

**Piper Morgan Joins the Circus**  
**Common Core Aligned Teacher Guide**  
**Chapter by Chapter Questions**

**Chapter One:**

Why was Piper disappointed when she got on the bus? What do you think Piper expected when she got on the bus?

What are some of the pros and cons that Piper has about her mom getting the job with the circus?

What words would you use to describe Lexie?

Why do you think Lexie doesn't want to be friends with Piper?

**Chapter Two:**

When Piper meets Miss Sarah, she asks Piper how old she is. Piper thinks, "Grown-ups always asked that. Along with 'Do you have a best friend?'" What are better questions grown-ups could ask kids?

Piper wonders if she can have a grown-up as a best friend, "I looked over at Miss Sarah. I did not like Lexie. I wondered if I could have a grown-up as a best friend. But would she want to be my friend?" Do you think that's possible? Why or why not?

When Piper thinks about traveling with the circus, she thinks, "Maybe this wouldn't be so fun after all." What are some of the things that make her think that?

Do you think it would be fun? Why or why not?

**Chapter Three:**

Piper makes a lot of observations based on things other characters say or do. What are some observations she makes in this chapter? Do you believe they are all true? Which ones seem like they could be true and which ones don't?

What are some observations you made?

Piper wants to stay with the circus forever, and she thinks that she could do that if she works for them. She calls it the perfect plan. Do you agree? Why or why not? Predict what could go wrong.

#### **Chapter Four:**

What are some of the conflicts that Piper is having with Lexie?

In which ways does Piper trick Lexie in this chapter?

#### **Chapter Five:**

Piper messes up the Little Explorers dance and thinks, "I'd ruined the whole show." Do you agree? Has she ruined it?

She also thinks that her mom will get in trouble because Piper has ruined the show. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Make a prediction about what you think will happen next.

#### **Chapter Six:**

Why does the audience cheer for Piper (instead of booing her) when Miss Sarah pulls her onstage?

Piper says, "Little Explorers were supposed to be strong." In what ways do we see her being strong?

#### **Chapter Seven:**

Piper's mom says, "I know you got scared last night...Don't feel bad about that. You just have to keep trying. It gets easier each time." Do you agree with this advice? Why or why not?

When they get to breakfast, Piper thinks, "I didn't really want to sit with all those people, though. I wanted to have time with just my mom." Why do you think Piper just wanted to have breakfast with her mom?

## **Chapter Eight**

Piper tells Big Top Bubba that the Little Explorers don't like her anymore. Do you think that's true? Why or why not?

Have you ever had a mentor?

In what ways could you be a mentor to someone?

Why do you think Lexie is excited about helping Piper?

Why do you think Piper doesn't want Lexie to know that she saw how excited she was to help her?

## **Chapter Nine**

Why does Miss Sarah say that Piper is lucky to have Lexie's help? What makes her so lucky?

Piper believes that she's ruined the circus again. Why? Has she ruined it?

Piper thinks no one will ever forgive her – do you agree? Why or why not?

## **Chapter Ten**

How does Piper end up saving the show?

Chase doesn't want Piper to go. He says, "You made the circus fun." In what ways did Piper make the circus fun?

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**Whole Book Questions**

Summarize what happens when Piper joins the circus.

How do the Fairground Facts add to the story? Pick the one that you think is the most interesting and explain why you picked it.

How is Big Top Bubba an important part of the story? Use two details from the book to support your view.

What is Miss Sarah's role in the story? In what ways is she important?

Describe the different types of trouble Piper gets into when she's at the circus. Use details from the story to support your answer.

Bubba tells her, "People make mistakes...everyone does. But it all worked out in the end and that's all that matters, right?" Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Where do we see examples of people making mistakes in the book? How do they turn out okay in the end?

What words would you use to describe Piper in this book? Select three words and explain why you chose them.

Describe the setting of *Piper Morgan Joins the Circus*. How is this setting important to this story?

How is Piper like you? How is she different from you? Is Piper someone you would want to be friends with? Why or why not?

How is family important in this book? What does Piper learn about family?

Why did Piper want a friend so bad?

Is there a villain in this story? If so, who? If not, explain why you feel this way.

Explain what Piper learns from her time in the circus.

How does Lexie change throughout the book? Describe who Lexie is at the beginning, middle and end of the book.

What fears/challenges does Piper overcome throughout the book?

Piper thinks a lot about the idea of things being temporary versus permanent. What are things that are temporary in this book? What are things that are permanent?

At the end of the book, while Piper and her mom wait for a taxi they talk about what a best friend was. What is a best friend? Describe your best friend.

Predict! What do you think will happen at the next job for Piper and her mom?

How has Piper's relationship with Lexie changed throughout the book?

How has Piper changed throughout the book? How is she the same?

Who are the secondary characters in the book? Identify a minimum of three and discuss why they are important to the story.

The title of the book is *Piper Morgan Joins the Circus*. Come up with a new one and explain why you chose it using details from the book to show your view.

**This guide aligns with Common Core Standards ELA-Literacy.R2.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and ELA-Literacy.W2.1 and 3.**