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MONEY AS YOU GROW

Book read guide for
**“Money Monsters:
The Missing Money”**

By Okeoma Moronu Schreiner

 Ages 4-7

For more information please contact your county UW-Extension office.



MONEY AS YOU GROW BOOK CLUB

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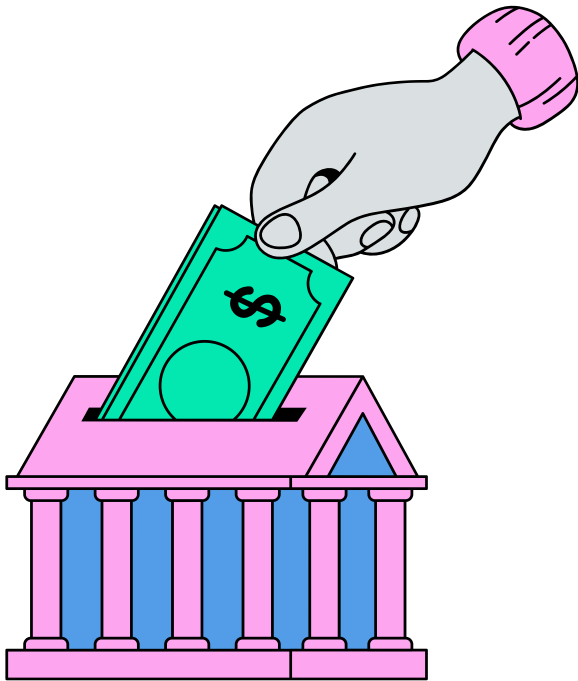
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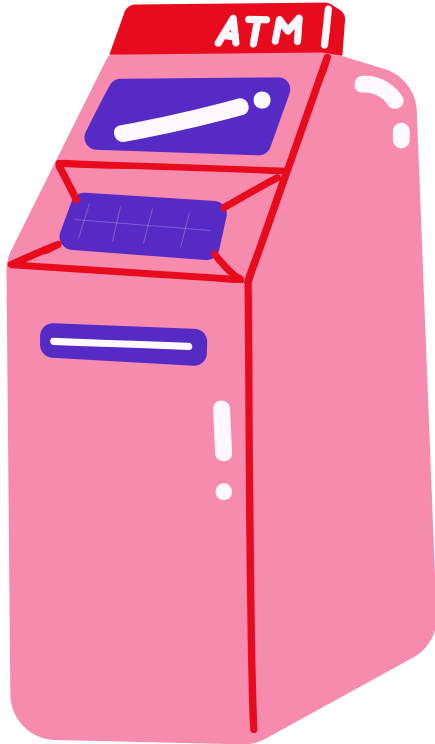
Welcome

This guide will help you to teach your child money management skills while reading *Money Monsters - The Missing Money* by Okeoma Moronu Schreiner. It will do this by:

- Helping you explain the key ideas covered in the book and then providing you with signs your child understands the key ideas and can use them in daily life.
- Giving you things to think about before reading the book with your child. These can help you spot key points in the book or spark ideas to discuss later.
- Helping you prepare for an enjoyable reading time with your child.
- Providing questions to talk about with your child.
- Suggest activities that help your child put ideas and lessons into action.

The story

Kai is a worrier with a big imagination. When Kai's money gets swallowed by an ATM monster, he must find all his courage to try to save it.



About this guide

The Money as You Grow Book Club is a research-based program designed to help parents, caregivers, and others teach children ages 4 through 10 money skills through reading, activities and play.

The Money as You Grow Book Club is an updated version of the University of Nevada Extension's Money on the Bookshelf program. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Human Development and Relationships Institute have worked together to expand the program and make it available to libraries, educators, and parents nationally.

The CFPB is an independent federal agency. We write and enforce rules that keep banks and other financial companies operating fairly. We also help educate and empower consumers. For more about tools and resources for parents, visit

<http://consumerfinance.gov/MoneyAsYouGrow>.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is part of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Cooperative Extension System, which brings vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, consumers, families and young people.



Key ideas

By the time you finish this discussion guide, your child will be able to point to examples of these key ideas in the book you read and discuss real-life examples, too. Use these definitions to explain the ideas. We have also included ways children can show they are ready to use them in their daily life.

1. Solving Problems

When problems come up, we try to deal with them. Solving problems means finding what works best for us and taking action to make things better.

How kids show it: They can describe problems and come up with a few ideas to make things better.

2. Flexibility

Thinking in a new and unique way helps solve problems. Being flexible means when situations get hard, you can change how you think and act to generate new ideas.

How kids show it: They can talk about a time when their plans did not turn out how they wanted and what they did instead.

3. Saving

Saving means putting some money aside until we have enough to buy what we want. There are many places to save money: piggy banks, with a bank, in an automated teller machine (ATM).

How kids show it: They keep money in a safe place and keep track of the amount saved for future spending.
Ages 7+: They can explain why money that is saved in a bank or credit union is still a personal belonging.

Something to think about

First, read the book yourself and think about these ideas

- Reflect on your personal emotions around money. Have you ever worried about your personal finances? Have you ever felt stressed about managing your money or not having enough? How do you handle your emotions around money? What are your biggest fears regarding your financial security?
- In the book Kai received a gift of money for Chinese New Year. Dad planned to take Kai to the bank to deposit his money to keep it safe. What do you do with the money that you have? How do you keep it safe?
- How do you talk to your family or loved ones regarding money?

Before you read

Read the book first yourself. Knowing the story will help you know what comes next. It is important to ask your child questions about the story as you read. Ask what might happen next in the story.

- Choose a quiet time for stories and make it part of your daily routine.
- Find a cozy, quiet place to read.
- Make sure your child can see the pictures.
- Talk about the pictures and characters in the book.
- Read with expression in your voice. Give each character in the story his or her own voice.
- Keep the story time short enough to leave them wanting more.
- Look for ways during the day to bring up the messages in the story.
- Continue to read aloud together even if your child can read alone.

Something to talk about

Before you begin to read the story with your child, look at the cover of the book together. Ask what the story might be about.

As you read the story with your child, talk about these ideas:

- Why is Kai worried? Has there been a time you felt worried?
- Why is this money so important to Kai?
- Do you have any money? Where do you keep your money?
- Where do you think is a safe place to keep your money?
- Kai had so many things he wanted to do and things he wanted to buy. Do you have plans for your money?
- Have you ever heard of an ATM or an armored truck? Why do they need to be super secure?
- How did Kai feel at the end of the story?

Something to do

Pretend Play Bank

Ages 4+

Create a small “bank” station with a pretend cash register, toy money, and a simple ledger. Provide a variety of “jobs,” such as a banker, customer, or teller. Kids can practice depositing and withdrawing money (with play money), opening accounts, and learning about saving. This encourages role-playing and social interaction.

Banking-themed Board Games

Ages 5+

Use simple, age-appropriate board games like Monopoly Junior or any other game that incorporates basic financial concepts. Play the game together, explaining things like paying for items, earning money, or making change.

ATM and Card Concepts

Ages 6+

Explain how an ATM works in simple terms: An automated teller machine (ATM) is a machine where people can use their bank cards to get money or check their account balances. In the book Kai put his money into an ATM machine and thought it was a monster. Show your child a real ATM card or a toy bank card and explain the purpose of the card. You can tell them that the card is like a "key" to open their bank account at the ATM. You could also show pictures or videos of how an ATM looks and functions to make it more concrete for them.

Set Up a Child-Friendly Savings Account

Ages 6+

Visit a local bank with your child. Consider helping them to set up a savings account. Many banks offer special savings accounts for children or minors, often called "youth savings accounts" or "child savings accounts." These accounts typically come with no monthly fees and lower minimum deposit requirements. Most banks and credit unions require you to be a joint account holder on your child's account.