Financial Literacy Books for Children
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

This is a selected list of books to aid in the teaching of financial literacy and economics in PreK-6. A more comprehensive list can be found at:
The words in italics identify economic concepts that can be taught with that title.

Picture Books

While Nora waits for the couscous her father is cooking he tells her a story about his youth in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco. (*scarcity, poverty, natural resources*).
Call Number: PJ Ala

In Sydney, Australia, and in Morocco, two boys and their families have a day of shopping. Two wordless stories. Read one from left to right and the other from right to left. (*markets, goods*).
Call Number: PJ Bak

(Grade PreK-2).
Tony likes to help his father in their small family restaurant but everything changes as the pizzeria becomes a fancier place. (*resources, production*).
Call Number: PJ Bar

Benny has five shiny new pennies to spend and manages to find something for everyone in his family. (*money, goods*).
Call Number: PJ Bri

When Francisco helps his grandfather find work he discovers his grandfather has something valuable to teach Francisco. (*human resources, jobs*).
Call Number: PJ Bun

A young Guatemalan girl learns to weave from her grandmother and sells her goods in the market. (*producers, consumers, markets*).
Call Number: PJ Cas
The animals living in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an axe the
time of cutting down their home. (*natural resources, opportunity, cost*).
**Call Number:** PJ Che

Miss Bridie immigrates to America in 1856 and chooses to bring a shovel, which proves
to be a useful tool throughout her life. (*capital resources*).
**Call Number:** PJ Con

(Grade K-3).
When Farmer Brown’s cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands
and go on strike when their demands are refused. (*producers, strikes, workers*).
**Call Number:** [Big Book] PJ Cro

A shepherd shears his sheep, cards, spins the wool, weaves and dyes the cloth, then sews
a beautiful new red cloak. (*natural resources, producers, consumer*).
**Call Number:** PJ DeP

A child sent to find his younger brother at dinnertime discovers the many different ways
rice can be cooked. (*wants, needs, production*).
**Call Number:** PJ Doo

When Violet has a number problem and Arthur is penniless, they go into business and
solve both problems. (*earning money, services*).
**Call Number:** PJ Hob

With seed money borrowed from a bank, a young woman and four of her friends in
Bangladesh change their lives by starting their own businesses. (*entrepreneurs, loans*).
**Call Number:** PJ How

(Grade K-3).
The sights, sounds, and smells of a busy Chinese take-out restaurant are seen through
the eyes of the owner’s young son. (*entrepreneurs, producers, consumers*).
**Call Number:** PJ Lew

Milway, K. S. (2010). *The good garden: How one family went from hunger to having enough*. 
Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press. (Grade 2-4).
Maria Luiz and her family have a small farm in Honduras. When her father leaves home
to find work Maria is put in charge of the family garden. (*producers, consumers, markets*).
**Call Number:** PJ Mil
A Tanzanian boy saves his coins to buy a bicycle so he can help his parents carry goods to market, but soon discovers that he still has not saved enough. (*saving, money*).
**Call Number:** PJ Mol

(Grade PreK-2).
When you give this moose a muffin, he’ll want jam to go with it, then after he eats all the muffins he wants to make more. (*wants, goods, services*).
**Call Number:** [Big Book] PJ Num

Set in western Nigeria, a poor young boy works hard so he can rent a bicycle and ride with the other boys. (*wants, earning money, saving*).
**Call Number:** PJ Ola

Each child in Mrs. Madoff’s class brings a visitor who tells the group about his or her job. (*jobs, human resources*).
**Call Number:** PJ Roc

The Once-ler describes the results of the local pollution problem. (*natural resources, choices, scarcity*).
**Call Number:** PJ Seu

A young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life by spending hours studying his father’s world map. (*scarcity, poverty, needs*).
**Call Number:** PJ Shu

A very old coat is recycled numerous times into a variety of garments. (*saving, resources*).
**Call Number:** PJ Tab

Maria and her grandmother barter a dozen eggs at the market square to get the ingredients for their traditional Saturday chicken meal, Sancocho. (*barter*).
**Call Number:** PJ Tor

Miguel sees the results of his father’s faith and generosity when even though his family needs money to get them through the winter he gives away the pastries he has baked. (*poverty, scarcity*).
**Call Number:** J Tos
(Grade PreK-2).  
Max and Ruby spend so much on emergencies while shopping that they barely have enough left for grandma’s birthday present. *(needs, wants, money)*.  
**Call Number: PJ Wel**

Two Afghani girls living in a Pakistan refugee camp share a precious pair of sandals given to them by relief workers. *(scarcity, human resources, needs)*.  
**Call Number: PJ Wil**

(Grade K-2).  
Rosa needs to earn money to help her mother while her grandmother is sick so she plays her accordion in the Oak Street Band. *(saving, capital resources)*.  
**Call Number: PJ Wil**

A young Irish girl who immigrates to America observes the beauties of nature to share with her homesick family. *(scarcity, human resources)*.  
**Call Number: PJ Woo**

Set during World War II, Ada’s mother must go to Chicago to work. Ada waits and hopes for the day her mama will come home. *(jobs, discrimination, scarcity, gender)*.  
**Call Number: PJ Woo**

Nine-year-old Asa helps his father by leading the mules that pull his canal boat. *(resources, jobs, trade, innovation)*.  
**Call Number: PJ Yez**

**Juvenile Fiction**

Amelia, the daughter of migrant farm workers, is tired of moving around from job to job and dreams of a stable home. *(scarcity, migrant workers, education)*.  
**Call Number: J Alt**

Andrew uses five weeks of allowance to buy a secret freckle recipe and learns some valuable consumer lessons. *(buyers, consumer protection, marketing, production)*.  
**Call Number: J Blu**
Eidi takes a job spinning wool in a nearby village where she rescues Tink, a young boy, from his abusive master. (*wealth, poverty, jobs*).

**Call Number:** J Bre

“Candy for life” and a tour of Willie Wonka's top-secret chocolate factory was the prize for buying a candy bar containing a Golden Ticket. One of the winners was Charlie Bucket, whose family was so poor he could only have one candy bar a year. (*poverty, producers, competition*).

**Call Number:** J Dah

Parallel pictures reveal the essential similarities between the lives of two boys, one in a western country, and one in a rural African village. (*goods, services, consumers*).

**Call Number:** J Gra

After an unscrupulous card collector cons Griffin Bing out of a valuable baseball card he puts together a band of misfits to get the card back. (*scarcity, supply, demand*).

**Call Number:** J Kor

Abdul and grandfather pass through the streets of Fez, Morocco, and stop at an old gate where grandfather performs as a storyteller. (*jobs, markets*).

**Call Number:** J Lew

Set in the 1830’s, a ten-year-old bobbin girl working in a textile mill must decide if she will participate in the workers’ strike. (*child labor, labor organization*).

**Call Number:** JMcC

Relates how Benjamin Banneker’s grandmother journeyed from England, worked as an indentured servant, began a farm of her own, and married a freed slave. (*child schooling, work, discrimination*).

**Call Number:** J McG

A ten-year-old boy accompanies his father for the first time on a caravan trip through the Afghanistan mountains to the city where they will trade their goods. (*markets, human and natural resources*).

**Call Number:** J McK
A poor Ghanaian boy buys a chicken through a community loan program which eventually helps him lift his mother and community out of poverty. *(entrepreneurs, loans, markets)*.
**Call Number:** J Mil

Grandpa leads the way as his family works together to tap maple trees, collect sap, and make syrup. *(natural resources, producers)*.
**Call Number:** J Pur

Simsbury is sitting under his favorite tree when a red chair and an accordion pass by, inspiring him to take a look at the Mud Flats yard sale. *(opportunity, costs, goods)*.
**Call Number:** J Ste

A greedy baker buys his wife a magic bed that flies them to the master baker. There they are given special yeast that helps their bakery become the most popular in Florence. *(poverty, entrepreneurs, wants, needs)*.
**Call Number:** J Wil

Rosa has difficulty choosing a special birthday present to buy with the coins her mother and grandmother have saved. *(saving, human resources)*.
**Call Number:** J Wil

**Juvenile Non Fiction**

Discusses the history of money from the mediums of exchange used by primitive societies to the currency and variations used in today’s world. *(money, barter)*.
**Call Number:** j 332.4 Adl

The story of Joe and Bob Switzer who experimented with ultraviolet lights and fluorescent paints and invented a new kind of color. *(entrepreneurs, innovation, producers)*.
**Call Number:** j 532.352 Bar
A retelling of the traditional tale of how a boy's lost mitten becomes a refuge from the cold for an increasing number of animals. (*scarcity*).
Call Number: [Big Book] j 398.2 Bre

Born into a traveling gypsy family, Django teaches himself to play the guitar. Despite injuries from a fire he manages to play again and becomes an illustrious musician. (*human resources, jobs, poverty*).
Call Number: jB Reinhardt

Describes the work done each day in a neighborhood grocery store owned by a Korean American. (*jobs, human resources*).
Call Number: j 381.14 Fla

Explains how apples were brought to America, how they grow, their traditional uses and cultural significance, and some of the varieties grown. (*natural resources*).
Call Number: j 634.11 Gib

Describes the special characteristics of markets throughout the world.
(*prices, markets, buyers*).
Call Number: j 381.18 Lew

Kyle and Amy go school shopping and learn about different payment methods.
(*money, banks*).
Call Number: j 332.4 Loe

Follows limestone from the quarry to the factory where it is eventually formed into cement, then concrete and is made into a bridge.
(*capital resources, producers*).
Call Number: j 666 Mit

Describes how people gradually switched from the barter system to trading with gold and eventually to coins. (*barter, money, gold*).
Call Number: j 332.49 Mit
A simple discussion of different kinds of houses and what makes them homes. *(wants, needs, resources).*
**Call Number:** j 363.5 Mor

Describes how cheese is made, from a sample’s beginnings on a dairy farm until a cheese factory ships the final product across America. *(resources, producers, consumers).*
**Call Number:** j 637.3 Pet

Explores the cultural and environmental aspects of traditional Balinese rice farming to introduce the basic concept of sustainability. *(resources, environmental economics).*
**Call Number:** j 633.18 Rey

Describes the various forms which money can take, including coins, paper money, and personal checks, and how it can be used to make purchases, pay off loans, or build interest in the bank. *(interest, checks, loans, banking).*
**Call Number:** j 332.024 Sch

Hare turns his bad luck around by striking a clever deal with the rich and lazy bear down the road. *(entrepreneurs, natural resources).*
**Call Number:** j 398.2 Ste

In a war-stricken country a librarian struggles to save her community’s priceless collection of books. *(public goods, human resources, goods).*
**Call Number:** j 020.92 Win

July 2012, pm