

Activities for Children

related to Henry! you're late AGAIN!

If you are having me visit your school as an author, you may consider doing an activity before as well as after the visit to extend learning opportunities. Be sure to read *Henry! You're late AGAIN!* to your class before I arrive. Here are great ideas for a parent or teacher to use to help make reading and writing fun!

Thinking/Discussion

Why is Henry worried about being late for school? Why is he late everyday? Is that something he can change? Are you late sometimes? Why? What helps prevent someone from being late?

Is Miss Timberlane a big bad wolf (meaning, is she mean?)

Who is Sophie Hendricksen? What idea does she give Henry about Miss Timberlane? Why does she think this?

Are there things in your life that you aren't in control of? What are they? What things ARE you in control of and responsible for?

Writing Connection

Any of the ideas above (in thinking/discussion section) are good writing topics.

Write story called *Who Cares If I'm Late?*

It can be humorous ie My pet lizard would wonder why I'm not feeding him and grow skinny and not have the energy to escape and terrorize my sister.

Could be a serious story with same title ie We would miss our plane to go on vacation or I would miss out on a lot of learning at school if I was always late.

ABC s: Write the alphabet down the side of your paper. Try finding at least one word (from Henry book) per alphabet letter and write it beside that letter.

Write a review (what you thought of the book) and send it to the author at mary@marybleckwehl.com

Use a "late slip" to write why you've been late to something. Display all students' slips on a bulletin board or in a book.

If the dog in the story could talk, what would he say? What would you name him? Why is he going to school with Henry? Is he invisible?

Write a story called *What Our Principal Does All Day Long*. It could be silly or real. Interview your principal to find out and write up a news article about this. Would you like to be a school principal someday? What would you change in schools if you were?

Henry Book Series! If there were a series, what would the next 5 titles be? Write one of the books.

Patience

We are all impatient at times, as Henry is in the story. What are you impatient about? Make a list.

Literature Connection

Related Books on being late - Students can make text to text connections or compare/contrast these books with Henry book.

Late for School by Steve Martin, published Sept 2010 for ages 4-8. The famous actor/comedian has teamed with artist C.F. Payne to tell the adventures involved in getting to school. Enclosed with the book is a CD of Martin on banjo and vocals, singing the book's story with bluegrass music.

Almost Late for School by Carol Diggory Shields, published July 2003 for ages 4-8. Illustrated by Paul Meisel. A compilation of 22 poems.

Late for School! By Stephanie Calmenson, published Sept 2008 for ages 4-8. Illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa. This story is about Mr. Bungles, a teacher who overslept and is going to be late for school. He tries rushing by car, train, bus and many other means of transportation.
Rhyming Text.

Poetry

Make up silly excuses for being late. Make a poem from them.

Patience is something Miss Timberlane talks to Henry about. Look up the definition in the dictionary and make an acrostic poem using the word PATIENCE. Write the word down the side of a paper and then start each line of your poem with a letter from the word.

Humor

List as many things as possible that you find funny in Henry's story. Pick one and draw a picture of it.

Math

If you were 10 minutes late every day of school, how many hours would you miss of school if you had 180 days of school? How would this affect your learning?

If Miss Timberlane lived at school and didn't have to pay rent, how much money would she save in 10 years if an apartment cost \$700 a month?

How long does it take you to get ready in the morning? Write a minute to minute log of what you do from the time you get up until you get to school.

Count the number of times the dog appears in the book.

Artists

Draw a picture of dogs (or any animal) and their owners. Make the dogs' hairdos match their owner (like Miss Timberlane's dog hairdo matches hers). Make them into a class book. Use Miss Timberlane and her dog as the cover.

Actors

Turn Henry into a robot. Act the story out that way.

Write a one-act play on how you could program yourself (as a robot) and your wake-up time/schedule so you'd never be late.

Be creative! Dream up your own ideas! Have fun!