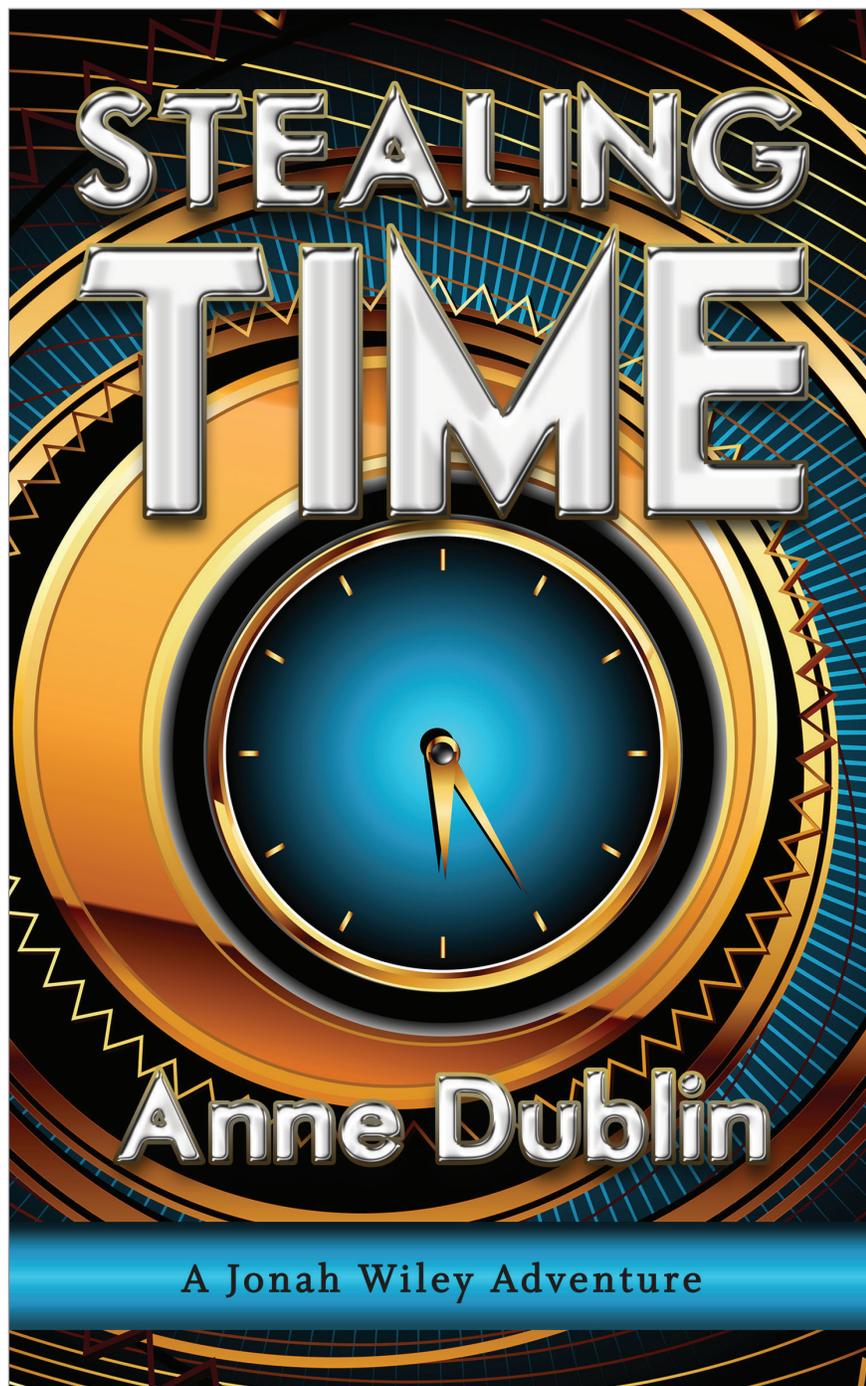


# TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grade 4 to 7



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# I. INTRODUCTION

*Stealing Time* is an historical novel for ages 9 to 12.

Jonah Wiley is having a tough time. His parents are divorced, and now his mom is going to a conference and leaving him with his dad, stepmother, and stepbrother.

But after Jonah steals an antique pocket watch, he and his stepbrother Toby are hurled back in time — to Egypt, China, France, and other places around the world. In order to save themselves and get back to the present, Jonah and Toby must overcome their personal issues and work together to solve the tough problems they encounter.

## About the Author



Anne Dublin is a former teacher-librarian who taught in Nairobi, Kingston, Winnipeg, and Toronto. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin and an elementary school teacher's certificate in Toronto. Her previous books include *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*, winner of the IODE Violet Downey Book Award and the Canadian Jewish Book Award, *June Callwood: A Life of Action*, and *The Orphan Rescue*, finalist for the U.S. National Jewish Book Award for Children's and YA Literature. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.

*Stealing Time* is Anne's second book for Dundurn Press.

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## II. PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- **Discuss hobbies and interests:** What hobbies or interests do you have outside of school that you're passionate about? Brainstorm for others that you know about.
- **Collections:** Do you or someone you know collect things? Describe the collection.
  - Question: Can a collection be taken too far? If so, how and why?
- **Research:** How many ways do you tell time? During the course of one day, make a list of all the ways you tell time e.g. alarm clock, clock radio, watch, smartphone, cell phone, TV, answering machine, wall clock. Combine the list with other students. Make a bar graph.
- **Discuss:** Look at the cover of *Stealing Time*.
  - What do you think the book will be about?
  - How can a person "steal" time?

### III. CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Jonah, a twelve-year-old boy, is fascinated by clocks and watches. He's going through a tough time. His parents are divorced and his father has remarried. Jonah steals his father's antique pocket watch. Jonah and his stepbrother, Toby, are transported back in time. A Stranger follows them as they have exciting adventures during significant periods in the history of timekeeping (see square brackets).

#### **Chapter 1: Present time.**

Jonah Wiley's parents are divorced. Jonah reluctantly visits his father and new family for the weekend.

#### **Chapter 2: Present time.**

Jonah steals his father's pocket watch. Toby winds the watch and they are transported back in time.

#### **Chapter 3: Memphis, ancient Egypt, 1500 BCE.**

Jonah and Toby become apprentices to Medjeh, a carpenter. [shadow clock]

#### **Chapter 4: Kaifeng, China, 1090.**

Jonah and Toby meet Li Po, a storyteller. [astronomical water clock]

#### **Chapter 5: Le Thoronet monastery, France, 1205.**

Jonah and Toby work at the Cistercian monastery. [sandglass, clepsydra, sundial]

#### **Chapter 6: Prague, Bohemia, 1495.**

Jonah meets Hanus, the master clockmaker. [weight-driven clock]

#### **Chapter 7: London, England, 1728.**

Jonah and Toby work for George Graham, a master watchmaker. They meet John Harrison, inventor of the chronometer. [chronometer]

#### **Chapter 8: Plymouth, Connecticut, 1806.**

Jonah meets Eli Terry, an American clockmaker. [mass-produced clocks with interchangeable parts]

## **Chapter 9: Bandoran, Ireland, July 1876.**

Sandford Fleming misses his train and Jonah spends time at a railway station with him. [24-hour clock, world standard time zones]

## **Chapter 10: Ottawa, Canada, 1958.**

On a class trip, Jonah and Toby meet Dr. Ralph Bailey at the National Research Council. [atomic clock]

## **Chapter 11: Present time.**

Jonah and Toby come back home.

## IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

### Chapter 1 (Present time)

1. Explain what Jonah means when he says, "They're too nice."
2. Why doesn't Jonah's room give him any comfort now? (Or, explain why he's upset.)
3. Do you have a hobby or interest that you're passionate about?
  - a. Explain what it is and why you like it.
  - b. How do people react to your hobby or interest?
4. When Mr. Wiley opened the door, what did Jonah want to say? Why didn't he?
5. What did Mr. Wiley, Pam, and Toby do to try to make Jonah feel more comfortable?

### Chapter 2

1. Where did Mr. Wiley get the antique pocket watch? What was he planning to do with it?
2. How does Jonah rationalize that it was all right to steal the watch?
3. Have you ever wished you could slow down time? Or speed it up? Or make it stop? Give an example of each.
4. Describe the watch. (Give three details.)
5. The watch has an ancient saying engraved on its case: "Time as he grows old teaches many lessons." What does this saying mean?
6. How did Jonah feel when Toby grabbed the watch and wound it? How would you have felt?

### Chapter 3 (Memphis, Egypt, 1400 BCE)

[shadow clock]

1. Why does Jonah refuse to wind the watch again? In your opinion, was he right? Why or why not?
2. Why was Medjeh praying? What were the offerings he made?
3. What is part of the "magic" of the watch? Why do you think the author created this feature of the watch?
4. Medjeh and Tiras:
  - a. What did Tiras, the priest, demand of Medjeh?
  - b. Why did Medjeh say he wasn't ready?
  - c. What is the punishment for not completing the task?
5. Jonah first meets the Stranger in this chapter. Describe him.
6. What is the lesson Jonah learned from Star Trek? Do you think this quality of time travel is valid? Why or why not?
7. Why did Jonah refuse to give the shadow stick to Tiras? In your opinion, was he right? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 4 (Kaifeng, China, 1094)**

**[astronomical water clock]**

1. Describe the place where the boys find themselves next. (Give at least three details.)
2. The Stranger:
  - a. Where does Jonah meet the Stranger again?
  - b. How does Jonah react when he sees him? Why?
3. Why does Jonah feel guilty when the men talk about the thief in the market?
4. Give two examples of Li Po's kindness to the boys.
5. How did the boys get into trouble? Do you think what they did was wrong? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 5 (Le Thoronet monastery, France, 1205)**

**[sandglass, water clock, sundial]**

1. Jonah meets Brother Albert at the monastery.
  - a. What is Brother Albert's job?
  - b. What errand does Jonah do for Brother Albert?
  - c. What does he ask Jonah to do next?
  - d. What is the third task?
2. How did Brother Albert obtain the ancient manuscript?
3. What is Brother Gabriel's job?
4. Jonah sees the Stranger again and asks himself questions. What are they?
5. Why do you think Jonah didn't want Brother Bernard to know he was watching him?
6. What do you think the transaction was between Brother Bernard and the other man?
7. Brother Bernard dragged the boys to the river and tied them up. Then he began to talk to himself.
  - a. What reason did he give for stealing the valuable manuscript?
  - b. Do you think he was justified? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 6 (Prague, Bohemia, 1495)**

**[weight-driven clock]**

1. Why does Jonah feel that he hates the watch?
2. How does the man know that someone is there?
3. Why does Jonah cover his ears?
4. What were the two purposes of the clock that Hanus built? Discuss.
5. Why did Jonah think that he and Hanus "made a strange pair"?
6. Jonah next meets Isabel, Hanus's daughter:
  - a. How does Isabel know that Jonah is Jewish?
  - b. How does Hanus react?
  - c. Compare their attitude to Jonah. In your opinion, who is right? Why?

7. What is Jonah's main worry here?
8. Jonah is attacked by some boys in the street.
  - a. Why doesn't Jonah run away from the bullies?
  - b. Why do they also attack Hanus?
9. Jonah and Toby are finally reunited.
  - a. Why does Jonah say it is time to leave?
  - b. What does this tell you about Jonah's character?

### **Chapter 7 (London, England, 1728)**

**[chronometer]**

1. Why is Jonah glad to be in Mr. Graham's shop?
2. Why was John Harrison surprised that Jonah had heard of him?
3. Why was it so important to solve the problem of finding longitude?
4. Harrison says, "It is time that will tell us where we are." What does this statement mean?
5. Toby and Jonah go down to Mr. Graham's shop in the middle of the night.
  - a. Why?
  - b. What was the result?
  - c. Do you think they should have gone down? Why or why not?

### **Chapter 8 (Plymouth, Connecticut, 1806)**

**[mass-produced clocks]**

1. How could Jonah tell that he had landed in a clock-making shop?
2. The Porter brothers came to Eli Terry with a business proposition.
  - a. Why?
  - b. What was their idea?
  - c. How did Eli Terry react?
3. Describe Mrs. Terry's character.
4. Why was there a demand for clocks then and there?
5. Describe the business offer the Porter brothers made to Eli Terry. Do you think it was a good one? Why or why not?
6. How did Eli Terry decide that he would be able to produce the clocks?

### **Chapter 9 (Bandoran, Ireland, 1876)**

**[24-hour clock; time zones]**

1. Merlin
  - a. Who was Merlin?
  - b. Why did Jonah wish he could be like Merlin?
2. What is Jonah's main worry here?

3. Why was Mr. Fleming upset? What caused this misunderstanding?
4. Mr. Ward brags about the clock in the train station. How is this an echo from the previous chapter?
5. Why is Jonah grateful to Fleming and Ward?
6. Two men at the station attack Jonah.
  - a. Why?
  - b. Why did Mr. Fleming defend Jonah? (Give two reasons.)
7. Why did people in those days get confused about local times?
8. Explain Fleming's idea about telling time to avoid confusion.
9. Theresa and fortune telling:
  - a. Why didn't Jonah want Theresa to read his fortune?
  - b. What did Theresa tell him?
  - c. In your opinion, was what she said valid? Why or why not?

## Chapter 10 (Ottawa, Canada, 1958)

## [atomic clock]

1. Why do you think Jonah "felt more comfortable than he'd been in a long time"?
2. Why were the students not allowed to touch cesium?
3. Dr. Bailey explains the definition of a clock.
  - a. What is a clock?
  - b. Give an example from an earlier chapter.
4. What does Dr. Bailey mean when he says, "We sell time"?
5. What is the difference between a metrologist and a meteorologist?
6. Jonah saves Toby.
  - a. What did Jonah ask Toby to do for him?
  - b. In your opinion, was this a fair request? Why or why not?
7. Jonah and the Stranger finally meet in this chapter.
  - a. Who do you think the Stranger is? Give reasons for your answer.
  - b. What does the Stranger mean when he says, "It is all relative"?
  - c. What does Jonah learn from the Stranger?
  - d. In your opinion, is this a satisfying answer? Why or why not?
  - e. Why does the author use the device of the Stranger in *Stealing Time*?

## Chapter 11 (Present time)

1. Jonah speaks to his father.
  - a. Why does Mr. Wiley give the watch to Jonah?
  - b. Is this a good conclusion to the book? Why or why not?
2. Jonah's relationship with his father is troubled.
  - a. Through his experiences back in time, what does Jonah learn about how to get along with his father?
  - b. How does he show this knowledge at the end of the book?
3. Explain how Jonah's relationship with Toby changes during the book. Give examples.
4. The theme of "theft" is repeated in *Stealing Time*. Give three examples and explain how these events affect Jonah.

# V. POST-READING ACTIVITIES

## Research Project

- 1. Biography:** Some of the people in *Stealing Time* were real people. Find out more about one of them and do a presentation using props, illustrations, or dramatizations:
  - a. John Harrison
  - b. Su Sung
  - c. Eli Terry
  - d. Sandford Fleming
  - e. Albert Einstein
- 2. Science & Technology:** Jonah was fascinated by clocks and watches. Find out more about one of the following. Use illustrations and/or models to explain how it works.
  - a. shadow stick (Egypt)
  - b. astronomical water clock (China)
  - c. sandglass (monastery, France)
  - d. sundial (monastery, France)
  - e. mechanical clock (town hall, Prague)
  - f. pendulum clock (Eli Terry, Connecticut)
  - g. chronometer (John Harrison, England)
  - h. atomic clock (Ottawa)

## Language Arts

- Stealing Time* is a historical novel i.e. some elements are historically accurate; others are fictionalized. Choose one historical chapter and discuss which elements are accurate and which are fiction.
- Write journal or blog entries for your favourite chapter from the point of view of Jonah or Toby.
- Imagine you're in contact with Jonah during his journey. Write emails to encourage him for each chapter.
- Debate: It was wrong for Jonah to steal the watch.
- Write and illustrate your favourite scene from *Stealing Time* in "graphic novel" form. It should have a beginning, middle, and end.
- a) Authors often use conflict to heighten tension and reveal character. Give an example of each of the following types of conflict:
  - i. Man vs. man
  - ii. Man vs. nature
  - iii. Man vs. himself

6. b) In each example, what do you learn about Jonah's character?
7. Rewrite the ending of *Stealing Time*.
8. Send a letter or email message to the author. Explain what you liked or didn't like in *Stealing Time*. Give reasons and examples. Your message should contain at least three paragraphs.
9. Read another time travel novel and compare it to *Stealing Time* (e.g. characters, setting, plot, conflict, resolution) using a T-chart. See fiction books for children at the end of this guide for suggestions.

## Geography

1. Trace Jonah and Toby's journey on a map of the world. Make a legend so that we see the journey in chronological order.
2. How does the climate and/or physical features of a place determine how people keep time? Give at least two examples.

## Drama

1. Choose a scene from the book, write it as a play, and act it out with one or two other students.
2. Create a YouTube video of one of the scenes from the book.

## Music

1. Toby likes to sing songs. Research one of the songs he sings: composer, lyricist, artist, date, context of the song. Then perform the song for the class.
2. Toby composed the "Brothers" song. Write two more verses and put them to music. Perform the song in front of the class.
3. Compose a rap song based on Jonah's travels back in time. Perform it in front of the class.

## Art

1. Choose an incident in *Stealing Time* and illustrate it. You may use any medium you wish. (pencil, paints, pastels, markers, digital, etc.)
2. Design a different cover for *Stealing Time*.

# VI. READING COMPREHENSION QUIZ

[Note to teacher: These questions are extensive. Choose the ones that are most appropriate for your students. See the answer key on page 21.]

## Chapters 1 – 2

1. **Jonah is fascinated by**
  - a) Flying objects
  - b) Clocks and watches
  - c) Computers
2. **Jonah is angry because**
  - a) He wants to go on the trip with his mother.
  - b) He wants to stay home alone.
  - c) He has to stay with his father and his new family.
3. **For breakfast, Pam made**
  - a) Pancakes
  - b) Cereal
  - c) Eggs
4. **Mr. Wiley wanted to take Jonah to**
  - a) The museum
  - b) A movie
  - c) An antiques show
5. **Mr. and Mrs. Wiley had big arguments before their divorce. Who smoothed them out?**
  - a) A marriage counsellor
  - b) Grandpa Wiley
  - c) Jonah
6. **Grandpa Wiley got the watch at**
  - a) A card game
  - b) An antiques show
  - c) Through E-bay
7. **Toby wound the watch because**
  - a) He wanted to see how it worked
  - b) Jonah told him not to
  - c) He knew it would take them back in time

## Chapters 3 –5

**8. Jonah didn't want to wind the watch again because**

- a) He wanted to have an adventure
- b) He wanted to show Toby how brave he was
- c) He didn't know where they'd go next

**9. As an offering to the god, Thoth, Medjeh gave**

- a) Two chickens and a fish
- b) Two ducks
- c) Two fish

**10. Medjeh was a master**

- a) Silversmith
- b) Builder
- c) Carpenter

**11. Toby didn't want to eat**

- a) Lentils
- b) Bread
- c) Fish

**12. If the shadow stick isn't ready, Medjeh will**

- a) Be sent to the quarries
- b) Be given another chance
- c) Lose the job

**13. Li Po asks the boys to**

- a) Stand guard
- b) Make soup
- c) Collect money

**14. The thief who was caught will be**

- a) Fined
- b) Whipped
- c) Jailed

**15. The Yellow River is called "China's Sorrow" because**

- a) It always floods
- b) It's polluted
- c) It's salty

**16. Jonah climbed the tower because**

- a) He wanted to see the view
- b) He was trying to hide from the guards
- c) He was trying to catch Toby

**17. Brother Albert asked Jonah to get**

- a) A book
- b) A loaf of bread
- c) A candle

**18. Brother Albert got the ancient manuscript from**

- a) A knight
- b) Another monk
- c) A teacher

**19. Toby was busy**

- a) Working in the garden
- b) Washing pots and pans
- c) Dusting the chapel

**20. Brother Gabriel asked Jonah to help him with the**

- a) Sundial
- b) Water clock
- c) Sandglass

**21. The abbot had grievous news. What was it?**

- a) Brother Albert had been stabbed
- b) Someone had broken into the monastery
- c) A monk had been kidnapped and was being held for ransom

**22. Brother Bernard stole the manuscript in order to**

- a) Leave the monastery
- b) Buy some food
- c) Ransom his brother

## **Chapters 6 –8**

**23. Hanus knew Jonah was hiding because**

- a) He could see him
- b) He alone had the key to the clock tower
- c) He could hear him

**24. Hanus told Jonah to wait in order to**

- a) Call the police
- b) Find Toby
- c) Hear the clock striking the hour

**25. Hanus was blind because**

- a) He had a disease
- b) Men had attacked him
- c) He was born that way

**26. Isabel was surprised to meet Jonah because**

- a) He was wearing a yellow circle on his jacket
- b) He was wearing good clothes
- c) She knew he came from the future

**27. The ruffians attacked Jonah because**

- a) He teased them
- b) He was Jewish
- c) He ignored them

**28. Jonah wound the watch because**

- a) He wanted another adventure
- b) He didn't want Hanus to have more trouble
- c) Toby told him to

**29. Mr. Graham told the boys to**

- a) Sweep the shop
- b) Dust the clocks
- c) Clean the clock

**30. Graham helped Harrison because**

- a) Graham felt sorry for him
- b) Harrison was rich and famous
- c) Harrison had the right idea

**31. Jonah woke up because**

- a) Toby heard a noise
- b) He was hungry
- c) He was thirsty

**32. Before they left, Toby**

- a) Left Graham a note
- b) Had a snack
- c) Drew a picture

**33. At first, Eli Terry was against the Porters' idea because**

- a) It was a bad idea
- b) He had just built a new shop
- c) He didn't trust them

**34. Anna wished she could**

- a) Get a job
- b) Learn how to knit
- c) Go to school

**35. Eli Terry told his boys the story of**

- a) Hansel and Gretel
- b) Jack and the Beanstalk
- c) Puss 'n Boots

**36. Eli Terry could make the Porters' idea work if he**

- a) Borrowed money
- b) Hired more help
- c) Made interchangeable parts for the clocks

## **Chapters 9 –11**

**37. Jonah wished he could be like**

- a) Merlin
- b) King Arthur
- c) Gandalf

**38. Because Fleming missed his train, he had to**

- a) Wait all night
- b) Pay extra
- c) Wait for three hours

**39. Fleming contacted his friends by**

- a) Telephone
- b) Telegraph
- c) Courier

**40. Mr. Ward told Jonah to**

- a) Empty the ashtrays
- b) Wash the floor
- c) Sweep the station

**41. The men attacked Jonah because**

- a) He was looking for Toby
- b) He got in their way
- c) They thought he was a gypsy

**42. The men let Jonah go because**

- a) Fleming defended him
- b) They didn't want to make trouble
- c) The train was coming

**43. Jonah found his way to the gypsies' camp by**

- a) Using a compass
- b) Reading a map
- c) Following the music

**44. Jonah didn't want Theresa to read his fortune because**

- a) He doesn't believe in fortune telling
- b) He had enough to handle
- c) He was worried about Toby

**45. Dr. Bailey warned the kids not to**

- a) Get lost
- b) Ask questions
- c) Touch anything

**46. If the atomic clock had been set to run three million years ago, it would not have gained or lost**

- a) One second
- b) One minute
- c) One hour

**47. Toby fainted because**

- a) He was hungry
- b) He opened the cesium
- c) He was standing too long

**48. If they get back, Jonah wants Toby to**

- a) Say he's sorry
- b) Never talk to him again
- c) Draw pictures of the places they've been

**49. When Jonah comes back home, he decides to**

- a) Tell his father that he stole the watch
- b) Hide the watch
- c) Put it back

**50. Mr. Wiley decides to**

- a) Send Jonah back to his mother's
- b) Give the watch to Jonah
- c) Ground Jonah for the rest of his stay

## ANSWER KEY

- |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. b  | 21. a | 41. c |
| 2. c  | 22. c | 42. a |
| 3. a  | 23. c | 43. c |
| 4. c  | 24. c | 44. b |
| 5. b  | 25. b | 45. c |
| 6. a  | 26. a | 46. a |
| 7. a  | 27. b | 47. b |
| 8. c  | 28. b | 48. c |
| 9. b  | 29. c | 49. a |
| 10. c | 30. c | 50. b |
| 11. b | 31. a |       |
| 12. a | 32. c |       |
| 13. c | 33. b |       |
| 14. b | 34. c |       |
| 15. a | 35. b |       |
| 16. c | 36. c |       |
| 17. c | 37. a |       |
| 18. a | 38. a |       |
| 19. b | 39. b |       |
| 20. b | 40. b |       |

# VII BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT TIME

(\* denotes a Canadian author)

## Non-Fiction

Adler, David A. *Time Zones*. Holiday House, 2010.

Cleary, Brian P. *A second, a minute, a week with days in it: a book about time*. Millbrook Press, 2013.

Jenkins, Martin. *The Time Book: A brief history from lunar calendars to atomic clocks*. Candlewick, 2009.

Kallen, Stuart A. *Time Travel*. KidHaven Press, 2010.

Llewellyn, Claire. *My First Book of Time*. Scholastic Canada, 1992.

## Fiction (Time Travel)

Alexander, Lloyd. *Time Cat*. Puffin, 1996.

Bell, Ted. *Nick of Time*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2008.

Bellair, John. *The House with a Clock in its Walls*. Dell, 1989.

Boston, Lucy. *The Children of Green Knowe*. Harcourt, 1989.

Browne, N. M. *Hunted*. Bloomsbury, 2002.

\* Dyer, K.C. *A Walk Through a Window*. Doubleday Canada, 2009.

Fleischman, Paul. *Time Train*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1991.

Haddix, Margaret Petersen. *Found*. Simon & Schuster, 2008. (first of a series)

\* Jaffe, Ellen S. *Feast of Lights*. Sumach, 2006.

Langton, Jane. *The Time Bike*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2000.

\* Lunn, Janet. *The Root Cellar*. Puffin, 1985.

\* Maes, Nicholas. *Laughing Wolf*. Dundurn, 2009.

Paulson, Gary. *The Transall Saga*. Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1999.

Pearce, Philippa. *Tom's Midnight Garden*. HarperCollins, 1959.

\* Pearson, Kit. *A Handful of Time*. Viking, 1987.

\* Ungar, Richard. *Time Snatchers*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2012.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*. Many versions. Originally published in 1895.

\* Wishinsky, Frieda. *A Quest in Time*. Owl Books, 2000.

\* Wishinsky, Frieda. *The Canadian Flyer* series. Owl Books, 2008 –

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. Puffin, 1990.

... and many more