

THE TIME FETCH *by* AMY HERRICK



MIDDLE-GRADE HARDCOVER FICTION

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Ages 10 and up
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BOOK TALK

When Edward innocently mistakes a sleeping Time Fetch for an ordinary rock, he wakes its foragers early, and they begin to multiply and gobble up time. Soon the bell rings to end class just as it's begun. Buses race down streets, too far behind schedule to stop for passengers. Buildings and sidewalks begin to disappear as the whole fabric of the universe starts to unravel. To try to stop the foragers, Edward must depend on the help of his classmates Feenix, Danton, and Brigit—whether he likes it or not. They all have touched the Fetch, and it has drawn them together in a strange and thrilling adventure in which the boundaries between worlds and dimensions are blurred. The places and creatures on the other side are much like the ones they've always known—but slightly twisted, a little darker, and much more dangerous.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

AMY HERRICK is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Every morning, she and her dog take a long walk in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York, looking for adventure.

They've seen and heard many wondrous things there, some of which have served as inspiration for *The Time Fetch*, her first book for young readers.



Photo Credit: Breukellen Riesgo

PRAISE FOR THE TIME FETCH

"A testament to the power of true friendship, and a thrilling fantasy adventure."

—R. J. Palacio, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wonder*

"Herrick weaves a fast-paced fantasy with great twists and turns that will grab readers from the start."

—*Booklist*

★ "Charming and clever . . . All readers will enjoy this novel as an adventure story featuring a team of unlikely friends with an array of talents—each essential to their mission to restore the Fetch to its proper place."

—Jennifer Brown, *Shelf Awareness for Readers*, starred review

★ "[A] transcendent middle-grade debut . . . An accessible, age-appropriate introduction to deeper themes of both the intellect and the spirit. The plot is suspenseful, moves at a rapid pace, and is heavily sprinkled with fascinating characters."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are there any characters in *The Time Fetch* who resemble people you know? If so, how are they like the character(s)?
2. Edward describes why he thinks reality is “largely a hoax” on page 17, as well as elsewhere in the novel. The Unraveler states a similar opinion on page 245, when he responds to “Who are you?” by asking, “Does it really matter? When it is all just dancing atoms and mostly empty space?” Do you agree with these opinions? Why or why not?
3. Edward appears slow moving and out of shape; he likes to be left alone. Danton, on the other hand, is athletic and friends with everyone. Why do you think Danton likes Edward? What makes dissimilar people, like Edward and Danton, friends in real life?
4. People sometimes create nicknames, like Dweebo, that insult other people, but people also create nicknames that compliment people. What might be a more complimentary nickname for Edward? What nicknames have you had that you liked best, and why?
5. On page 260, Brigit starts singing. Before this, she has hardly made a sound. In your opinion, why has Brigit stopped speaking? When she finally does say something, what has changed that causes or allows her to speak?
6. Edward has a variety of tactics that help him feel comfortable in uncomfortable situations, like his “Chill Mode.” Do you have similar tactics? If so, what are they?
7. Why is Feenix mean to Edward at the beginning of the story? What about their relationship changes during the story? Is it a change you predicted?
8. On page 221, Edward, Danton, Feenix, and Brigit see what they’ll look like when they’re older. What do you think you’ll look like when you’re older? Do you think your personality will be mostly the same? Why or why not?
9. Amy Herrick incorporates both magic and science into *The Time Fetch*. Are magic and science simply two different ways of understanding the universe, as Aunt Kit seems to believe? Why or why not?
10. In chapter seven of *The Time Fetch*, we meet three old ladies with one pair of glasses who live in a cottage where Feenix is being held captive. Does this scene remind you of any others you’ve encountered in your reading? If so, what makes *The Time Fetch* different from these tales?



Reader's Guide by Laura Williams McCaffrey

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