

## Financial Literacy Books for Children

Curriculum Materials Center  
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

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

### Picture Books

- Alalou, E. (2008). *The butter man*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. (Grade K-3).  
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**
- Baker, J. (2010). *Mirror*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. (Grade PreK-3).  
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**
- Barbour, K. (1987). *Little Nino's pizzeria*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, Jovanovich. (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**
- Brisson, P. (1995). *Benny's pennies*. New York, NY: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers. (Grade PreK-1).  
Benny has five shiny new pennies to spend and manages to find something for everyone in his family. (*money, goods*).  
**Call Number: PJ Bri**
- Bunting, E. (1994). *A day's work*. New York, NY: Clarion Books. (Grade K-3).  
When Francisco helps his grandfather find work he discovers his grandfather has something valuable to teach Francisco. (*human resources, jobs*).  
**Call Number: PJ Bun**
- Bunting, E. (2015). *Yard sale*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. (Grade PreK-2).  
Callie and her family are moving from their house to an apartment, so they have a yard sale. (*earning money, entrepreneurs, goods*).  
**Call Number: PJ Bun**

- Cherry, L. (1990). *The great kapok tree*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace. (Grade K-4).  
The animals living in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an axe the importance of not cutting down their home. (*natural resources, opportunity, cost*).  
**Call Number: PJ Che**
- Conner, L. (2004). *Miss Bridie chose a shovel*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin. (Grade 1-4).  
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**
- Cronin, D. (2000). *Click clack moo cows that type*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster. (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**
- DePaola, T. (1973). *Charlie needs a cloak*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. (Grade K-3).  
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**
- Dooley, N. (1991). *Everybody cooks rice*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books. (Grade K-2).  
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**
- Hoban, L. (1987). *Arthur's funny money*. New York, NY: Harper & Row. (Grade K-3).  
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**
- Howard, G. (2002). *A basket of bangles*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press. (Grade 2-5).  
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**
- Madrigal, A. H., & DePaola, T. (2001). *Erandi's braids*. New York, NY: Puffin Books. (PreK-2).  
Erandi surprises her mother by offering to sell her long hair in order to raise enough money to buy a new fishing net. (*buying, needs, poverty, selling*).  
**Call Number: PJ Mad**
- 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**

Mollet, T. (1999). *My rows and piles of coins*. New York, NY: Clarion Books. (Grade K-2).  
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**

Numeroff, L. (1991). *If you give a moose a muffin*. New York, NY: Harper Collins. (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**

Olaleye, I. (2001). *Bikes for rent*. New York, NY: Orchard Books. (Grade K-2).

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**

Rockwell, A. (2000). *Career day*. New York, NY: Harper Collins. (Grade PreK-1).

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**

Seuss, Dr. (1971). *The Lorax*. New York, NY: Random House. (Grade K-3).

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

**Call Number: PJ Seu**

Shulevitz, U. (2008). *How I learned geography*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. (Grade K-4).

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**

Taback, S. (1999). *Joseph had a little overcoat*. New York, NY: Viking. (Grade K-3).

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

**Call Number: PJ Tab**

Torres, L. (1995). *Saturday Sancocho*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. (Grade PreK-3).

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**

Toscano, C. (2010). *Papa's pastries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz. (Grade PreK-1).

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: PJ Tos**

Wells, R. (1997). *Bunny money*. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers. (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**

Williams, K., & Mohammed, K. (2007). *Four feet, two sandals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (Grade 1-3).

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**

Williams, V. (1984). *Music, music for everyone*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books. (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**

Woodruff, E. (2006). *Small beauties: The journey of Darcy Heart*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf. (Grade K-3).

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**

Woodson, J. (2004). *Coming on home soon*. New York, NY: Putnam. (Grade K-3).

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**

Yezerski, T. (2002). *A full hand*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. (Grade PreK-2).

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

Altman, L. (1993). *Amelia's road*. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books. (Grade K-4).

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**

Blume, J. (1971). *Freckle Juice*. New York, NY: Four Winds Press. (Grade 3-5).

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**

- Bredsdorff, B. (2009). *Eidi*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus, Giroux. (Grade 4-6).  
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**
- Dahl, R. (1973). *Charlie and the chocolate factory*. New York, NY: Knopf. (Grade 4-6).  
"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**
- Gray, N. (1988). *A country far away*. New York, NY: Orchard Books. (Grade K-3).  
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**
- Korman, G. (2008). *Swindle*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press. (Grade 3-6).  
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**
- Lewin, T. (1998). *The storytellers*. New York, NY: Lothrop Lee & Shepard. (Grade K-3).  
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**
- McCully, E. (1996). *The bobbin girl*. New York, NY: Dial Books. (Grade 3-5).  
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: J McC**
- McGill, A. (1999). *Molly Bannaky*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin. (Grade 4-6).  
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**
- McKay, L. Jr. (2008). *Caravan*. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books. (Grade 1-4).  
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**

- Milway, K. S. (2008). *One hen: How one small loan made a big difference*. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press. (Grade 2-5).  
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**
- Purmell, A. (2008). *Maple syrup season*. New York, NY: Holiday House. (Grade 1-4).  
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**
- Stevenson, J. (1996). *Yard sale*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books. (Grade 2-4).  
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**
- Willard, N. (2007). *The flying bed*. New York, NY: Blue Sky Press. (Grade 3-5).  
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**
- Williams, V. B. (1983). *Something special for me*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books. (Grade K-2).  
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

- Adler, D. (1984). *All kinds of money*. New York, NY: F. Watts. (Grade 2-5).  
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: j332.4 Adl**
- Barton, C. (2009). *The day-glo brothers*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. (Grade 2-5).  
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: j532.352 Bar**
- Bullard, L. (2014). *Shanti saves her money*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Books. (Grades K-4).  
Shanti wants to go on the Monster Ride at Fun Park so she makes a special save jar and tries not to spend her allowance. (*earning money, savings, wants*).  
**Call Number: j332.024 Bul**

- Christensen, B. (2009). *Django: World's greatest jazz guitarist*. New York, NY: Flash Point (Grade 3-6).  
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**
- Flanagan, A. (1996). *Busy day at Mr. Kang's grocery store*. New York, NY: Children's Press. (Grade K-3).  
Describes the work done each day in a neighborhood grocery store owned by a Korean American. (*jobs, human resources*).  
**Call Number: j381.14 Fla**
- Gibbons, G. (2000). *Apples*. New York, NY: Holiday House (Grade PreK-3).  
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: j634.11 Gib**
- Giesecke, E. (2003). *From seashells to smart cards: Money and currency*. Chicago, IL: Heinemann Library. (Grades 3-7).  
Learn how bartering started by ancient peoples and evolved into other forms currency and ways to keep money safe. (*barter, money*).  
**Call Number: j332.4 Gie**
- Kawa, K. (2012). *My first trip to the bank*. New York, NY: Gareth Stevens. (Grades PreK-2).  
Follow a young girl on her trip to the bank where she opens a savings account and deposits the money in her piggy bank. (*banks, money, saving*).  
**Call Number: j332.1 Kaw**
- Lewin, T. (1996). *Market!* New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. (Grade K-3).  
Describes the special characteristics of markets throughout the world. (*prices, markets, buyers*).  
**Call Number: j381.18 Lew**
- Loewen, N. (2005). *Cash, credit cards, or checks: A book about payment methods*. Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books. (Grade 2-5).  
Kyle and Amy go school shopping and learn about different payment methods. (*money, banks*).  
**Call Number: j332.4 Loe**
- Morris, A. (1992). *Houses and homes*. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. (Grade K-2).  
A simple discussion of different kinds of houses and what makes them homes. (*wants, needs, resources*).  
**Call Number: j363.5 Mor**

Peterson, C. (1994). *Extra cheese, please!: Mozzarella's journey from cow to pizza*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press. (Grade K-2).

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: j637.3 Pet**

Randolph, R. P. (2014). *How to earn money*. New York, NY: PowerKids Press. (Grades K-2).

Explains how children can make money, be smart about saving, and find a job. (*earning money, jobs, saving*).

**Call Number: j332.4 Ran**

Reynolds, J. (2009). *Cycle of rice, cycle of life: A story of sustainable farming*. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books. (Grade 4-7).

Explores the cultural and environmental aspects of traditional Balinese rice farming to introduce the basic concept of sustainability. (*resources, environmental economics*).

**Call Number: j633.18 Rey**

Scherer, L. S. (Ed.). (2013). *Oil*. Detroit, MI: Greenhaven Press. (Grades 4-8).

America's new identity as a petrostate and how this status will affect the economy, environment, and civilization. (*capital resource, consumer, natural resource, producer*).

**Call Number: j622 Oil**

Schwartz, D. (1989). *If you made a million*. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. (Grade K-4).

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: j332.024 Sch**

Winter, J. (2005). *The librarian of Basra*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt. (Grade 3-5).

In a war-stricken country a librarian struggles to save her community's priceless collection of books. (*public goods, human resources, goods*).

**Call Number: j020.92 Win**

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