

JIMMY'S BAD DAY



Every day counts.

qld.gov.au/everydaycounts

About the books

There is a strong correlation between school attendance and positive student outcomes. The ***Every day counts*** campaign focuses on the importance of attending school every day of the school year. The Department of Education has produced a suite of student-friendly resources promoting the importance of going to school, every day. Each of the books in this series has a different story and is at a different reading ability level.

The information supplied inside the back cover may assist teachers in their delivery of targeted reading instruction. The Fry's high frequency words are lists in order of the most common words used in print, developed through the research of Dr Edward Fry. Learning all 1000 words in the Fry's lists would equip a child to read about 90% of the words in a typical book, newspaper or website. Mastering these words supports students' reading development and forms part of effective literacy instruction.

For more information and resources visit the *Every day counts* website at qld.gov.au/everydaycounts

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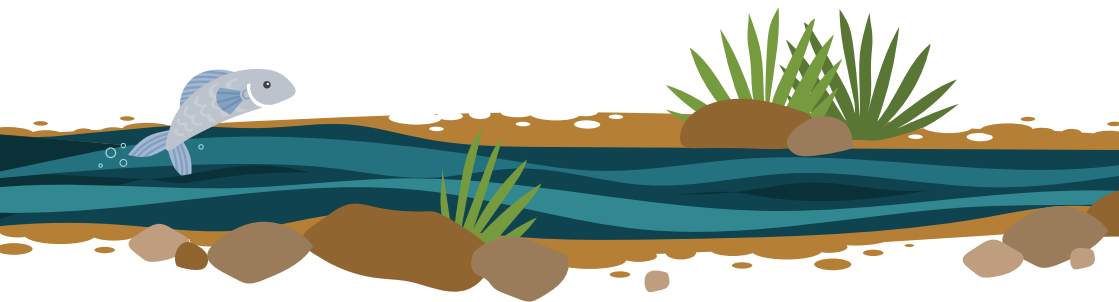
"Today is not going well," Jimmy thought miserably.

He felt shame sitting on his bed at home, when he knew the bell at school had already rung. Uncle had told him a hundred times that every day counts at school, but he had woken up late and, rather than getting in trouble for arriving after the morning bell, he had decided to wag school. Now, instead of being happy about wagging school, he was imagining his mates at school laughing together and heading into class ready to learn. Meanwhile, he was stuck in the house feeling bored and stressed out!

Maybe if he went down the creek to catch a few fish he would feel better.

Jimmy jumped up and headed out to the garage to look for his fishing rod. Searching about, he spied Uncle's brand new, shiny, red fishing rod with its gleaming black reel. It was an awesome sight, too good to resist.

"I am sure Uncle won't mind if I borrow it," Jimmy tried to convince himself. The new rod was Uncle's pride and joy and Jimmy 'kind of' knew Uncle would mind, but he pushed down his doubt, grabbed the rod and headed down to the creek.



"Uncle said he would be out all day. I reckon I'll be back home before he even notices I borrowed it," thought Jimmy.

"I wonder what that old fulla is up to today anyway."

Summer was here. Jimmy noticed an old kookaburra in the she-oak and he heard the loud buzz of millions of cicadas in the trees. The earth was warm against his bare feet and the bush crackled with life around him. As he plopped down on the edge of the creek bank near a deep waterhole, he thought that maybe the day wasn't going to be so bad after all.

Using a strong, pointy stick, Jimmy set to work to find some bait. He dug deep into the soft soil of the creek bank. He soon turned up some fat, slippery scrub worms that wriggled against his hand. Jimmy smiled thinking about the many large, silvery fish he would soon have on his line.

Jimmy grabbed a worm and threaded it carefully along the hook, being sure to leave a short part of the worm dangling from the end, just as Uncle had taught him. Jimmy knew that the darting fish would see that little dangly bit of worm moving in the water and would snap it up!



"Right, let's catch some keepers!"

Jimmy said to himself. "That'll be better than school."

He slowly wound out the line until it was the perfect length for casting. Then he lifted the rod and swung it back past his shoulder. He leaned back as far as he could and then, with all his strength, he quickly flicked the rod forward. It was going to be a fantastic, giant cast.

However, something went wrong!

Jimmy felt a massive tug on the rod and it jerked out of his hands. He looked up to see the rod flying through the air and then, with a swish, it lodged itself in a tree branch high off the ground. The hook had snagged a branch and pulled the rod right out of his hands.

Jimmy let out a huge, unhappy sigh.

"How am I going to get that down?" he wondered.

"Today is really not going well now. Back at school, I could have been kicking a footy with my mates at lunchtime. Now I am stressing out about getting Uncle's rod back. He is going to kill me!"

To rescue the rod, Jimmy tried to climb the tree. However, this was much more difficult than expected. The lower branches were very narrow and not very strong. Each small branch he tried to pull himself up on snapped off. He couldn't get a good grip on anything. After falling face first into the dirt several times, Jimmy realised it was time for another plan to solve his problem.



He glanced around, looking for something he could throw up to help knock the rod out of the tree. He was worried that rocks might damage Uncle's shiny new rod. Plus, his aim wasn't that good, so he grabbed a stick and gave it a go. After what felt like thousands of throws, the rod was still wedged firmly in the tree and Jimmy was hot, sweaty and furious.

"This day really sucks. I wish I had just gone to school. Now I will be in way more trouble than just turning up a bit late," moaned Jimmy, feeling very sorry for himself.

He was about to give up, when he heard the cracking sound of a dry stick in the bush behind him. Just when he thought his day couldn't get any worse, he looked up to see Uncle striding towards him. Uncle had a face like a thundercloud.

“Boy! I’m going to cop it now,” Jimmy thought, as he considered legging it.

At that moment, Jimmy noticed Uncle had a mate trailing along behind him. Jimmy looked really hard – it couldn’t be – but it was! It was Johnathan Thurston – JT!



Jimmy felt a confusing mix of emotions. He was super excited and wanted to rush up to JT and ask for an autograph. At the same time, he felt ‘shamed’ in front of his hero and badly wanted to slink away. Jimmy knew he had made a series of bad decisions, and he didn’t really want to admit to them all and have JT think he was slack. Jimmy nearly ran, but then decided it was probably better he faced up to Uncle. Jimmy stood his ground and waited to hear what Uncle would say.

“I missed you at school today, Jimmy,” Uncle stated in that quiet, serious voice that let Jimmy know how annoyed and disappointed he was. Jimmy sighed and looked at the ground, feeling pretty bad.

But Uncle wasn’t finished yet.



"I arranged for a special footy training session for the team during lunchtime today. Too bad you couldn't make it. The boys really learnt a lot from JT."

Jimmy's face felt hot with embarrassment. He wanted to sink into the ground.

But Uncle still wasn't finished.

"I see you've had a busy day," Uncle added as he glanced upward at the rod gently swaying in the breeze. "Did you buy yourself a new fishing rod?"

Jimmy hung his head even more and tried to explain. "I'm really sorry Uncle. I know it is important to go to school, but I was late and didn't want to get into trouble. Then I thought I would catch a few fish and I borrowed your rod."

Suddenly JT chuckled and spoke up, "How did that work out for you, Jimmy? I reckon you wish you went to school now." Jimmy nodded but felt too 'shamed' to say anything.

Uncle took Jimmy aside to chat. Jimmy looked at the ground as he listened to Uncle's *every day counts* speech and, although he didn't want to hear it again, he knew Uncle was right. His mates were really going to rub it in that he had missed JT's training session.

While Uncle talked to Jimmy, JT checked out the fishing rod high up in the tree. A sudden thud made Uncle and Jimmy look up. JT had made a cracking kick that was sailing through the air toward the fishing rod.

"Oh! No way!" exclaimed Jimmy as the ball crashed into the rod, knocking it out of the tree. Jimmy rushed forward and caught the rod as it fell towards the ground. He snatched it from the air to check it for damage.

"It looks alright Uncle!" he shouted, breathing a huge sigh of relief.

Turning to JT, Jimmy said shyly, "That was too deadly. I can't believe you made that kick!"

Uncle laughed. "Well perhaps if you turned up to school every day maybe you would learn to do deadly things too."

"Do you think you learnt anything today Jimmy?" asked JT.

Jimmy grinned sheepishly and said, "Yes, I've learnt a few things about making better choices."



Did you know?

Regular attendance is critical for students to achieve at school. Missing school adds up!

From Prep to Year 12 if a child misses:

- five days a term (P–12), they miss out on approximately 1.5 years of school
- one day a week of school (P–12), they will miss almost 2.5 years of school
- two days a week of school (P–12), they will miss over 5 years of school.

Time away from school makes a big difference to how much they can learn. Every day really counts at school.



Did you also know?

In Queensland, there used to be more than 100 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander traditional languages and dialects spoken. Language is important, it's how we communicate. Try posting on social media, texting or emailing without language! Every day counts when you are learning to read.



Word count

1376

Text type

Narrative

**Independent
readability age**

10+ years

Hard words (3+ syllable words)

miserably, already, arriving, decided, imagining, together, awesome, anyway, kookaburra, cicadas, slippery, silvery, carefully, fantastic, however, unhappy, expected, anything, several, furious, thundercloud, considered, confusing, emotions, excited, autograph, decisions, idiot, probably, serious, disappointed, embarrassment, suddenly, anything, every, sheepishly

**Aboriginal
English words**

Uncle	a respectful name given to male Aboriginal Elders
deadly	cool, great, awesome
too deadly	totally awesome
fulla	person, fellow
shame	embarrassed, humiliated

LIST 3 : Fry's Third 100 high frequency words in this text (33 words):

high	few	state	add	while	feet	being
every	life	hear	school	might	late	leave
near	together	far	keep	something	miss	it's
thought	importan	let	tree	hard	face	
head	took	talk	earth	until	soon	

LIST 4 : Fry's Fourth 100 high frequency words in this text (32 words):

fish	didn't	sure	better	listen	toward	slowly	notice
problem	friends	today	however	rock	morning	pulled	ground
knew	heard	during	low	several	hundred	voice	fall
told	red	short	black	himself	against	plan	I'll

LIST 5 : Fry's Fifth 100 high frequency words in this text (25 words):

fly	quickly	decided	behind	deep	hot	special
gave	strong	class	warm	thousands	check	
wait	front	carefully	explain	yes	am	
oh	feel	stood	dry	yet	cannot	

LIST 6 : Fry's Sixth 100 high frequency words in this text (17 words):

can't	suddenly	believe	probably	past	gone
perhaps	ready	wish	length	finished	million
felt	anything	summer	edge	happy	

LIST 7 : Fry's Seventh 100 high frequency words in this text (19 words):

solve	buy	soil	although	wonder	hole	couldn't
jumped	already	bed	moment	smiled	let's	
pushed	instead	laughed	quiet	killed	surprise	

LIST 8 : Fry's Eighth 100 high frequency words in this text (15 words):

catch	shouted	trouble	yourself	bank	fell	maybe	feeling
climbed	Itself	bad	stick	caught	team	uncle	

This story also includes a significant number of high frequency words from lists 1 (75 words), 2 (51 words), 9 (9 words) and 10 (3 words).



MORE ADVENTURES WITH JIMMY AND SAM THE DOG

Jimmy's day keeps getting worse – all because of the choices he is making. Lucky for Jimmy a surprise visitor comes to his rescue.

Can you spot '**Team EDC**' on Uncle's shirt?

This stands for '**Every day counts**' because it's important to go to school every day.

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Queensland Government