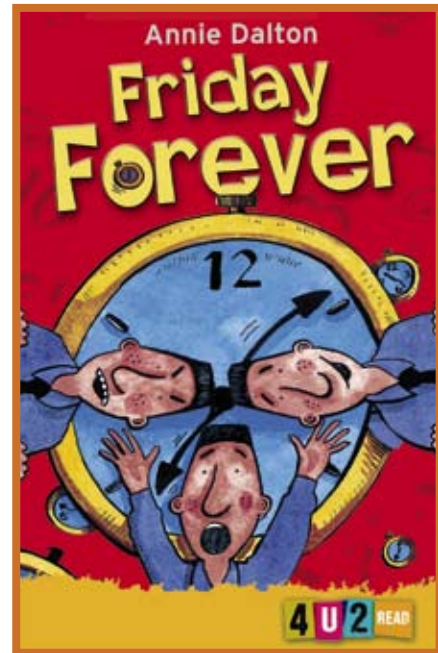




Barrington Stoke

CLASSROOM RESOURCES



ANNIE DALTON

Friday Forever 4u2read

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- PART 2** Chapter Snapshots
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PART 1 OVERVIEW AND THEMES

I. OVERVIEW AND THEMES

Friday Forever is based on the same concept as the film *Groundhog Day* – the main character is condemned to live the same Friday over and over again, with lessons to be learned along the way.

At the beginning of the book Lenny is so stressed by life at home and at school that he feels like a balloon about to zoom off into the air. The perceptive reader may spot that Lenny himself is partly to blame; Lenny does not realise this until several Fridays have passed. In the interim he misbehaves badly, and finally sickens himself of his antics. He realises that he is in control of his behaviour at school, and that a little work pays big rewards. He starts also to see that he has been a bully and that small acts of kindness not only help others but make his life better, too. Only when he sets out to live the best Friday he can do things change enough to break the cycle and start time running again for Lenny.

Friday Forever is a thoughtful exploration of bullying and bad behaviour. It acknowledges the fact that many bullies are themselves afraid of not fitting in and that their behaviour causes unhappiness for themselves as well as their victims. It also reminds the reader that others' expectations of us are in part defined by our expectations of ourselves.

Due to its themes of repetition and incremental change, **Friday Forever** is an ideal text for developing prediction skills in particular.

PART 2 CHAPTER SNAPSHOTS

Chapter 1 – The Cosmic Burp (introduction)

We meet Lenny - a boy who is so stressed he does a 'cosmic burp'.

Chapter 2 – Lenny Stresses Out (background)

Lenny explains that he feels like a balloon filled up with air and about to zoom out of control. His mum and dad have big ambitions for him and he thinks that he is a disappointment to them. He feels that his teacher gets at him too.

Chapter 3 – Too Much Pressure

Lenny wakes up to find there's no breakfast, his mum is stressed about a job interview and his sports kit is unwashed. On the way to school his mate Andy kicks his ball into an old man's garden. Andy and their other friend Dave run off but the old man catches Lenny and makes him rake his gravel. Lenny is soaked and late for school. On the way in he meets 'nerd' Ross, who slips in the wet corridor. Lenny laughs. In class there is a new boy, Darren, and a student teacher called Miss Parrot. A wasp flies in and it turns out the new boy is badly allergic to wasp stings. Lenny and co. 'help' Miss Parrot to catch the wasp, causing havoc. In the end their classmate Sita has to step in.

Chapter 4 – Friday 4 Ever

At lunch Lenny goes along with Dave in excluding the new boy from the group. 'Nerd' Ross drops his chips and Andy and Dave pour ketchup on the mess on the floor. Lenny feels very stressed and discovers that the stress lessens when he joins in and pours ketchup on Ross himself. Sita sees and helps Ross. She won't look at Lenny, who is upset as he secretly likes her. In football in the afternoon, Lenny does really well but in art things go downhill – he gets very stressed when Miss Parrot sets a collage task and so he covers her books with glue and blames Ross. Sita sticks up for Ross but Miss Parrot sends him to the Headmaster anyway. Although he seems to have got away with his trick, Lenny's stress grows and grows. When one of the others asks him if he is alright, he blusters it out, claiming he 'wishes it could be Friday forever'. Then the stress comes out in the 'cosmic burp', much to the disgust of his classmates. The burp blows all the collage materials they are using into the air. The materials land to form the pattern 'Friday Forever'. Lenny gets home to discover his mum has not got the job she was interviewing for, the tea has been burnt and the house feels full of bad energy. He goes to bed.

When Lenny's alarm goes off, he is confused – it's Saturday! But then everything that happened the previous morning begins to happen again, and the clock says it's still Friday 23rd May...

Chapter 5 – Trapped in Time

Lenny initially thinks someone is playing a joke, but he feels worse and worse as the day wears on and he realises the truth – it is the same day, again. He goes to bed with the same bad feeling in the house, and wakes up hoping that the nightmare is over. It's not – it's Friday 23 May again.

Chapter 6 – Miss Parrot's Book Quiz

For a while, Lenny exists in a miserable loop, feeling very sorry for himself. After a few Fridays have passed, he gets the idea of changing things up a little – wearing a silly hat and teasing the others by using his knowledge of previous Fridays to 'predict' what will happen. By the time lunchtime comes round and Ross is bullied by the others, though, he is fed up and walks out. As he walks home, he realises that he has carte blanche to misbehave as much as he likes as, with no tomorrow, there are no real consequences. He indulges in skiving, misbehaving and generally being a horror for a while, but in the end this palls too. A spate of staying-off-sick follows, but this is even more boring, and Lenny becomes sick and pale-looking. He heads back to school, and for once in his life actually tries to do well at something – Miss Parrot's book quiz. To his surprise, he quite enjoys the book. A few more Fridays and he is getting top marks.

Chapter 7 – It's Never too Late!

As he's now getting his school-work sorted, Lenny also sorts out his diet. He also starts to see things he missed the 'first time around' – for example, he sees how lonely new boy Darren is, and takes steps to help him. Feeling great about himself, and the fact that he has changed something about Friday, he is confronted by the biggest wake-up call of all – he sees Ross walking along the street with his sister, looking happy and confident. But as soon as Ross spots Lenny, he shrinks into himself again. Lenny realises that he is a bully, and that other people are under stress just as he is. With this in mind, he goes home and is nice to his mum, and the bad atmosphere of the house dissolves. Inspired by this success, Lenny realises he has got to try to change more things.

Chapter 8 – Lenny changes History

Lenny does everything he usually does wrong on Friday right, from helping his mum with breakfast and wishing her luck in her interview, to complimenting the old man on his garden, to defending Ross from Andy's bullying. In Miss Parrot's class he manages to resist the impulse to put glue on the books, and makes a lovely collage instead. When he gets home, his mum has got the job and the family head out to celebrate.

When Lenny wakes up the next day, it's over. It's SATURDAY!

PART 3 SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DEVELOP READING STRATEGIES

TITLE

What do you predict this story is going to be about?

Chapter 1

What does 'cosmic' mean? Is there another word (or words) you could use in place of 'cosmic'?

What does 'stress' mean? How do people feel when they are under stress?

Chapter 2

Why do you think the author begins by telling us about the balloon Lenny feels he has inside him? Does this make you want to read on? How?

Who is the storyteller (narrator) in the book? How can you tell?

What sort of things do you think Lenny might mean when he says 'I liked to have a bit of fun, that's all'?

Chapter 3

What does 'pressure' mean? Look for clues in the chapter that help you to explain what 'pressure' means.

How would you have felt in the same situation as Lenny's mum when Lenny tells her that her clothes look stupid?

How would you have felt in the same situation as Lenny when Andy and Dave run off and he gets punished for what Andy has done?

What would you have done differently to Lenny when Lenny and Ross meet on the way into school?

Why does the author use capital letters when Dave says 'I ADORE student teachers?'

Chapter 4

How would you have felt in the same situation as Ross when Andy, Dave and Lenny put ketchup on his spilled chips and on him?

What would you have done differently to Lenny when Andy and Dave start to bully Ross at lunch-time?

How would you have felt in the same situation as Darren when he can't play football with the others and when they leave him out at lunch-time?

Chapter 5

Can you find some words/phrases sentences that explain how Lenny feels in this chapter?

Why did Lenny feel like that?

Can you find any words, phrases or sentences that are exact repeats of words, phrases or sentences in **Chapter 4**?

What effect has the author created by repeating words, phrases and sentences from **Chapter 4**?

What do you think might happen next?

Chapter 6

Why are some sentences shorter than others?

What do the pictures tell us?

What do **P56 – 57** tell you about Lenny?

Chapter 7

What happened to Lenny in this chapter?

Why did Lenny make so many changes in this chapter?

Why did Ross trip up when he saw Lenny, when he had been happy walking along with his sister before?

Chapter 8

Were you surprised by the ending? Is it what you expected? Why/why not?

Overall

Which was your favourite part of the book? Why?

What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this?

What do you think would happen next if the story carried on past the ending of the book?

Could the story be improved or changed for the better? How?

Do you think the author is trying to give readers a message? If so, what is it?

Would you like to read another book by this author?

PART 4 ABOUT ANNIE DALTON

Annie Dalton grew up as an only child in the English countryside during the 1950s. Her dad was not always around, but when he was, he would tell her fantastic stories. Often he put her into the stories as the main character. In the end, Annie's dad left and Annie missed him and his stories very much. In order to cheer herself up she started to visit the local library to find other stories to escape into. She developed a very strong love for fantasy books.

Annie has had many jobs, including being a waitress, a cleaner and a factory worker. We are very glad she went on to become a writer!

Annie's other books for Barrington Stoke are:

Ways to Trap a Yeti

Zack Black and the Magic Dads

LEARN MORE ABOUT ANNIE AT HER WEBSITE
WWW.ANNIEDALTON.CO.UK