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# Katy's Last-Minute Book Report

by Sasha Griffin



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Realistic fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main Idea</li><li>• Sequence</li><li>• Monitor and Fix Up</li></ul>

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illustrated by Tom LaBaff





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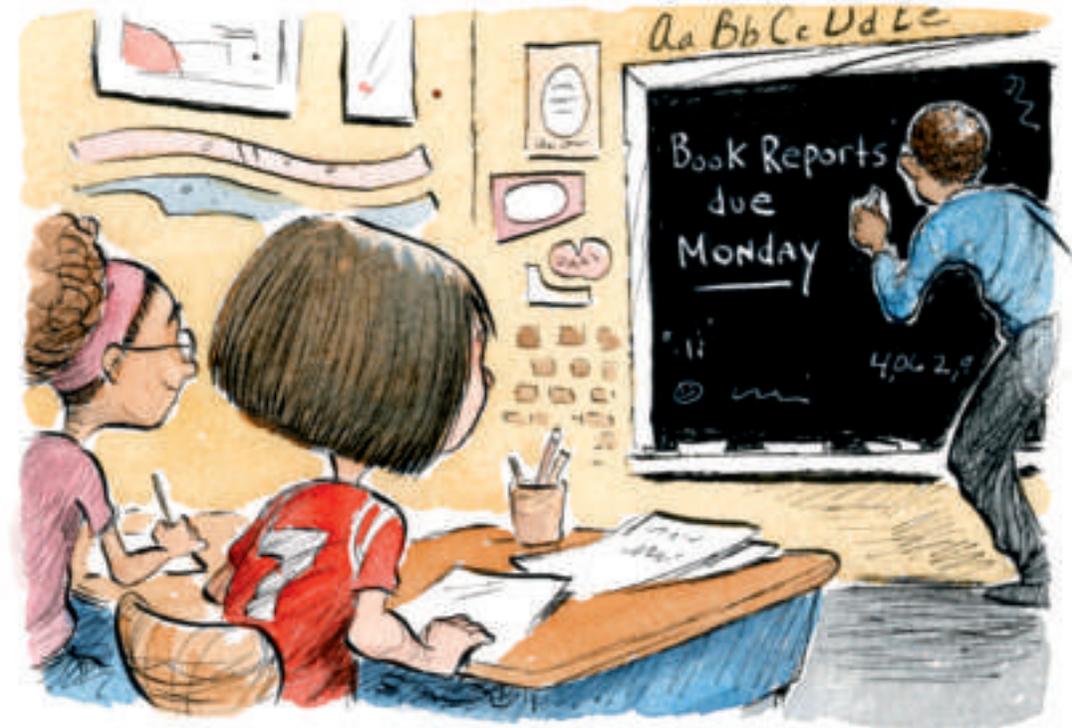


by Sasha Griffin  
illustrated by Tom LaBaff



Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York  
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Illustrations by Tom LaBaff

ISBN: 0-328-13344-2

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It was Monday afternoon and almost time to go home. Mr. Hayes pointed to the assignment on the board.

Katy read, "Book Reports due Monday."

"Our monthly book share will be next Monday," Mr. Hayes reminded them.

"Sharing your interesting reports and colorful posters is a great way for us to learn about books that are new to us. Your reports will encourage us to read those books!"





Katy walked home with her friend Pam. "What book are you going to write about?" Pam asked. "I don't know," said Katy. "Haven't you started yet?" Pam looked surprised. "I'm already finished reading mine." "We still have a whole week," Katy said. "There's plenty of time."



At that moment, the girls were in front of the library. "There's the library," said Pam. "Maybe you should look for a book." "That's a good idea," replied Katy. Inside the library Katy found a book about horses. "That looks good," said Pam. "I think it does too," Katy agreed. "I'm going to check it out. I will start reading it tonight right after soccer practice."





But Katy was too tired to read after soccer practice. "I'll start the book tomorrow," she told herself firmly.

Tuesday came, and Katy watched TV for a few hours after school. Then, after dinner, she worked on her coin collection until bedtime. She loved her shiny coins.

"It's too late to read now," Katy decided. "Tomorrow I'll start it for sure."



"Do you want to come over?" Katy asked Pam after school on Wednesday. They were both walking home.

Pam shook her head. "I have to work on my book report. Are you liking your horse book?"

"I'm going to start it today," Katy said.

"Boy! You always leave things until the last minute!" Pam exclaimed.

"It's not the last minute," Katy told her. "I still have four whole days left."





Katy finally began reading her book on Thursday. It wasn't easy. The book had so much new information that Katy had to strain to understand it. By bedtime she had read only a few pages.

On Friday night Katy's brother asked, "Aren't you going to watch a video with us? It's your turn to choose."

"I can't," said Katy. "I have to read."



When Katy arrived home, her mom was waiting for her. "Your room is an enormous mess!" she scolded. "Things are scattered everywhere! Please clean it up!"

"But I have to read my book," Katy answered.

"Your room comes first," Mom said.

It took Katy hours to put her stuff away. By the time she was done, she was too tired to read. So Katy put off starting her book until Thursday.





Katy did not enjoy the game. She was worried about finishing her book. She even tried reading during halftime, but it was hard to concentrate.

"Who wants to go out for ice cream?" asked the coach after the game.

"We do!" shouted everyone but Katy.

"I wish I could," Katy said. "But I have a book report to do."

"That's too bad!" said the coach. "We'll miss you!"



Katy ate breakfast Saturday morning. Then she went right back to her room to read her horse book.

"At least I have the whole weekend," she thought.

There was a knock on her door. "Do you realize you have a soccer game in half an hour?" asked Dad.

"Oh, no!" wailed Katy. She quickly put on her uniform and grabbed her book. "I'll have to read in the car."





Katy read for the rest of Saturday. She had just started the last chapter when the phone rang. It was Pam.

"We're going out for pizza and a movie," Pam said. "Can you come?"

"I can't," Katy groaned. "I still have to work on my book report. I wish I'd started it earlier, like you!"



Katy finally finished her book Saturday night. She thought about everything she would have to do the next day to finish her report on time. She had the report to write, and she also had the poster to do.

"I don't even know if I have poster paper," Katy worried. "Why did I wait until the last minute to do this?"





During book share on Monday, Katy explained some interesting facts about horses. She answered a few questions too.

At the end of the day, Mr. Hayes reminded his students, "Your descriptive paragraphs are due on Friday."

As Katy and Pam walked home, Katy said, "Let's go to my house and work on our paragraphs. I'm not leaving anything until the last minute ever again!"



Katy began writing her book report on Sunday morning, and by lunchtime she had finished.

That afternoon Katy looked for poster paper, but she had none. She taped two pieces of lined paper together and drew with her crummy old crayons.

"This looks awful," Katy complained to her mom. "I don't want to turn it in."

"I think this project has taught you an important lesson," her mom said.





## Planning Your Time

Third-grade students have many things to do each day. Homework, sports, and family activities take up a lot of time. It can be hard to decide *what* to do *when*.

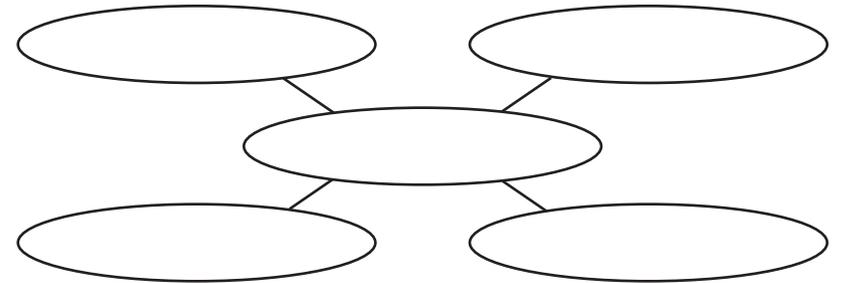
Can you think of some ideas for planning your time well? Here's a list that one student started. Add your own ideas to the list.

1. Make a calendar for the week.
2. Write things to do for the week on the calendar.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



## Reader Response

1. What was the main idea of the story?
2. On a web like the one below, write *Katy missed . . .* in the middle oval. Then write the four activities that Katy missed out on because she hadn't completed her book report.



3. Find the base words of *information* and *collection*. Write two sentences using each base word.
4. If you found yourself in a situation like Katy's, what would you do?

