is, how it can start a story, and write a story prologue

Activity 2: **Belonging**

Learning Objective: To think about what makes us feel like we belong and what makes up our identities, understand similarities and differences, and create a family tree and an identity clock

Activity 3: **Fear-conquering quest**

Learning Objective: To develop understanding of the difference between fear and excitement, why overcoming fear is important, and create a list to explore this

Activity 4: **A Midnight Manifesto**

Learning Objective: To understand the purpose of a manifesto, and create one for midnight adventures

Activity 5: **Homing**

Learning Objective: To understand that the things we have can make us feel at home, why they make us feel this way, and illustrate ideas of what makes us feel at home

Activity 6: **Overcoming**

Learning Objective: To think about how friends can help us overcome fears, and write a message encouraging a friend to face their fears





The MIDNIGHTERS



ACTIVITY 1: A PROLOGUE - STORY STARTER



**PRAGUE, KINGDOM OF BOHEMIA,
12 DECEMBER 1877**

It was a night so dusky the streetlamps looked like fallen stars. A night seized by a fierce frost, which crept up the spires of Prague until they glimmered like diamond stalagmites, then inched across the Vltava River until its entire surface was as smooth as marble.

It was a night that would bear a new small life.
And, alas, a *smidge* of death.

This extract is taken from the start of the prologue of *The Midnighters*. The story is set in the Kingdom of Bohemia, in Prague and begins just before midnight.

A 'prologue' gives an introduction to a story and sets the scene for it, before the story itself starts. It can be a useful way to introduce the setting, the characters and invite the reader to want to read more.

Read the extract above. In pairs or on your own, underline the parts of the extract you think answer these questions:

- What descriptive language brings the night time setting to life?
- What clues does the author give about what might be going to happen that makes you want to find out more?

A story set at night time can feel extra-magical and mysterious. How would YOU introduce a story set at night time and entice the reader into YOUR story?





The MIDNIGHTERS



WRITING CHALLENGE:

Using the space below, in no more than ten lines, describe your story setting and introduce clues about what is going to happen, just like the author does in the prologue for *The Midnighters*. Think about what descriptive language you can use to make it magical!





The MIDNIGHTERS



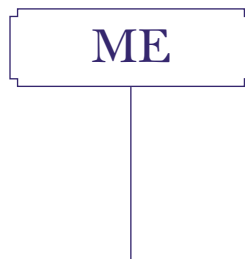
ACTIVITY 2: BELONGING

Emma is born into a large family and all her brothers and sisters, except one, are twins. They are all brilliant scientists, but Emma has yet to find the thing she is really good at. This causes her to feel like she doesn't really belong and is different to everyone else in her family.

What is your family like? Do you have mums, dads, parents, carers? Do you have brothers and sisters? Maybe you're a twin! Or perhaps you are an only child? You may have aunts and uncles and cousins who you spend time with too!

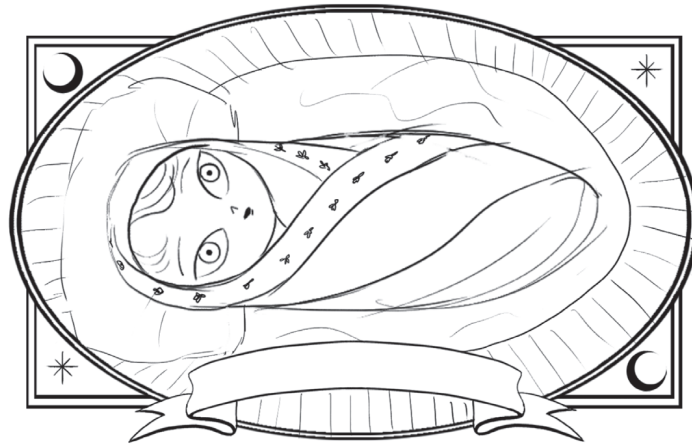
Fill in the family tree below with who makes up the family you spend the most time with.

MY FAMILY





The MIDNIGHTERS



Our sense of 'belonging' often comes from our identity – who we are as people. And our identities are made up of lots of different things:

- some come from our families
- some come from our friends
- some come from what we believe in
- some come from where we live and spend our time
- some come from what we are good or bad at

Now think about YOU! On the identity clock on the next page, note down twelve different things about your identity. This could be anything from your favourite colour, to your favourite thing to do, what makes you happy or sad, what you are afraid of.

Using two colours, highlight the things on your identity clock that you think make you 'different' from your family and the things that are 'similar' to them.

However colourful your clock is, remember all the differences and similarities fit together to make you, YOU!

As Ema journeys through her adventure, even though she may be different, she discovers that all the parts of her identity make her who she is. She is just as special as the rest of her family. Not only this, Ema discovers she is even quite like some of her family members even though she has never met them!

Are there members of your family who you have never met? Talk to your parents and carers and see what you can find out about them; share your identity clock - you never know, you may well take after someone from your family history you didn't even know about!

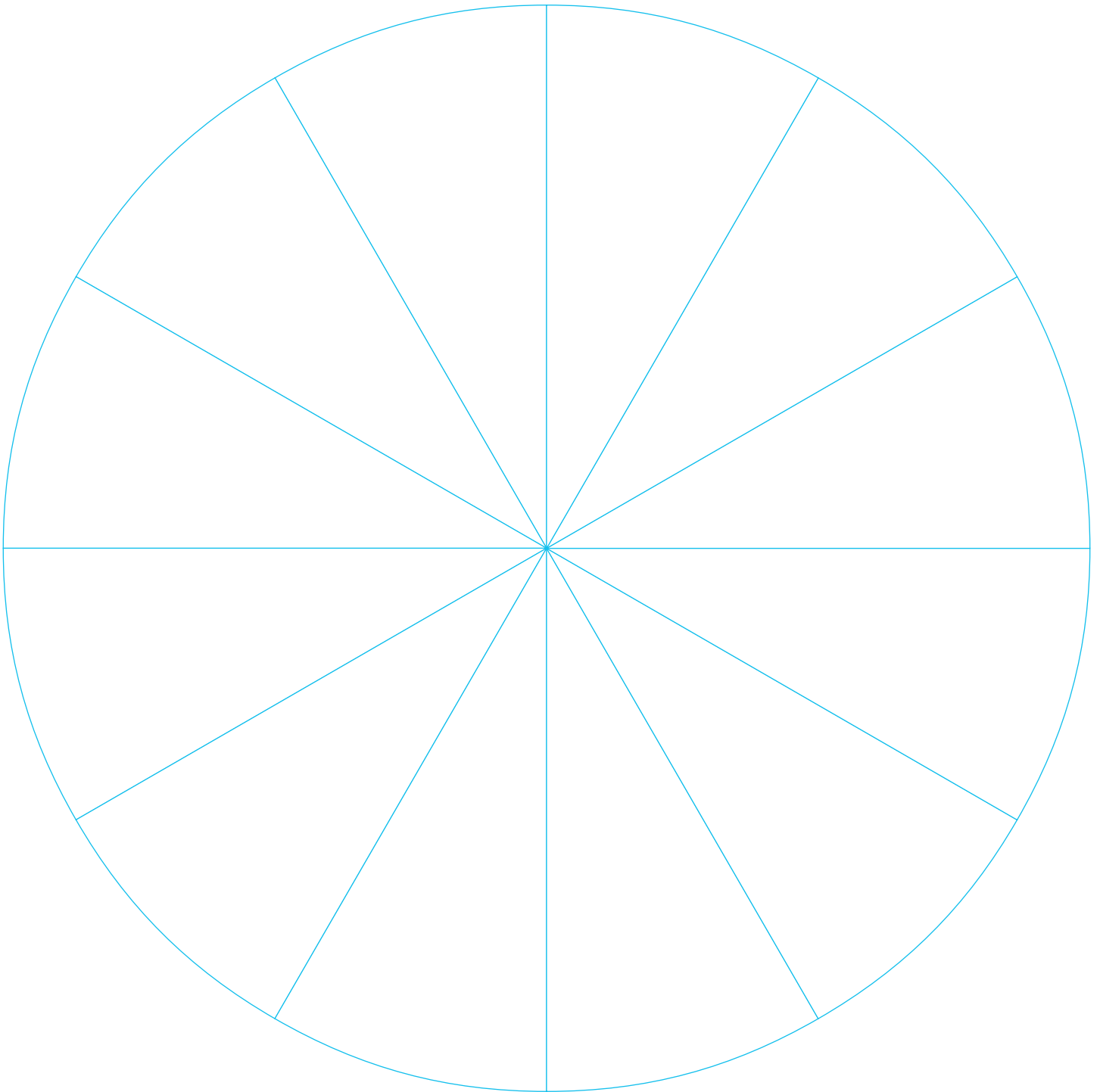




The MIDNIGHTERS



MY IDENTITY CLOCK



TIP: Turn the page to make writing in the segments easier





The MIDNIGHTERS



ACTIVITY 3: FEAR-CONQUERING QUEST

EXTRACT PAGE 54

'There's a very fine line between fear and excitement,' Silvie said, her expression thoughtful. 'I think perhaps you need some nudging over that line. Let's meet at this time tomorrow, but not here'

Ema dropped her hands from her cheeks and shook her head 'At midnight?'

'Adventures are best served with a drizzle of moonlight and a sprinkling of stars.'

Midnight is the perfect time for our fear-conquering quest to begin.'

In the story Ema is often afraid; afraid of what might happen to her if she cannot find her science specialism, afraid of not belonging and afraid of things like heights! Silvie encourages her to face her fears.

As a class, discuss what Silvie might mean by there being 'a fine line between fear and excitement'. Discuss why overcoming fear is important.

Think about the things you are afraid of. Think about the things that you might find exciting. For example, you may be afraid of heights, but you may find the idea of climbing a tree exciting. Or perhaps you have a great singing voice and would find it exciting to sing on stage, but you're afraid of standing in front of other people.

On your own, complete the table below, on one side writing your fears and the other side, something that you find exciting.

FEAR	EXCITEMENT
Heights	Climbing a tree

As Silvie says in the story, there is a fine line between fear and excitement and sometimes you can only get to the excitement by conquering your fears. For example, the only way to climb a tree is to face your fear of heights!

Share your table with your classmates. What things are they afraid of? Maybe you can help each other face your fears.





The MIDNIGHTERS



ACTIVITY 4: A MIDNIGHT MANIFESTO

EXTRACT PAGE 55

'Lesson one, Ema Vaskova,' Silvie said, standing on the ledge, grinning like a cat.

'Less worrying, more daring. I will see you tomorrow'

Silvie encourages Ema to be 'less worrying and more daring'. What do you think this means? Discuss this in pairs or as a class.

Worrying can stop us doing things that could be exciting if we tried them! In the story, during their adventures at midnight, Silvie and Ema write a 'Midnight Manifesto'.

A 'manifesto' is a written set of aims or beliefs that a group of people will use to guide their actions. It is like a list of 'things to do' or that must be done to be successful.

Silvie and Ema use the manifesto to guide their adventures, listing what they will each contribute. Silvie must provide three fear-conquering adventures and Ema must provide three nights of snacks!

Now you are going to write your Midnight Manifesto. Think about the different fears you would like to conquer and how you might conquer them. What midnight adventures would you want to go on? You can do this in pairs or independently, or even as a class!

MY MIDNIGHT MANIFESTO





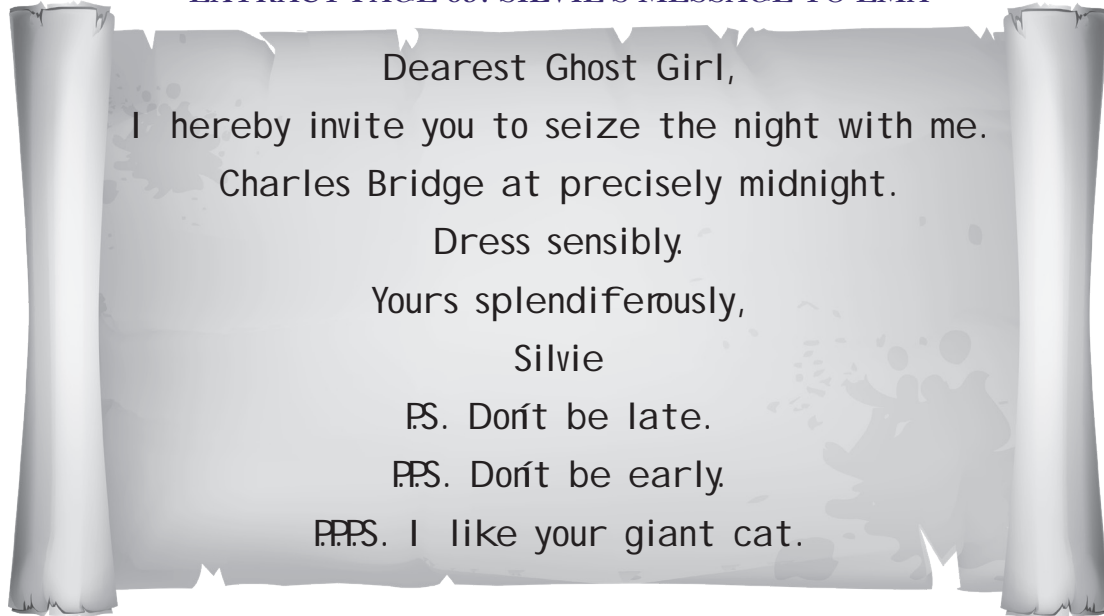
The MIDNIGHTERS



ACTIVITY 5: OVERCOMING

In the story, Silvie and Ema become friends, and Silvie sends Ema special notes on tiny, sealed scrolls inviting her to face her fears and overcome them:

EXTRACT PAGE 65: SILVIE'S MESSAGE TO EMA



Read Silvie's first message to Ema and in pairs or on your own, think about:

- What words in Silvie's message might encourage Ema to join her at midnight?
- How does she make it sound inviting and friendly?

Think about the things you are afraid of and worry about.

- How would it feel to have a friend help you?
- What would a friend have to say to you to help you overcome them?

Write your ideas in the space below:





The MIDNIGHTERS



Imagine YOU are writing a message to a friend inviting them to face their fears and help them overcome them. What would you say? Think about how you can make your message encouraging! You can decorate your scroll too if you would like to.

MY MESSAGE ON A SCROLL

