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Activity Guide

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It's a Fair Day, Amber Brown

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ABOUT THE STORY

Amber Brown is going to the county fair, and she wants it to be a perfect day. But her friend Justin eats all her breakfast cereal, and her parents are mad at each other. At the fair, Justin's little brother gets sick all over Justin, and Amber's parents start to fight. Is there any way this day can be saved?

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 have ever been to a county fair. Volunteers can describe the experience to the class. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a girl's visit to a fair and the good and bad things that happen to her there.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What happens at breakfast to upset Amber?"
- "How do Amber's parents act at the fair?"
- "What happens to Danny on the airplane ride?"
- "What does Amber do when her parents fight?"
- "Why do Amber's parents stop being mad?" (*Draw Conclusions*)
- "Why does Amber give her goldfish away?" (*Analyze Character*)

Vocabulary

Write these words from the story on the chalkboard. Then write the sentences below. Have children copy the sentences, using context clues to place the correct word in each blank.

annoyed sleigh ignore vacation necklace

- Amber tries to _____ Danny when he teases her.
- Amber's family is on _____ in the Poconos.
- Amber's mother feels angry and _____ at Amber's father.
- Amber wants to sit in the _____ on the merry-go-round.
- Amber likes to use her cereal to make a _____.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Find the Poconos

Have children work in small groups to draw a map of Pennsylvania. Help them locate and label the Poconos on their maps. Then encourage them to include other Pennsylvania landmarks, such as the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the Allegheny, Ohio, Monongahela, Susquehanna, and Delaware rivers, Lake Erie, and the Allegheny Mountains.

Art: Draw A Merry-Go-Round Animal

Have children think of an animal they would like to ride on a merry-go-round. Children can draw the animal, color it, and cut it out. Encourage them to be imaginative — they don't have to stick to horses. Collect the animals and tape or paste them in a large circle to make a class merry-go-round.

Science: Animals at the Fair

County fairs usually include exhibits of animals: cows, sheep, horses, goats, pigs, rabbits, and chickens. Ask children to work in small groups to choose one of these farm animals and report on it. Have them find out how their animal is raised and used on a farm. When they are finished, groups can present the information they have found to the class.

Language Arts: County Fair Senses

Have children think about experiencing a county fair through their senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Ask them to choose one sense and imagine how a fair would affect that sense. Children can write a descriptive paragraph or a poem describing the fair as experienced through the sense they have chosen.

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.

Find a Fair

Many county fairs are described on the Internet. Using the keywords *county fair*, have children find a website that tells about a fair. They can report on the fair they find, explaining where and when it takes place and what activities it offers.