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# Activity Guide

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## Wemberly Worried

### ABOUT THE STORY

Wemberly is a worrier. She worries about big things, and she worries about little things. Most of all, she worries about starting school. When she finally gets to school, though, she finds that maybe, just maybe, she has been worrying too much.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Kevin Henkes lives with his wife and son in Madison, Wisconsin. He is the acclaimed author and illustrator of many wonderful books, including *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, *Chester's Way*, and *Sheila Rae, the Brave*, all Live Oak Readalongs.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever been worried about something that turned out all right. Ask volunteers to give examples. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a girl who worries about absolutely everything

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- “What worry does Wemberly have about the tree in her yard?”
- “What worries does Wemberly have about her birthday party?”
- “What does Wemberly do when she is especially worried?”
- “What is one of Wemberly’s worries about school?”
- “How is Jewel similar to Wemberly?” (*Compare and contrast*)
- “Why does Wemberly finally stop worrying so much?” (*Draw conclusions*)

#### **Vocabulary**

Write these words on the chalkboard. Help children to define each word. Then ask children to choose a word to answer each of these questions.

radiator                      bolts                      neighborhood                      enough

1. What do you call the area where you live?
2. What do you say when you don't want any more?
3. What helps keep you warm in winter?
4. What helps to hold things together?

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Language Arts: The Worry Box**

Pass out slips of paper to children. Ask them to write down one or more worries they have or have had in the past. Put the slips of paper in a box. Have children take turns pulling out worries from the box. After the child reads the worry aloud, he or she can offer advice on how to deal with the worry.

#### **Health: Playground Safety**

Wemberly worries about the safety of her playground. Have children volunteer rules for playground safety. Write their rules on the chalkboard, or type them up and make copies to distribute to the class.

#### **Art: Halloween Parade**

In the book, Wemberly and her friends dress in some very imaginative costumes for the Halloween parade. Have children design and draw costumes of their own for a parade. Encourage them to make the costumes as imaginative as possible.

#### **Language Arts: Alliterative Titles**

Point out to the class that the beginning sounds in the words “Wemberly worried” are the same. Explain that this is called alliteration. Ask children to make up alliterative titles with their own names, such as “Susan Sang” or “Charlie Chewed.” Write their suggestions on the chalkboard. Children who want to can go on to write stories using their titles.

### 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.

#### **Wemberly Activities**

Children can find activities linked with *Wemberly Worried* on the hardcover publisher’s website, using the book’s title as keywords. On the website, children can do a maze, read recipes, and play games. Have them work in small groups to do one of the website’s activities.