

## **Money Doesn't Grow on Trees**

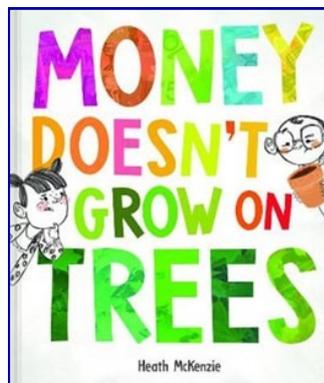
By Heath McKenzie

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It's hard when there are soooo many great things to buy! You want a toy, some ice-cream, a donut... but you can't have it all. Money doesn't grow on trees, you know! With hilarious illustrations by Heath McKenzie, this book teaches the valuable lesson about where money comes from and where it goes!



### **Themes:**

- Understanding money
- Needs versus wants
- Making choices

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Have you ever heard the saying 'Money doesn't grow on trees'?
- Before reading, discuss as a class how much the students know about where money really does come from.
- If it did, what would you do with it? Think also of not just what you might buy, but of other things that you could do with it?
- Look at the illustrations that show the things that the different characters have spent or want to spend money on. As a class, discuss what are needs and what are wants. Make a list of as many of each of them as you can, and add your own to the list too.
- Do you think the things listed as needs are 'boring stuff'? Or are they 'very important'? Think about why these things might be important (e.g. food, water, shelter).
- *'We don't just throw things away when we don't want them anymore! That's very wasteful!'* Preventing waste can be important for saving money, as well as for the environment. Discuss this idea as a class. Do we always have to buy things that are new? Is it important to not just throw things away?
- The girl in the story says that if you want more money you just 'wave the plastic money card over the paying machine'. How many students think (or maybe thought previously) that this where money comes from?
- How has the use of 'plastic money cards' changed how we pay for things?
- What are some of the jobs or chores that you can do to earn money? Do you already do any of them now?
- What are some other things that you could do, other than chores, to earn money? (Think about things such as what you could make and sell).
- Research how, when and why money was invented. How has it changed over the years?
- Look up the currency of Australia, and two other currencies. Find out three facts about each one—for example: what it is called, what notes and coins does the currency has, what country or countries use it?
- Ask your parents, grandparents or another adult what they have noticed has changed the most about money in their lifetime.