

Title of Book: My Rows and Piles of Coins

Author's name: Tololwa M. Mollel

Publisher: Clarions Books

Copyright year: 1999

Reading level: 3rd grade

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis of story:

This story is about a boy and his mother who have to travel into town everyday to sell the vegetable and fruit that they grow. Each time they travel into town, the mother has to carry a load on her head and the son has to push a wheelbarrow full of stuff along side his mother. While in town the little boy makes a little bit of money which he puts it in his secret box. He does not tell anyone about this box. He is saving up his coins to buy a bike so that he can help his mother carry all the goods into town. He practiced riding on his friends’ bike before he gets one of his own. In the end he saved up a lot of money but it is not enough to buy a bike in town. Instead, his friend who was letting him ride the bike lets the young boy buy the bike for however much money was in his secret box. Then the man gives the young boy the box of money back. He knew that the little boy was purchasing the bike to help mother carry her goods into town.

Standard:

Math: 3.5.11- Use play or real money to decide whether there is enough money to make a purchase.

Activity:
After reading *My Rows and Piles of Coins* divide the class into small groups. Then give each group an item that they are going to purchase. Next give each group a certain amount of play money, which symbolizes real money. Have each group count the money to see if they have enough money, more than enough money, or less than enough money to purchase the item. Have the groups swap items and amounts of money a couple times so they can practice counting the money.

**Standard:**

Language Arts: 3.4.5.-Write narrative (stories) that

- provide a context within which an action takes place

- includes detail to develop the plot

**Activity:**

After reading *My Piles and Rows of Coins* pair students up. Have each pair write a story about something that they would buy if they saved up enough money. Some questions to ask to get their minds working are: How would they use the object that they just bought? Would the object be used to help others or just for play? Each pair will then read their story aloud to the class.