

Novel Resource #2- Lunch Money

Lunch Money
Andrew Clements
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About the Author

“Writing for children is a great privilege.”

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Andrew Clements grew up in a family that loved reading. In kindergarten, he was already a good reader. One of his favorite places was the school library. His love for books has continued, and it has led him to careers as a teacher, as an editor, and as a writer.

He started his literary career by writing the text for picture books, and went on to write children's novels. His first novel was *Frindle*, which still remains one of his best-known works. All of his novels' covers depict a person, usually a child, holding something up to the reader.

- Born in 1949 in Illinois
- Has four children
- Tried to become a songwriter
- Won many awards for his books, especially *Frindle*

More Books by Andrew Clements

<i>Frindle</i>	<i>The Landry News</i>
<i>The Janitor's Boy</i>	<i>The School Story</i>
<i>The Jacket</i>	<i>Things Not Seen</i>
<i>A Week in the Woods</i>	<i>The Report Card</i>
<i>The Last Holiday Concert</i>	<i>Lunch Money</i>
<i>Things Hoped For</i>	<i>Room One- A Mystery or Two</i>
<i>No Talking</i>	<i>Bird Adalbert</i>
<i>Noah & the Ark & the Animals</i>	<i>Big Al</i>
<i>Mother Earth's Counting Book</i>	<i>Santa's Secret Helper</i>
<i>Billy and the Bad Teacher</i>	<i>Who Owns the Cow?</i>

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Double Trouble in Walla Walla
A Million Dots

Temple Cat
DOGKU

Lunch Money

Realistic Fiction
Lexile 840 L
Interest Level- Grades 4-7
Reading Level- 5.2

Q: Twelve-year-old Greg Kenton is a budding businessman in *Lunch Money*. Did you have a similar interest in business when you were growing up?

A: I certainly wasn't as focused as Greg is, but my brothers and sisters and I were always on the lookout for a way to make some money. My big brother got hold of some stencils, a brush, and some white paint, and started a business painting numbers on the curbs in front of houses. Every time it snowed we all tried to make money shoveling. We cut and sold firewood, collected frogs to sell to my grandfather for fishing bait, picked wild blueberries-all sorts of moneymaking schemes.

Q: When you are developing a story idea, do you start with a theme or moral and then come up with the characters and plot?

A: I usually start with a character that has an idea or a certain set of qualities, place him or her into a setting, find some friends and teachers, and then set events in motion. The question that pulls me into and then to the end of a story is simple: What happens next? With *Lunch Money*, for example, I began with this business-minded kid who thought that money was the most wonderful thing, the big goal in life.

- www.simonandschuster.com

Greg Kenton has always had a natural talent for making money -- despite the annoying rivalry of his neighbor Maura Shaw. Then, just before sixth grade, Greg makes a discovery: Almost every kid at school has an extra quarter or two to spend almost every day.

Multiply a few quarters by a few hundred kids, and for Greg, school suddenly looks like a giant piggy bank. All he needs is the right hammer to crack

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it open. Candy and gum? Little toys? Sure, kids would love to buy stuff like that at school. But would teachers and the principal permit it? Not likely.

But how about comic books? Comic books might work. Especially the chunky little ones that Greg writes and illustrates himself. Because everybody knows that school always encourages reading and writing and creativity and individual initiative, right?

-- www.Andrewclements.com

Annotation

Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, has started a comic book business. He calls them Chunky Comics, and they are small comic books that he sells for a quarter each at school. Maura, his neighbor and opponent, has started to make comic books as well.

The two students get into a fight at school during Mr. Z's math class, and as Mr. Z tries to get the students to reconcile and become friends, things only seem to get worse. But to Greg's surprise, Maura's comic books are actually good, and something that he could make money off of. When they finally apologize to each other, they find that they have more in common than they think.

Maura and Greg decide that after a lot of work they want to put their ideas together to make a business. Unfortunately, the principal finds out and bans any selling of anything at school. Maura finds the many ads at school persuading kids to buy products, but when she finds the school book order, she comes up with an idea.

The kids have to take their idea to the school board, and with Mr. Z's help, they come up with a plan that seems no-fail. Everyone is there, including Mrs. Davenport. They present their case, and win! In this story, you will read about the fighting, the coming together, and the hard work of two sixth grade students. Their idea to stand up for what they believe in and what they love is inspirational. Greg finally understands that money is just something, not everything.

Booktalk

"By age eleven, he was well on his way to success, always on the lookout for new money-making opportunities. And then one day Greg Kenton made the greatest financial discovery of his young life."

-

-Lunch Money, p. 13

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Greg Kenton loves money. He cannot get enough of it, and how to get more is always on his mind. When Greg comes up with a no-fail plan to get rich quick, he thinks nothing can stop him. What he didn't count on is his arch-nemesis Maura messing up his plans. Maura 'steals' his idea of making mini-comic books to sell, and when he confronts her, she punches him in the nose. What surprises Greg the most is when he and Maura actually become friends to outsmart their principal so they can continue selling their comic books. Greg and Maura take their campaign to the school board and present their case. Will they succeed and be able to make their comic books into a business?

Characters

Greg Kenton

- 12 years old, main character
- ambitious, well-rounded child
- obsessed with money

Mrs. Davenport

- School principal

Ross and Edward

- Greg's older brothers
- Lazy

Maura Shaw

- Greg's classmate
- Greg's enemy in business
- Creative, artsy

Mr. Z

- Math Teacher
- Scared of blood
- Loves numbers, ideas about math

Setting

This present-day story mainly takes place at Ashworth Intermediate School. Parts of the story take place at Greg's house.

Point of View

The story is told from Greg's point of view- limited omniscient.

Conflict and Resolution

There are two external conflicts in this story. The first is between arch enemies Greg and Maura. They have been lifelong rivals, and try to outdo each other in everything. If Greg sells lemonade for \$0.25, Maura will sell lemonade for \$0.20.

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When Greg comes up with an idea to make mini comic books, Maura does the same. After much fighting and disagreement, they each see the good qualities of each other and team up to create mini-comic books together.

The second external conflict is between Greg and Maura, and Mrs. Davenport. Mrs. Davenport does not want Greg to sell anything at school, even his comic books. Greg wants Mrs. Davenport to see his point of view, but it seems hopeless. After Greg, Maura, and Mr. Z present their idea to the school board, Mrs. Davenport understands that their idea is a good one, and eventually agrees to let them sell their comics at school.

Theme

The theme of *Lunch Money* is hard work and success. Greg works very hard and learns to see different points of view. Only after hard work and determination, along with a new friend, does Greg find success in his business.

Lunch Money is about the money that all kids have at school, and the money that kids are willing to spend on almost anything. Much of the action in the story takes place in the cafeteria at school, which is why Clements chose the title.

Read Aloud Passages

- “Greg had never taken money lessons. He hadn’t had a money tutor or gone to money camp. His talent with money was natural. He had always understood money. He knew how to save it, how to keep track of it, how to grow it, and most of all, how to make it.”

Lunch Money p. 1

This quote is setting up the entire story, getting the reader interested in Greg’s obsession with money.

- “Until his big blowup with Maura, and then his run ins with Mr. Z and Mrs. Davenport, the question of money had been simple for Greg. In fact, it hadn’t even been a question. Money was money, and money was great. It was good to make it, good to have it, good to save it, and it was always good to want more and more and more of it. Money? Simple.

Lunch Money p. 188

This quote is about the theme of the story. Greg thinks money is everything, but is it?

If you like *Lunch Money*, you'll love *Frindle* by Andrew Clements.

If you like *Lunch Money*, you'll love *The Report Card* by Andrew Clements.

If you like *Lunch Money*, you'll love *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl.