

STUDY GUIDES

The **Chicago Humanities Festival** is committed to creating and fostering interest in the humanities. To this end, the Festival provides study guides to help teachers to bring the humanities into the classroom. Every year, the CHF brings an amazing array of authors, thinkers, and artists to Chicago. We hope you will seize the opportunity to bring the excitement of their works and knowledge to your students.

The “*Saving + Spending Children’s Book List*” on the following pages was prepared for the 2003 Chicago Humanities Festival: *Saving + Spending*.

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This guide was created by Christopher P. Swanson, education publications editor; with support from CHF staff, including Greg Alcock, education program coordinator; Cris Kayser, vice president; and Laura Diamond, intern.

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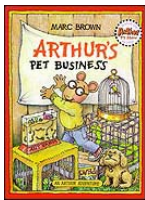


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A Saving + Spending Children's Book List
Created for the CHF by Peggy Sullivan

Peggy Sullivan is a former children's librarian who has written extensively on children's literature. She was the dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Rosary College (1995-97). A past executive director of the ALA (1992-94), she is currently a consultant specializing in executive searches for public libraries.

Picture Books and Easy Readers:



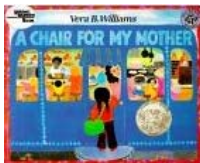
Arthur's Pet Business
By Marc Brown
Little Brown, 1990

Arthur the aardvark is back for another one of his crazy adventures. Arthur really wants a puppy and has a great idea to prove his responsibility to his parents. He starts his own "Pet Business," taking care of other people's pets so that he can earn money and buy a dog of his own. However, Arthur gets more than he bargained for.



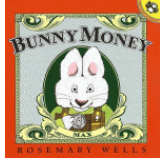
*Brother Anansi and the Cattle Ranch/
El Hernana Anansi Y El Rancho de Ganado*
Told by James de Souza; Adapted by Harriet Rohmer
Children's Book Press, 1989

Stories of Anansi, spider and trickster, have been around a long time, coming from West Africa and the Caribbean. In this one, Brother Tiger wins the lottery and Anansi convinces him to become his partner and buy a cattle ranch. Anansi soon plays another of his famous tricks and outwits Brother Tiger one more time.



A Chair for My Mother
By Vera B. Williams
Harper Trophy, 1984

In this beloved Caldecott Honor Book, a girl, saves up money in a jar until she can purchase a comfortable chair for her working mother. (The family's possessions were lost in a fire.)



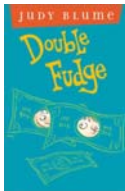
Bunny Money
By Rosemary Wells
Dial, 1997

Max and Ruby have a wallet full of money to buy presents for their grandma. However, after bus fare, lunch, vampire teeth, and an emergency they barely have enough left for gifts. All in a day's adventure for these two picture-book rabbits!



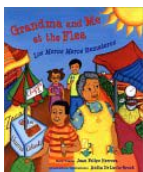
Dinosaur's New Clothes: A Retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen Tale
By Diane Goode
Blue Sky Press, 1999

Hans Christian Andersen originally told this tale about an emperor; however, in this story a Tyrannosaurus rex lives at Versailles and is swindled by tailors with invisible thread and imaginary clothes. The emperor spends a lot, but he doesn't save his reputation.



Double Fudge
By Judy Blume
Dutton Books, 2002

Peter Hatcher and his five-year-old brother, Fudge, return in this new Judy Blume book. Fudge has developed an obsession with money. He likes to have it, talk about it, and count it. He even creates his own currency, Fudge Bucks. To try to calm this new fascination, the family takes a trip to Washington, DC, to visit the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. While there, the family runs into their distant cousins from Hawaii and the rest of story turns into an adventure.



Grandma and Me at the Flea: Los Mero Meros Remateros
By Juan Felipe Herrera; Illustrated by Anita De Lucio-Brock
Children's Book Press, 2002

Juanito helps his grandmother every Sunday at the flea market where he and the Mexican-American community spend the day sharing stories and seeing old friends. Juanito helps his grandmother by making exchanges. With each one he learns what it means to be a true *rematero*, a fleamarketeer, and understands that the value of community can never be measured in dollars.



If you Made a Million

By David M. Schwartz; Illustrated by Steven Kellogg
Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1989

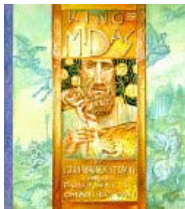
“Making money means making choices” is the message carried throughout the adventures that Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician and his team of kids go on. They learn about the relationships between doing a task and earning money, saving and spending. Following the fantastic images are some interesting facts about banks and money, loans and income tax.



Joseph Had A Little Overcoat

By Simms Taback
Viking, 1999

A merry Yiddish song accompanies the story of Joseph, who starts out with an overcoat and ends up with a story. When the overcoat gets old and worn, he makes a jacket out of it, and after many alterations Joseph is soon left with nothing. He writes a book about it and proves that “you can always make something out of nothing.” Winner of the Caldecott Medal as best picture book of the year 2000.



King Midas: A Golden Tale

By John Waren Stewig; Illustrated by Omar Rayyan
Holiday House, 1999

An old story about the greedy King Midas who gets his wish and begins turning everything he touches into gold. However, when his food and drink, and even his beloved daughter turn to gold, he realizes that some things in life are more precious than wealth.

Middle Grade Readers:



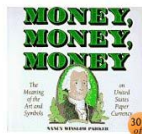
"The Gift of the Magi,"
in many collections including The Best Short Stories of O. Henry
By O. Henry
The Modern House Library, 1994

Della and Jim wanted to give each other Christmas presents, but they had no savings to spend. The choices they made to make the other happy may have seemed foolish, but as O. Henry says in the surprise ending, "of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the wisest."



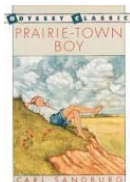
Money
By John Cribb; Illustrated John Wookcock and Thomas Keenes
Alfred A. Knopf, 1990

Using and accepting different types of money made it possible to trade and encouraged the exploration of the world. Pages filled with pictures and facts tell the story of money and how it was saved and spent, made and lost around the world.



Money, Money, Money: The Meaning of the Art and Symbols on United States Paper Currency
By Nancy Winslow Parker
Harper Collins, 1995

Generals and presidents, homes and memorials are pictured on U.S. currency. This book covers all the names and symbols found on money and provides countless interesting facts. It explains the fascinating history behind what we spend and save everyday.



Prairie-Town Boy
Carl Sandburg
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1953

In this memoir of growing up in Galesburg, Illinois, the poet and biographer remembers how important money was to him and how hard he worked to earn it. At eighteen, he was able to stay in Chicago on his own as long as his dollar and a half lasted.



Ramona and her Father

Beverly Cleary
Morrow, 1975

Second grade isn't as easy as Ramona thought. Her family is also facing hard times. Since her dad lost his job, her mom works full time, and her older sister is being a pain. So Ramona decides to take matters into her own hands. Things starting getting prickly for Ramona, but in the end she realizes that she still has her loving family. A Newbery Honor Book.



The Saturdays

Elizabeth Enright
Henry Holt and Company, 1941

Even life in New York City can be boring if you never have enough money to do anything. In this classic story, the four Melendys, ages 6 to 13, decide to pool their allowances so that, each Saturday, one of them can do something special. The results: the Independent Saturday Afternoon Adventure Club (ISAAC), a dog named after the Club, a ride home on a policeman's horse, and a friendship with a wonderful older woman who endears herself to all of them.



The Story of Money

Betsy Masetry
Clarion Books, 1993

Feathers and salt were among the things that people used for trade before the idea of using paper and metal coins became popular. This entertaining history explores the many forms money has taken around the world and through history.