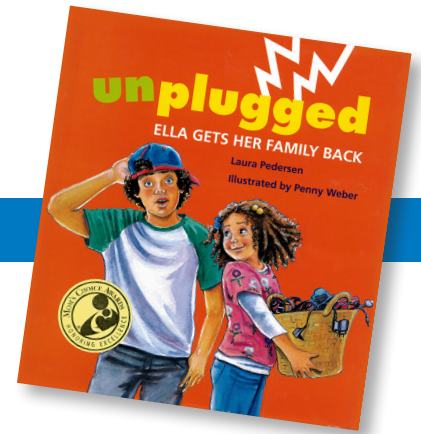


# Unplugged: Ella Gets Her Family Back



**Author:**  
Laura Pedersen

**Illustrator:**  
Penny Weber

**Content Connections:** Science,  
Social Studies

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**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.

## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What predictions can you make about this story from the cover illustration?

**The Pictures:** Show the cover page. How would you describe the look on Ella's face in this picture? What do you think is going through her mind at that moment?

**Prior Knowledge:** Briefly discuss why students think the author chose this topic.

**Vocabulary:** plugged, technology, unplugged

**Purpose for Reading:**  
As we read, think about ways that technology improves our lives and ways it creates new challenges.



## WHILE WE READ



### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

◆ How often do you think Ella and her brother played hangman?

- ◆ What connections are you able to make?
- ◆ Do you think this day is just busier than usual? Explain.
- ◆ Why did Ella's parents come to the conclusion about the cell phone?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What are some ways that technology has improved our lives? What challenges has it also created?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask these open-ended questions: Can you recall a time when you felt like Ella? Explain. What can you infer about Ella's family from the illustrations in the text? Is there a better solution to the problem Ella had? Who do you think implemented the changes? Explain.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental