Make Every Page Count:

Using Children’s Literature to Teach Personal Finance in Your Elementary Classroom

Martha Staten
Wilson K-8 School
Oro Valley, AZ
martha.staten54@gmail.com
“Make Every Page Count”

Using Children’s Literature to Teach Personal Finance In Your Elementary Classroom

Martha Staten
Oro Valley, Arizona
martha.staten54@gmail.com

Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday
The Many Loves of Benjamin Franklin
The Lemonade War
The Tortilla Factory
The Berenstain Bears’ Trouble with Money
Becky the Borrower
Lawn Boy
Fancy Nancy
Saving Strawberry Farm
I’m Gonna Be!... a Millionaire Someday
Rock, Brock, and the Savings Shock
Monsters Money Book
Beatrice’s Goal
My Rows and Piles of Coins
Tipsy the Rich Boy
Ben and Me

Judith Viorst
Loreen Leedy
Lilo Waigeit
Stan & Jan Berenstain
Gary Paulsen
Ann Heinly
Dorothy Milton
Shelley Adina
Joe Callahan
Shirley Neff
Delia Grossman
Shelli Roper
L. C. Pinto
E. C. Pinto
C. C. Pinto
R. C. Pinto
B. C. Pinto

Stella Rivero Kline
Evelyn Beilenson
Marilyn E. Haynes
Gary Paulsen
Dorothy Milton
Shelley Adina
Joe Callahan
Shirley Neff
Delia Grossman
Shelli Roper
L. C. Pinto
E. C. Pinto
C. C. Pinto
R. C. Pinto
B. C. Pinto
William L. ?. ( billed as St. Detta)
So, Why Personal Finance in My Elementary Classroom?

- Managing money is an essential life skill
  - We need to do a better job of emphasizing WHAT to do with money earned NOT just how much money you earn.

- Early lessons become habits
  - Get kids to develop a positive attitude about managing money as youngsters.
  - Help a child build a strong foundation of solid money habits.
It’s Never Too Early!

- Kids begin identifying with brands by age 3.
- Kids make choices every day. Let’s provide them with decision-making skills that will empower them to make more informed choices.
- Kids see choices as all or nothing decisions. Children’s literature can teach kids that most money decisions involve trade-offs.
“Because reading to young children is so important, the content of the reading material makes a great difference. When choosing a personal finance related book, teachers and parents are setting the stage to learn basic economic concepts.

Snow, Burns and Griffin, 1998
Money Trivia Game

1. What four women have appeared on circulating US currency?
   Sacagawea, Helen Keller, Martha Washington, Susan B Anthony

2. Three African-Americans have appeared on commemorative coins. Who are they?
   George Washington Carver, Booker T Washington, Jackie Robinson

3. What coin has a picture of a baby on it?
   Golden Dollar Coin - Sacagawea

4. What is the total number of “1s” and the word “one” on a $1 bill?
   16
Typical Standards for Personal Finance

- Earning Income
- Buying Goods and Services
- Borrowing/Using Credit
- Saving and Investing
- Protecting and Insuring
Students will understand that: Workers can improve their ability to earn income by gaining new knowledge, skills and experiences.

Use this understanding to: Give an example of how an individual’s interests, knowledge, and abilities can affect career and job choice.
People want money to buy goods and services.

Most people earn money by exchanging their physical or mental work for money.

Workers can increase their productivity (job performance) when they learn and practice new skills.

Workers are sometimes promoted to better positions or they receive an increase in wages as a result of their increased productivity.
If Money Doesn’t Grow on Trees, Then Why Do Banks Have Branches?
Standard Topic:
**Decision-Making When Buying Goods and Services**

- **Students will understand that:** Whenever people buy something they incur an opportunity cost.

- **Use this understanding to:** Describe a choice made and identify the opportunity cost.
Bartering is:

a medium of exchange by which goods or services are directly exchanged for other goods or services without using money.
Standard Topic: Saving and Investing

- Students will understand that: People save for future financial goals.

- Use this understanding to: Describe the advantages and disadvantages of saving for a goal.
Students will understand that: When people use credit, they receive something of value and agree to repay the lender at some date in the future, generally with interest.

Use this understanding to: Identify goods and services people often purchase with credit.
• **Students will understand that:** A budget is a plan for using income productively, sharing, and setting money aside for future expenses.

• **Use this Understanding to:** Give examples of household expense categories and sources of income.
Created by ING Direct.

Site is for kids in 1st-6th grades to help them learn about earning, saving, spending and investing.

Kids create an account and can visit the site regularly to travel the planet and learn about money.
This website with free lessons on finance and wealth creation is great for future entrepreneurs.

Games are designed around levels from K-12.

Learn how to make profit.

Play the Jesse’s Ice Cream Stand Game. Other games like Ima’s Pay Yourself First teach about using your money wisely.
Savings Quest:
www.mysavingsquest.com

- The site is created by Wells Fargo.
- Game tests the ability to save for things you want while paying for things you need.
- Kids create a character and pick a job.
- Kids earn a paycheck, build a budget, pay bills, pay unexpected expenses, save money for what they want.
The U.S Mint website for kids is a great place to learn all about money.

Long lineup of games, art activities, puzzles, facts, and trivia.

Cartoons and a bit of history thrown in for good measure.
The Great Piggy Bank Adventure:
piggybank.disney.go.com

- T.RowePrice sponsored site
- Get financial tips and tools
- Definitions of basic key financial concepts, such as:
  - Setting goals
  - Saving and spending wisely
  - Inflation
  - Asset allocation
  - Diversification
Website includes a variety of videos on first steps to Spending, Sharing, and Saving,

Bilingual multimedia program
Practical Money Skills for Life: practicalmoneyskills.com/games

Created in partnership with Visa, educators and financial institutions
Zefty: zefty.com

- Website designed to teach kids about responsible spending and saving
- Parents set up virtual accounts for kids…no real money is exchanged….parents are the “bank”
- Kids can print “ZeftyChecks” to give to their parents
- ZeftyCalc helps kids see how long it will take to save money for a purchase.
BizKid$: bizkids.com

- Educational games, blog, newsletter, lesson plans and videos
- Joint effort between American Public Television, A Smarter Choice and lovemycreditunion.org
- Designed for kids in grades 5 and older
- BizKid$ is also a program on public television
The Mint: www.themint.org

- Sponsored by Northwest Mutual
- Developed to provide kids and teens with information about making, saving, spending and giving money
- Text and game-play based
- Great saving and debt calculators, quizzes and much more
Additional Resources

Banking Kids

Wise Pockets World

It’s My Life-PBS Kids

Jump$Start

Financial Entertainment

Classbrain Lemonade Stand

Hands on Banking

Econedlink

Economics & Personal Finance Resources for K-12
There Really Is an App For That!

P2K Money

Kids Money

Bank of Mom and Dad

Famzoo Family Finance

Kiddy Bank

Reading Rainbow

Save! The Game

Feed the Piggy

Saving Spree
Youtube Links to Literature

Ben and Me:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1X6I99y23Y
A Chair for My Mother:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSrGUt0QgJo
Lawn Boy:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=UL0QDROsW48
Beatrice’s Goat:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT_itGTfulo
My Rows and Piles of Coins:
Something Good:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgoxk78Fg7s
Trouble With Money:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0OUV5rTBno
I am a counselor and psychologist to a problem-filled child,
I am a police officer that controls a child gone wild.
I am a travel agent scheduling our trips for the year,
I am a confidante that wipes a crying child’s tear.
I am a banker collecting money for a ton of different things,
I am a librarian showing adventures that a storybook brings.
I am a custodian that has to clean certain little messes,
I am a psychic that learns to know all that everybody only guesses.
I am a photographer keeping pictures of a child’s yearly growth,
When mother and father are gone for the day, I become both.
I am a doctor that detects when a child is feeling sick,
I am a politician that must know the laws and recognize a trick.
I am a party planner for holidays to celebrate with all,
I am a decorator of a room, filling every wall.
I am a news reporter updating on our nation’s current events,
I am a detective solving small mysteries and ending all suspense.
I am a clown and comedian that makes the children laugh,
I am a dietitian assuring they have lunch or from mine I give them half.
When we seem to stray from values, I become a preacher,
But I’m proud to have to be these people because ...
I’m proud to say, “I am a teacher.”

~by Stacy Bonino
Common Core Standards

Key Ideas and Details

Grade 2
Recount stories from Fables and Folklores, from diverse cultures and their central message, lesson, moral.

Grade 3
Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Grade 4
Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Grade 5
Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings or events in a story or drama drawing on specific details in the text (how characters interact).
Hey girl,
I noticed how well you integrate the common core standards into the curriculum across all subject areas. I’d give you a “P” for proficient on your evaluation.