

The Later List

Eight activities

Activity 1: The busy hour

From the story, list everything Mirele's first hour produced. Then answer: how can a person be busy every minute and finish nothing? What is the difference between busy and done?

Activity 2: Arrived - obey or list?

For each thing that arrives during a study block, mark O (obey it now - it genuinely cannot wait) or L (later list). All are fictional.

1. You remember you never answered your sister about Tuesday.
2. The smoke alarm goes off.
3. You start planning a speech for a family party.
4. Your little brother asks for a drink of water.
5. You wonder whether the library book is due tomorrow.
6. A real emergency - someone is hurt. Then: what makes 4 different from 6, and what makes 1 different from 4?

Activity 3: The return is the rep

Bubby says, "People think the wandering is the failure. The wandering is nothing. Staying gone is the failure." Explain in your own words. What does Mirele count at the end of her block, and why does she count that and not the wanders?

Activity 4: Block arithmetic (all numbers made up for practice)

A study block is 40 minutes. A girl wanders 5 times, and each wander costs 2 minutes before she returns. How many minutes of real work does she get? Her friend refuses to start because she "can't focus perfectly" - how many minutes does she get? Show your steps, and finish the sentence: "Five returns beat zero starts because ____."

Activity 5: The later list's afterlife

What happens to the items on Mirele's later list after the timer rings? Why does doing one or two of them afterward make the list work better the next day, rather than worse?

Activity 6: Draw the table

Draw Mirele's Sunday-night setup: the review sheets, the timer, the later list with its items, nothing else on the table. Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Zissel's block - planning for a fictional case

A teen named Zissel sits down to practice her instrument for thirty minutes and keeps getting up - for a snack, to find her other sock, to check whether the mail came. Write her setup sentence (one thing, timer, list), two things she might write on her later list, and what "the return is the rep" looks like at minute twelve. One sentence each, with names.

Activity 8: Word grid

Find eight words left to right. Row/column numbering begins at 1.

Q	Z	T	I	M	E	R	B	F	Y
T	H	I	N	G	M	N	O	R	S
T	C	D	B	A	C	K	Z	X	J
K	V	W	A	N	D	E	R	U	P
L	M	N	O	B	L	O	C	K	E
A	L	I	S	T	J	K	V	W	B
F	Y	G	H	U	D	O	N	E	O
P	A	G	E	D	E	A	I	Q	Z
X	J	K	V	W	B	F	Y	G	H
U	P	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	C

TIMER, THING, BACK, WANDER, BLOCK, LIST, DONE, PAGE. Which word names what attention does all by itself, and which word names the move that counts as the exercise?