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It's about time!

Pat Frade

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Murphy, Stuart J.. *It's about time!*. Illustrated by John Speirs. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060557680. \$15.99. 31 pp.

Reviewer: Pat Frade

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Shortcomings

Genre: Picture books;

Subject: Time--Juvenile fiction; Books--reviews;

This is a very simple picture book about time. It teaches about keeping time by relating the hours of the day to a little boy's activities: waking up, meals, going to school, going home, story time, nap time, play time, bath time, going to bed, etc. It begins and ends the same way, with 7:00 a.m. "wake-up time--a great big stretch". Each hour in this book is given a page which demonstrates not only how that hour is spent but both a digital and conventional (analog) representations of the time. The illustrations are colorful and sweet. The "day-time" hours are on crisp white pages, while the "night-time" hours are shaded to illustrate night. The text is very simple although somewhat unimaginative. The text uses punctuation which may be confusing to young readers, alternating commas and dashes. The "sleep" hours are confusing as they are spent dreaming with some friendly monsters that dance and caper about. But the little boy's eyes are open as he is interacting with the monsters, so it leaves the reader to wonder if the little boy is playing all night or dreaming. The little boy goes to school half-day which illustrates that the book is geared to kindergarten age children or a level 1 reader. However, children that young may not understand the concept of time, as it relates to its representations on a clock. It would be easier for older readers to understand the complex nature of time.