

Unplugged: Ella Gets Her Family Back

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

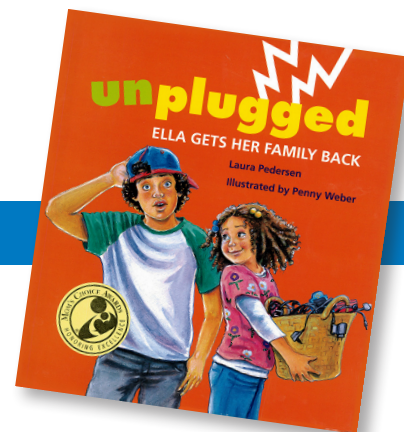
Themes: Technology, Communication, Family Values

Book Brief: Ella is upset that no one in her house will talk to her. Everyone is either on the phone, computer, or music player. She thinks of a plan to make them notice that technology is taking away

their time as a family.

Author:
Laura Pedersen

Illustrator: Penny Weber



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make predictions: What does unplugged mean? What do you think Ella's plan is?

While reading, make connections: Do any of the situations in this story seem familiar? Is your family like this, too?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ How would you describe Ella's family?
- ◆ Which is more important, technology or family time? Explain.
- ◆ What would happen if there were no way to "plug in" for a month?
- ◆ How can you imagine technology is going to change in the future?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Whether it is a walk around the block or a trip to the zoo, plan to do it with your family. Make a pact to spend the time together "unplugged" from phones and video games.

FAMILY FRUIT DIP

Spend some time together in the kitchen whipping up an easy fruit dip for all to enjoy. Combine 8oz. of cream cheese with a cup of yogurt. Cut up pieces of fruit and dip in for a healthy snack. Can you identify the technology used in making the fruit and dip snack?



FAMILY PHOTOS

Unplugged: Draw or use parent-approved photos to create a collage of your family members doing something they enjoy.

Plugged In: Take pictures and use a computer to create a family collage. www.smilebox.com lets you create collages, scrapbooks, slideshows, and more!



FAMILY FAVORITES

Interview family members to find their favorites. Ask about favorite food, color, book, or movie. Can you think of any other favorite things you want to find out about? Does anyone have the same favorite?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT FAMILY

Blackout, John Rocco (2011)
Every Friday, Dan Yacarrino (2012)
Those Shoes, Maribeth Boelts (2011)



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