

LEVELED BOOK • J

# *Fall Forward, Spring Back*

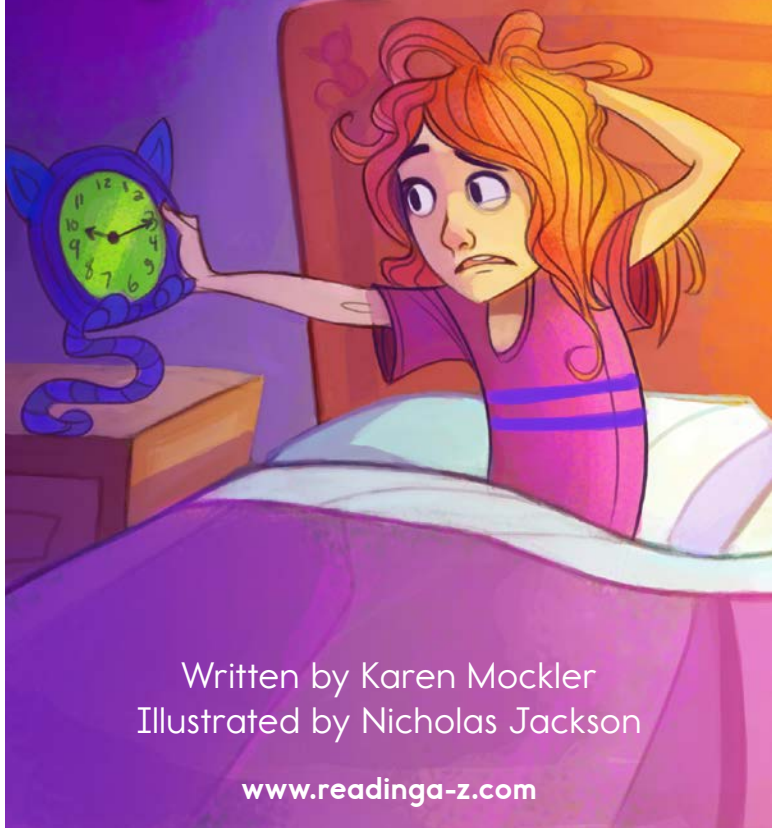


**Multi  
level  
J•M•P**

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 Sunday.

The fall **parade** was Sunday, too.

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

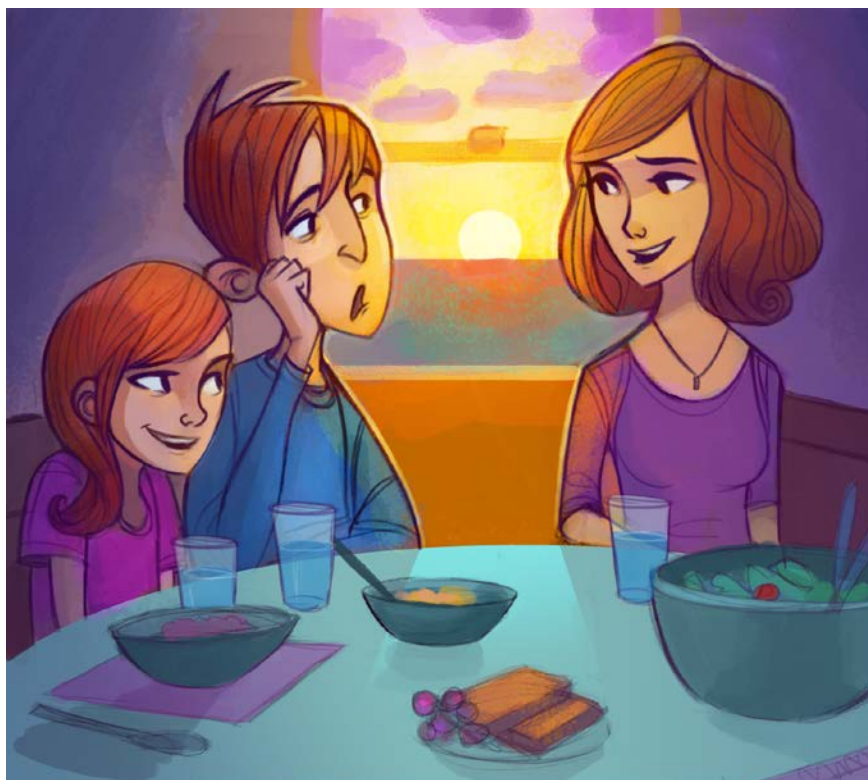
“Spring forward, fall back,” he added.

### **What Is Daylight Saving Time (DST)?**

Many countries use some kind of daylight saving program in order to save electricity. In the United States, people in DST states “spring forward” in March. That means they set their clocks forward an hour. As a result, the Sun rises an hour later and sets an hour later. In November, they do just the opposite (“fall back”), and the Sun sets earlier.

Nola didn't pay much attention.  
She was always late for everything  
anyway.  
She figured she always would be.

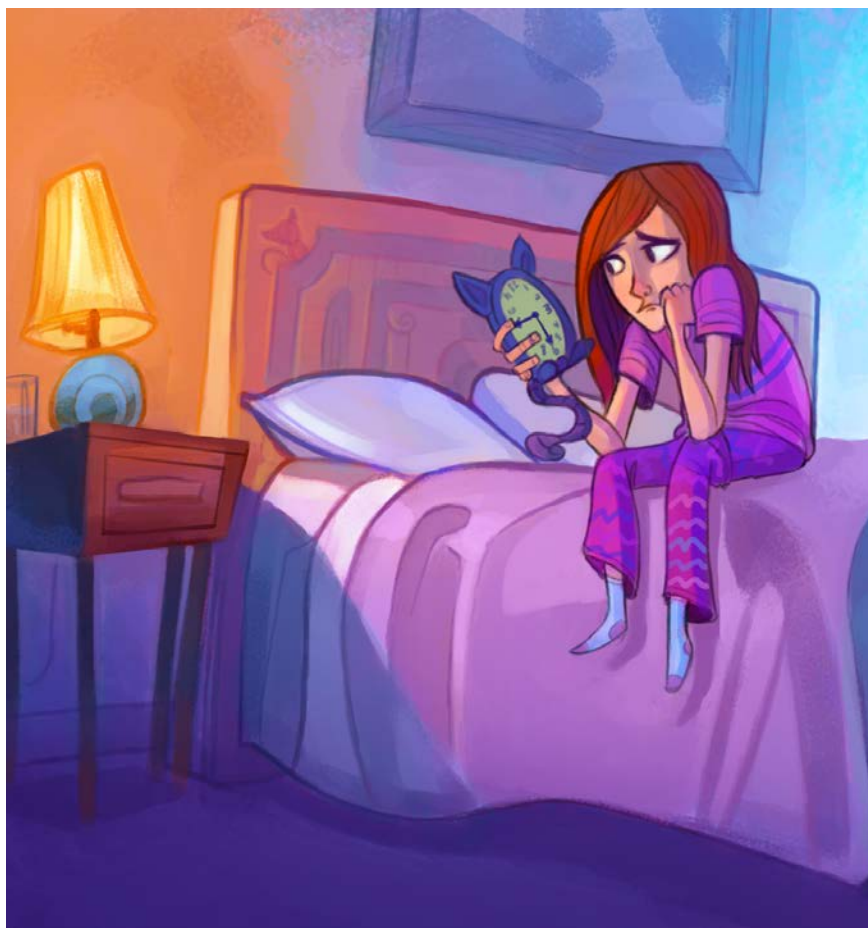




At dinner, though, she asked her mom if they could go to the parade.

“I won’t be here Sunday, but I’ll bet Pablo could take you,” Mom said. Nola looked at Pablo, her sleepy big brother. He nodded—and yawned.





Saturday morning, their mom drove to the airport.

Saturday night, Nola thought back to her teacher's words: "Spring forward, fall back."

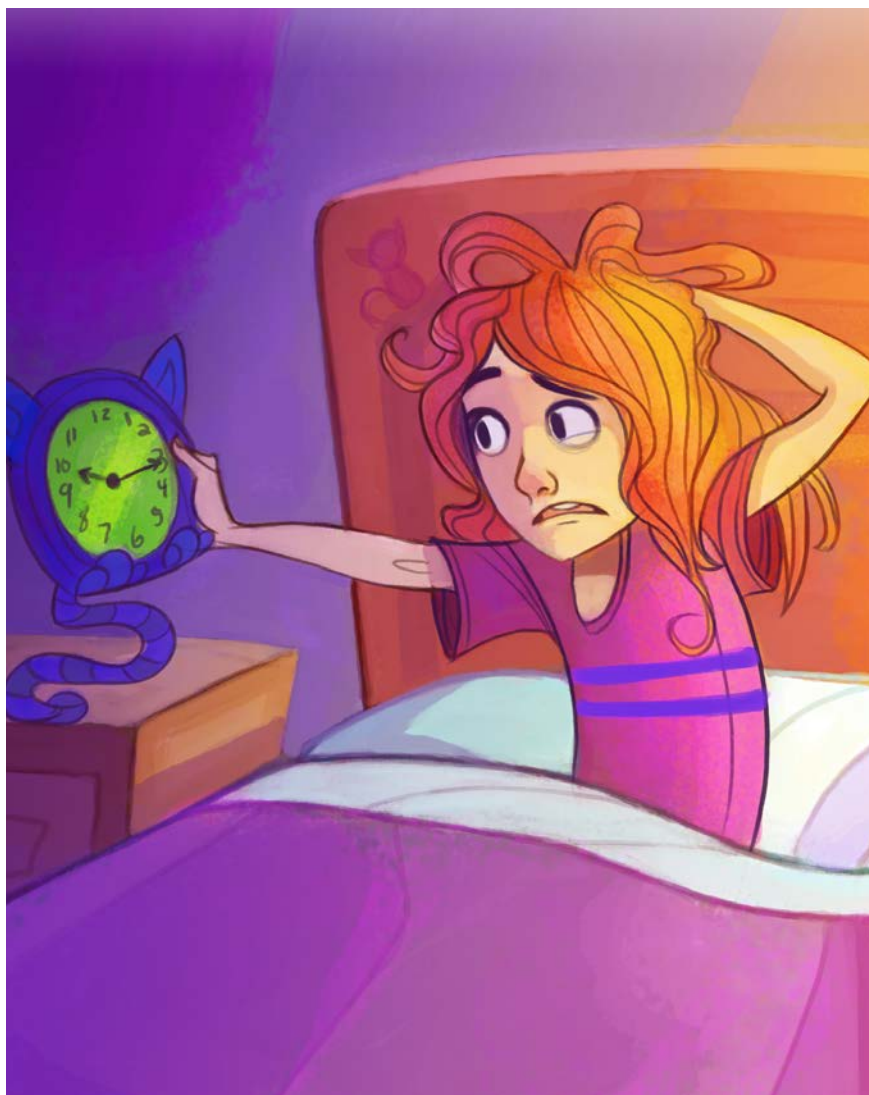
Or was it "Fall forward, spring back"?

“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 is not my friend,” Nola sighed.

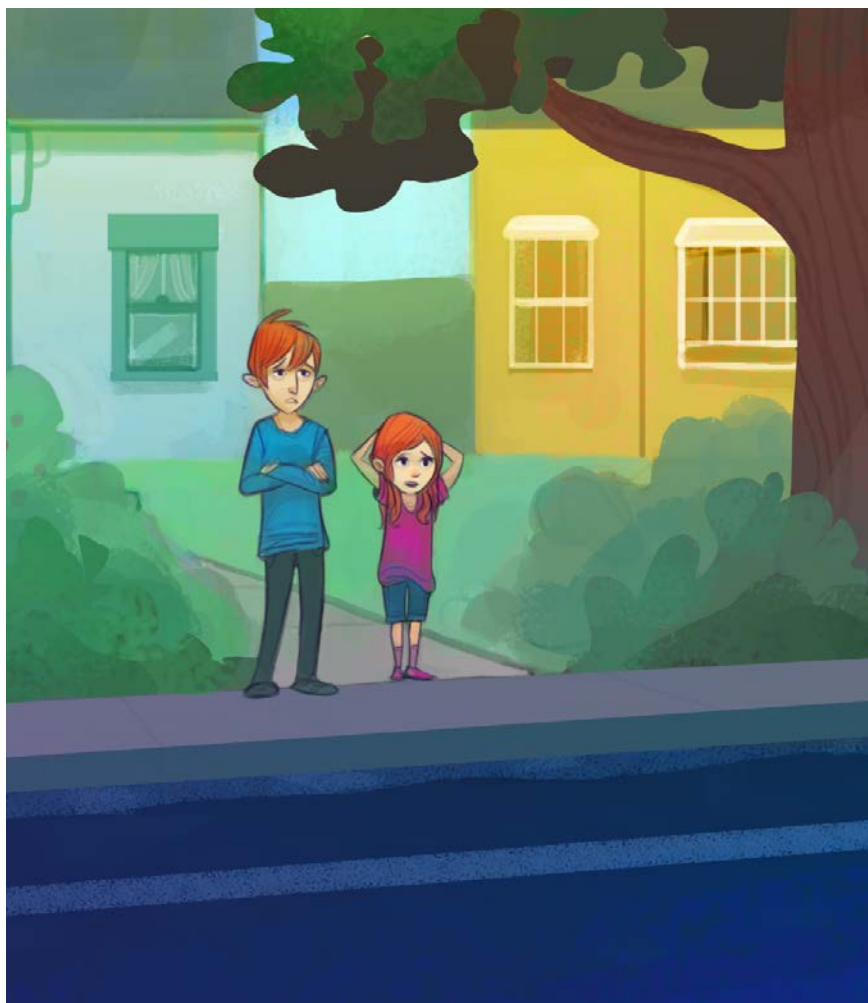


The next morning when Nola woke,  
her clock said 10:15.

The parade began at ten o'clock.







Nola and Pablo ran to the parade **route**, but 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 pumpkin **float**.

“The early bird gets the worm!” he shouted, then asked for their help. They worked on his float for more than an hour.

Then Frank clapped his hands.

“Let’s get to that parade!” he cried.

Nola and Pablo blinked in **confusion**.

“Wait a minute,” Nola said.

“Wasn’t the parade at ten o’clock today?” she asked.

“Was at ten?” Frank asked.

“*Will be* at ten is more like it!”

he cried.

He **thrust** his watch toward them.

It said 9:30.

Nola laughed for joy.





She had jumped forward an hour when everybody else had jumped back.

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’ve got it, 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 that year, and every year since.

It's also why, from that day on, Nola has been early for everything. Two minutes early, though—not two hours.



## Glossary

<b>confusion</b> (n.)	a state in which one is unclear or uncertain about something (p. 11)
<b>Daylight Saving Time</b> (n.)	a period of the year between spring and fall when clocks are set one hour ahead (p. 3)
<b>float</b> (n.)	a moving vehicle decorated for use in a parade (p. 10)
<b>parade</b> (n.)	a line of people or vehicles moving forward at a regular pace as part of a celebration or ceremony (p. 3)
<b>route</b> (n.)	a way or direction from one place to another (p. 9)
<b>thrust</b> (v.)	to quickly push with force (p. 11)

## Words to Know

confusion

Daylight Saving Time

float

parade

route

thrust

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Level J Leveled Book  
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### Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18

# Fall Forward, Spring Back

*A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book*  
*Word Count: 398*

## 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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