

## Activity Guide

### *Jamal's Busy Day*

Written by Wade Hudson

Illustrated by George Ford

Published by Just Us Books

Target ages: 3-7

#### Book Description

Jamal is a happy youngster who knows just how important his school day is. It is just as important as his mother's and father's work day. Jamal is an empowered youngster to whom all children can relate. "The upbeat message is that both parents and child can work hard and accomplish much...all work has value." *School Library Journal*.

#### Awards:

- Multicultural Publishers Exchange Book Award of Excellence
- Boston Globe's Top 25 in Multicultural Reading
- National Council of Social Studies Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies Honor

#### Themes

Personal responsibility, family, friendship, education

#### Pre-Reading Discussion

- Look at the cover. What do you think the book is about?
- Do you know anyone named Jamal?
- What do you think Jamal does during his busy day?

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some of the first things Jamal and his family do in the morning?
- What is Jamal's father's job? What is Jamal's mother's job?
- Does Jamal have a job? If so, what is it?
- What does Jamal do throughout the day?
- How does Jamal help his friends and family during the day?
- How does Jamal get home from school?
- What kind of work does Jamal bring home?
- How does Jamal relax and have fun after a busy day?
- Why do you think Jamal says "I can't wait until tomorrow."

#### Define these words/phrases

Early

Finish

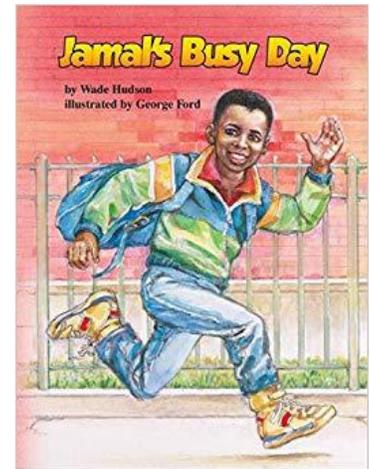
Breakfast

Ready

Busy

Healthy

Architect



Accountant  
Experiments  
Research  
Meeting  
Disagreement  
Co-worker  
Supervisor

#### WRITING/LANGUAGE ARTS

- A. How busy are you? Have students write down everything they did yesterday—in order of occurrence.
- B. Ask students to write down what jobs they have, giving each job a title, and writing the responsibility next to the title. Ex. Babysitter—watch my little brother after school; tutor—help my friend with her homework.
- C. Ask students to list adjectives that describe Jamal, then list adjectives that describe themselves. How are they similar to Jamal? How are they different?
- D. Assign students to write choose which statement they feel is true, and support their choice with examples:  
Children have it harder than adults or Adults have it harder than children

#### ART

- A. Jamal's day is architect. Have students become an architect for a day, and draw a picture of their dream house.
- B. Ask students what they want to be/do when they grow up, and ask them to draw a picture or make a collage that illustrate them reaching their career goal.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- A. Jamal contributes a lot to his family, friends and school. Have students make a list of things they can do to help out more at home and at school.
- B. Jamal says he can't wait until tomorrow. Have students complete the sentence, "I can't wait until tomorrow because \_\_\_\_\_," and share their answer with the class.

#### About the Author

Wade Hudson's career as a writer spans more than three decades. He has written nearly 20 books for children including *Pass It On: African American Poetry for Children*; *Poetry From the Masters: The Pioneers and Powerful Words*. He has received numerous honors, including the Stephen Crane Literary Award and 2003 induction into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent. A member of the Author's Guild and PEN America, he serves on the advisory boards of many organizations, including the Langston Hughes Library at the Alex Haley Farm, operated by the Children's Defense Fund.

#### About the Illustrator

George Ford is a pioneering artist and illustrator of over thirty books for children including *Bright Eyes, Brown Skin*; *Afro-Bets First Book About Africa* and *Baby Jesus, Like My Brother*. The first winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for illustration for the book, *Ray Charles*, George Ford also illustrated *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles. Mr. Ford lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Additional classroom resources are available at the Resources Center of [www.justusbooks.com](http://www.justusbooks.com).  
Activity Guide copyright 2007 Just Us Books.

