

## LUNCH MONEY

### Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 3-5

Submitted by Jie Zhu, Graduate Student, LSU School of Library & Information Sciences, (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); and Cheryl Payne, Student, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Instructor: Dorothy Grimsley)

**Lunch Money** by Andrew Clements. Illustrated by Brian Selznick. Simon & Schuster, 2005. 222 pages.

#### Summary

Greg Kenton is a sixth-grader who is obsessed with making money. He has made money by washing cars, mowing lawns, and even loaning money to his brother and charging interest. By the end of fifth grade, he has over \$5,000 in his bank account. When he realizes that students have extra money for lunch, he decides to sell toys and candy to students. The principal forbids these sales, so Greg creates and sells miniature comic books instead. He has a successful business going until his competitor, Maura, begins making and selling her own small books at school. After the principal bans the sale of their books, Greg and Maura ban together to confront the principal and find a way to earn money for themselves and for their school.

Read an excerpt: <http://www.simonsays.com/content/book.cfm?tab=1&pid=507649&agid=2>

#### Awards

Bank Street Best Books of 2005  
CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book  
KSRC Intermediate Title – TOP PICK

#### Author's Biography

Andrew Clements was born in Camden, New Jersey in 1949. He spent his childhood in New Jersey and Illinois. He has loved to read since he was a little boy. He earned an undergraduate degree in literature in Northwestern University and a Master of Arts in Teaching at National Louis University. Clements taught in the public schools near Chicago for seven years before moving east to begin a career in publishing and writing. He started his career as an author by writing the text for picture books and went on to write numerous popular children's novels. Now, he lives in Westborough, Massachusetts, with his wife Rebecca and their four children. Andrew Clements has his own official website: <http://www.andrewclements.com/index.shtml>  
<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=4&pid=353745&agid=13>

#### Other Titles by Andrew Clements

*Frindle*  
*Things Not Seen* (LYRC 2005 Ballot Grade 6-8)  
*The Jacket* (LYRC 2005 Ballot Grade 3-5)  
*The Last Holiday Concert* (LYRC 2007 Ballot Grade 3-5)  
*The Report Card*  
*The School Story*  
*The Landry News*

#### Illustrator's Biography

Brian Selznick, originally from New Jersey, graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. He then worked for three years selling books and arranging windows at Eeyore's Books for Children on Manhattan's Upper West Side, where he read as many books as he could. This was

his real education in children's books. His first book, *The Houdini Box*, was published while he was still working there. His book *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* (Scholastic, 2001) was named a 2002 Caldecott Honor Book. *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* was an ALA Notable Children's Books as well as a Book Sense Honor Book. Now he lives in Brooklyn, New York.

[http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbcmagazine/meet/brian\\_selznick.html](http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbcmagazine/meet/brian_selznick.html)

<http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/2002/selznick.html>

### **Other Titles Illustrated by Brian Selznick**

*Frindle*

*The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*

*Waterhouse Hawkins*

*The Boy of a Thousand Faces*

*The Houdini Box*

*Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*

*The Landry News*

*The Janitor's Boy*

### **Related Titles**

#### **Money-Making Projects**

*The Toothpaste Millionaire* by Jean Merrill.

*Owen Foote, Money Man* by Stephanie Greene.

*Yang the Eldest and His Odd Jobs* by Lensey Namioka.

*Benjy in Business* by Jean Van Leeuwen.

*Kid Cash: Creative Money-Making Ideas* by Joe Lamancusa.

*Cally's Enterprise* by Claudia Mills.

*America's Most Wanted Fifth Grader* by Jan Lawrence and Linda Raskin.

*Not for a Billion Gazillion Dollars* by Paula Danziger.

#### **Cartoon and Comics**

*So, You Wanna Be a Comic Book Artist?* by Philip Amara.

*Cartooning: The Only Cartooning Book You'll Ever Need To Be the Artist You've Always Wanted To Be* by Art Roche.

### **Classroom Connections**

#### **Language Arts**

- Have students write a short story and create a small comic book.
- Study the descriptions about Mr. Z. Have students write about a teacher like the way the author writes about Mr. Z.
- Have the students make their own comic books.  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/comicbook/> This site has excellent step-by-step explanation of how to make your own comic book.
- Comic Creator: These two great websites provide ready-made characters and backgrounds. Kids can choose their favorite pictures and make their own comic book.  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/comic/index.html>  
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/sleep/starslp/missionz/comic.htm>  
Students can create a story and create a comic book based on the story.
- Students can learn about the process of publishing a comic book on the website  
<http://www.soyouwanna.com/site/syws/comics/comics4.html>

- <http://members.shaw.ca/creatingcomics/publishing.html> This website gives a list of resources and links for teachers about the process and publishing of comic books.

### **Math**

- Have the students help Greg calculate the money and figure out how many books he sold. For example, “Fifteen fifty in three and a half days” (p. 27). Students can do the math to figure out how many books he sold for three and a half days.
- Teacher can construct math story problems dealing with real life scenarios that involve making a profit. For example, Greg wants to sell candy. He buys a bag of 100 Laffy Taffy for \$3.00. He sells each piece for 25 cents. After deducting the money he spent on the candy, how much will his profit be?

### **Social Studies**

- Have students learn what is banking and what banking can do for people. What is interest? Discuss banking and interest paid on money deposited in banks. Compare the interest rates of different banks in the area.
- Have students find out how to open a bank account.
- Have the students research the history of money and create a timeline about the changes money has gone through over the years.
- Students can access the website <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/flashIndex.cfm> and click on “Making Change.” Students can create a coin and learn the parts of the coin in the process.
- Compare foreign money and money of the U. S. Show examples of coins and paper money from foreign countries. Create a PowerPoint presentation that shows the name of the foreign currency and the value in American dollars or cents.
- [http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/bookfairs/currconnection/downloads/cc\\_lunch\\_money.pdf](http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/bookfairs/currconnection/downloads/cc_lunch_money.pdf) This website has a worksheet on exploring coins.
- <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/flashIndex.cfm> The United States Mint Site for Kids is an interactive website that contains games, timelines, cartoons, and more, based on money.

### **Money-Making & Kids**

- Students can browse books and the Internet to find money-making ideas. In groups students create a product that can be sold at school to other students. Students can predict what their profit would be if they actually sold their product.
- Have students discuss ways to make money.
- Have students share their former money-making stories with each other.
- <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/youthdevelopment/DA6116.html> This site teaches children good money habits for life. It includes the development characteristics from preschool to middle school, and suggested teaching activities for each level.
- <http://www.moneyinstructor.com/art/waysforkids.asp> This site includes the suggested ways to help children make money.
- <http://www.cibc.com/ca/youth/> Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) for kids teaches children about money and banking and includes money games.