

LEVELED BOOK • M

# *Fall Forward, Spring Back*



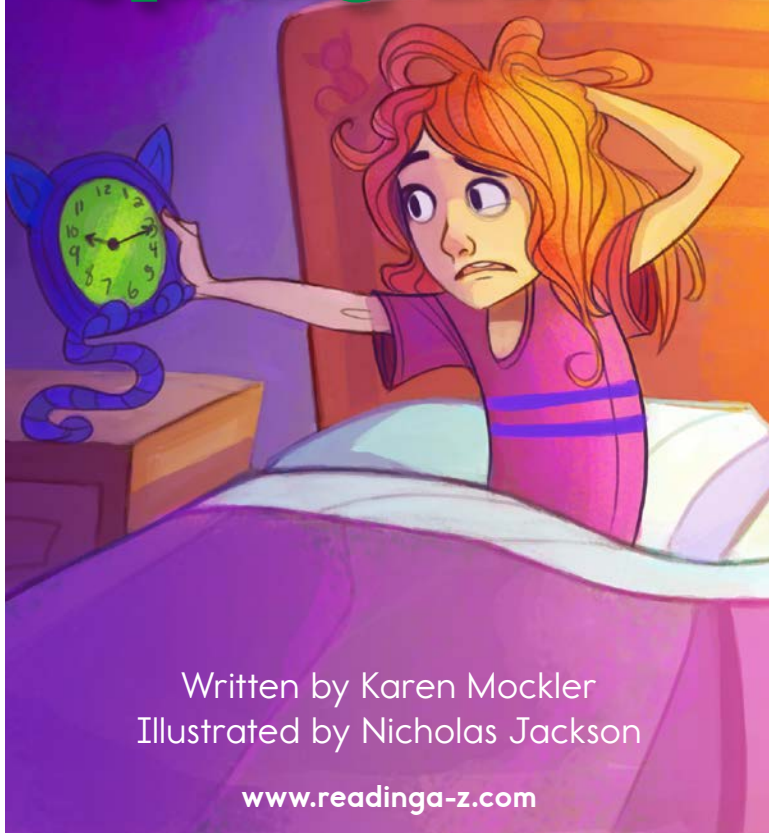
**Multi  
level  
J•M•P**

Written by Karen Mockler  
Illustrated by Nicholas Jackson

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## **Focus Question**

What does Nola learn about Daylight Saving Time?





It was the first Friday in November—**Daylight Saving Time** ended that weekend.

“Remember to set your clocks back an hour on Saturday night,” said Nola’s teacher. “Spring forward, fall back.”

### Why “Save Daylight”?

Many countries use a daylight saving program during their warmer months, when the days are longer. Why bother? In order to save energy. By moving the clock ahead an hour during these months, sunlight lasts longer into the evening.



Nola didn't pay much attention. At eight years old, she'd been late so many times, she figured she'd go on that way forever. She'd be late for her first job, her college graduation, her wedding.

"And if you like **parades**," he added, "don't forget the one this Sunday morning at ten o'clock."

Nola had never been to the fall parade. That night at dinner, she asked her mom if they could go.

“I won’t be here Sunday,” Mom reminded her, “but I’ll bet Pablo could take you.”

Pablo was Nola’s big brother, sixteen and always sleepy. He would be in charge while their mom was away.

“Don’t forget,” Mom said. “Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend.”







"I don't really get it," Nola confessed.  
"Are we actually *saving* daylight or just moving it around?"

Nola's mom smiled. "Moving it around," she said. "In November, we set our clocks back an hour. So the Sun rises earlier in the morning—or seems to—and sets earlier in the evening. In March, we do just the opposite and the Sun sets later."

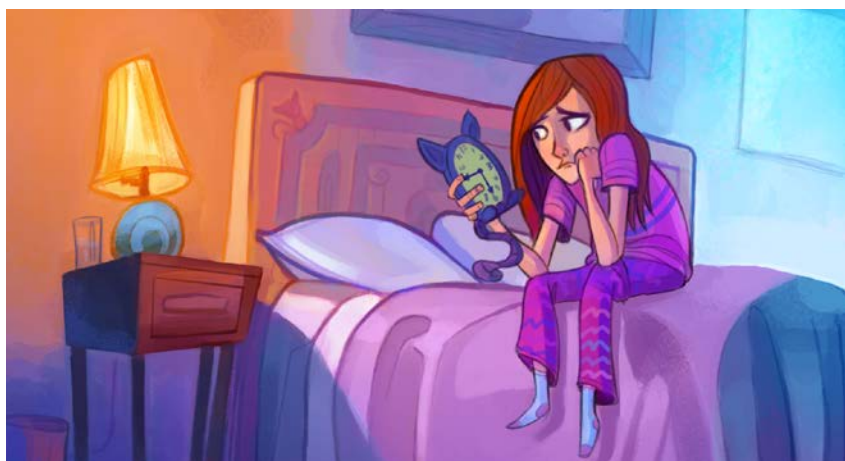
"Crazy stuff," Pablo yawned.



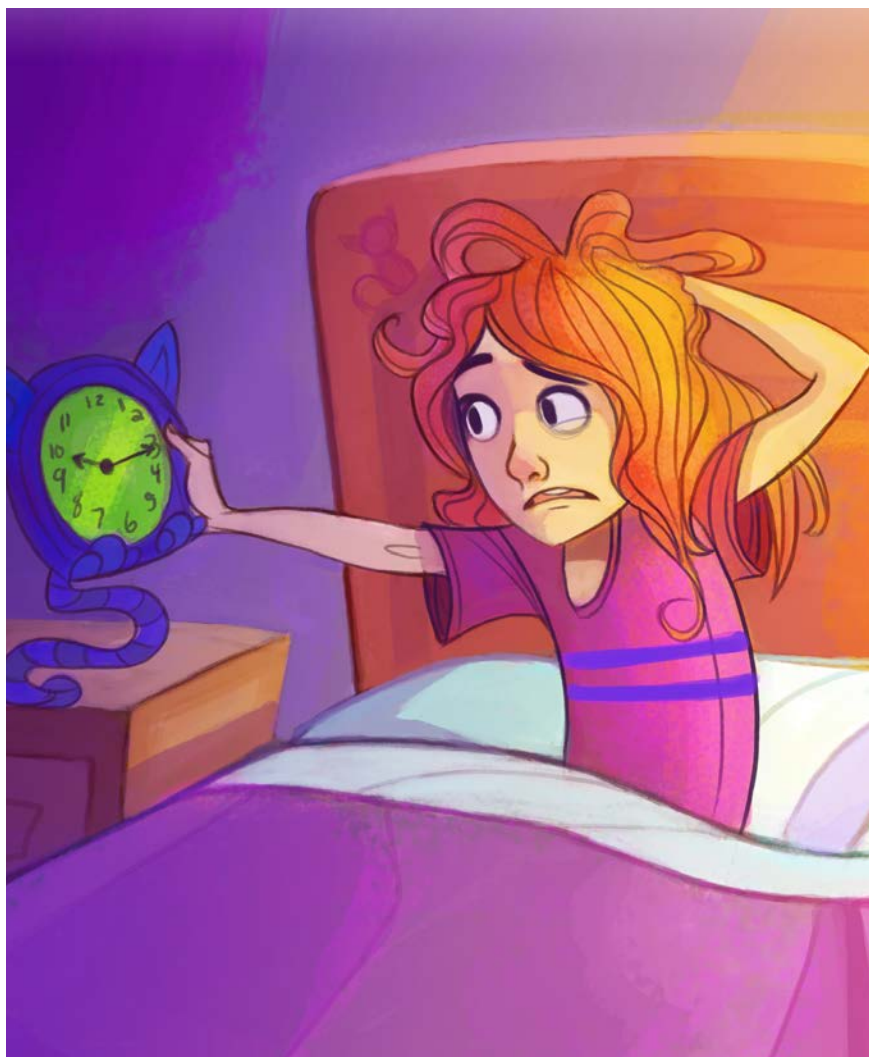
Saturday morning, their mom kissed them both goodbye and drove to the airport. That night as Nola got in bed, she thought back to her teacher's words: "Spring forward, fall back."

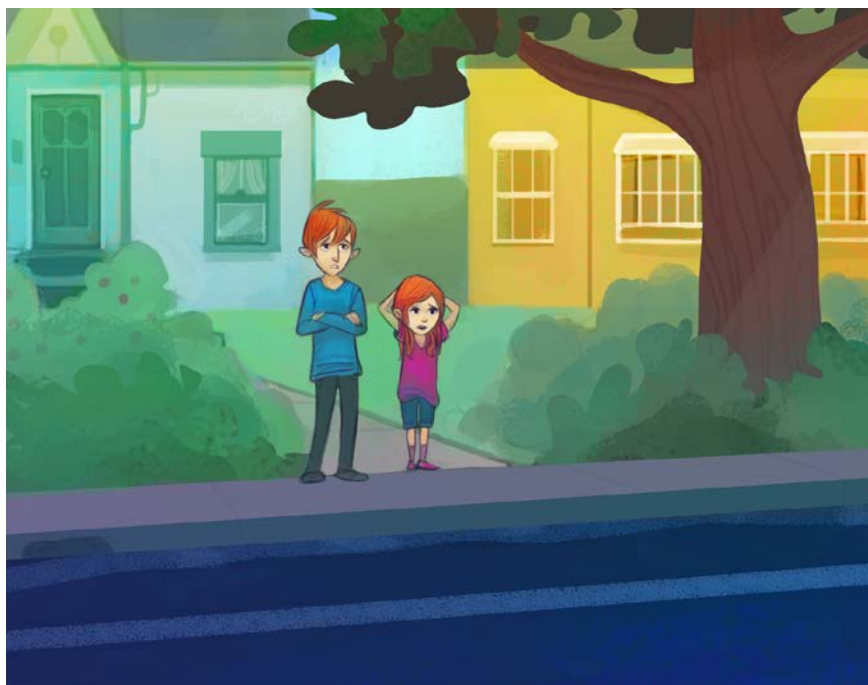
Or was it "Fall forward, spring back"? "Fall forward" sounded better, so she set her clock forward an hour. Just like that, it was past her bedtime. She was late again.

"Time," Nola sighed, "is not my friend."



Nola overslept the next morning.  
When she woke, her clock said  
10:15. She ran and rustled her  
brother out of bed.





When they reached the parade **route**, though, there was no parade. It seemed they'd missed the whole thing. They turned and headed home.

On their way back, they spotted their neighbor Frank. He was climbing around next to an eight-foot, bright orange pumpkin. They walked over for a closer look.



Frank saw them and broke into a grin. “The early bird gets the worm!” he cried.

Nola and Pablo looked at each other. Pablo had never been early for anything in his life, either.

“Climb on up here, sonny, and give me a hand with this **float**!” shouted Frank. “You too, missy!”

Frank put them both to work for more than an hour. When they were done, his float looked fantastic.

“So,” Pablo said at last, “I guess you’re all ready for next year’s parade.”







“Next year?” Frank cried. “Try this year!”

Nola and Pablo blinked in **confusion**.

“Wait a minute,” Nola said. “Wasn’t the parade at ten o’clock today?”

“*Was* at ten?” Frank cried. “*Will be* at ten is more like it!”

He **thrust** his wristwatch toward them. It said 9:30.

Nola laughed for joy. “I fell *forward*,” she said. “I needed to fall *back*.”

She had sprung forward an hour when everybody else had fallen back an hour. That meant she and Pablo were now *two hours ahead* of everybody else. For once in their lives, they were early!

“The early bird gets the worm!”  
Nola cried.

Frank nodded. “You got it now, missy,” he said.

Pablo yawned.







It was all a big mistake, but it turned out to be a great mistake.

It's why they rode in the parade on Frank's float—that year and every year since.

It's also why, from that day to this, Nola has made sure to be early for everything. Two minutes early, though—not two hours.



## Glossary

**confusion** (*n.*) a state in which one is unclear or uncertain about something (p. 12)

**Daylight Saving Time** (*n.*) a period of the year between spring and fall when clocks are set one hour ahead (p. 3)

**float** (*n.*) a moving vehicle decorated for use in a parade (p. 10)

**parades** (*n.*) lines of people or vehicles moving forward at a regular pace as part of a celebration or ceremony (p. 4)

**route** (*n.*) a way or direction from one place to another (p. 9)

**thrust** (*v.*) to quickly push with force (p. 12)

## Words to Know

confusion

Daylight Saving Time

float

parades

route

thrust

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### Correlation

LEVEL M	
Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24

# Fall Forward, Spring Back

*A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book*  
*Word Count: 609*

## Connections

### Writing and Art

How does the phrase “spring forward, fall back” help you better understand Daylight Saving Time? Draw a picture and write about it.

### Math

Practice telling time on an analog clock. Tell time to the hour, half hour, and quarter hour. Discuss with a partner what each hand represents when telling time.



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