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Activity Guide

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It's Justin Time, Amber Brown

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ABOUT THE STORY

Amber Brown really likes her best friend, Justin, but he has one major flaw: he's always late! Amber worries that he won't be "Justin" time to see her open her presents on her birthday, but soon she realizes that Justin time and Amber Brown time can co-exist peacefully.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paula Danziger is the well-known and well-loved author of more than 25 books, including *Get Ready for Second Grade*, *Amber Brown*, another easy reader and Live Oak Readalong. Though many of the characters and situations in her books come from her imagination, the character of Amber Brown was inspired by a conversation Ms. Danziger had with her niece.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tony Ross was born in London, England. He is the author and illustrator of over 50 books, including *Get Ready for Second Grade*, *Amber Brown*. He lives in Cheshire, England, with his wife and daughter.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they are ever late for important events. Have them describe ways they have tried to ensure they are on time. Then explain that the book they will read is about a girl whose best friend is always late.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why is Amber especially glad about her seventh birthday?"
- "Why does Amber borrow her mother's watch?"
- "What does Amber get for her birthday?"
- "Why is Justin late for Amber's birthday party?"
- "What does Amber decide to do about Justin's lateness?" (*Draw Conclusions*)
- "How are Justin and Amber different where time is concerned?" (*Compare and contrast*)

Vocabulary

Write these vocabulary words from the story on the chalkboard. Have children write them in alphabetical order. Then have volunteers give definitions for each word. Write the definitions on the board and have children copy them. Finally, ask children to use each word in a sentence of their own. Volunteers can read their sentences aloud to the class.

dyeing

mixture

fidgeting

definitely

refrigerator

annoyed

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Across Time Zones

Amber Brown and Justin have different ideas about time, but at least they live in the same time zone. Explain the concept of time zones to the class. Show them a map of the world with time zones marked on it. Help them locate their own time zone on the map and find other towns and cities in the same time zone. Then have them find places whose time is twelve hours different from their time. Explain that in those places, it is night when it is day for them and day when it is night for them.

Art: Design a Watch

Point out the picture of the watch that Amber receives for her birthday. Ask children to work with partners to design their own watch. They can use construction paper and colored pens or pencils to draw a watch with all the features they would want. Display completed watch designs in the classroom.

Math: Different Places, Different Times

Show children the city of London on a map. Explain that the time in London is five hours later than Eastern Standard Time and eight hours later than Pacific Time. Tell them how much later London is than their own time. Ask children to solve these math problems about a London pen pal.

- If you wanted to wish your London pen pal happy birthday at her twelve o'clock birthday party, what time in your house would you call her?
- If your pen pal wanted to call as soon as you got home to see how your first day of school went, and you got home at three o'clock, what time in London should she call you?

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

History of Watches

Have children go online to find out when and where watches were invented. Using the keywords history of watches, children can learn about timepieces and those who invented and modified them. Ask them to take notes on the information they find and report back to the class.