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MONEY AS YOU GROW

Book read guide for
Thank You, Omu!

By Oge Mora

 Ages 3-6



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

MONEY AS YOU GROW BOOK CLUB

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Welcome

This guide will help you to teach your child money management skills while reading “Thank You, Omu” by Oge Mora. 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.
- Suggesting activities that help your child put ideas and lessons into action.

The story

Omú cooks a delicious stew and the aroma draws neighbors to her door. She shares generously until her pot is empty, but the neighbors return with food and gifts, creating a joyful feast together. A celebration of kindness, sharing, and community.



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've also included ways children can show they are ready to use them in their daily life.

1. Sharing & Borrowing

There are two kinds of sharing: Something shared that does not have to be returned or paid for is a gift. Something borrowed must be returned.

How Children Show It: Can explain the difference between lending and giving something away.

2. 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 Children Show It: Can describe problems and come up with a few ideas to make things better.

3. Prioritizing

Sometimes we need to make choices about what we want or do. These choices can change from day to day. Prioritizing is arranging things in order of their importance to us.

How Children Show It: They can prioritize choices when they want two or more things at the same time.

Something to think about

First, read the book yourself and think about these ideas:

- Note to reader: “Omu” (pronounced AH-moo) is the Igbo term for “queen.”
- In the story, Omu offers a portion of her meal to her neighbors, and soon the pot is empty. Though Omu ends up with no stew, she gains something else: community support. This shows that value isn’t always monetary; relationships, gratitude, and sharing are forms of wealth too.
- Think about how a child might see Omu’s actions. Will they focus on the joy of giving, the sadness of losing something, or the surprise of being cared for in return?

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 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 does Omu choose to share her stew?
- How do you think Omu felt when she shared her stew?
- How do the neighbors feel when Omu shares her stew?
- What happens when Omu's pot is empty?
- The story shows us that community means helping each other, sharing, and being kind. When we work together, everyone feels happy and safe. Have you ever needed something and someone you cared about helped you?

Something to do

Problem Solving Like Omu

Age 3+

Opportunity to practice solving problems (and sharing): You can use a food item (play or real), such as an apple or a cookie, or a favorite toy. The problem is you have one item and 2 or 3 people who would like to share it. Come up with ideas to solve the problem.

“Sharing Stew” Kindness Bowl

Age 4+

To help children understand sharing, gratitude and sense of community. Gather the following things: a bowl or other container, paper cut into small squares or post-it notes, crayons or markers. Place the bowl in the center of the table and have each family member draw or write one way they care to share or be kind (sharing food, helping, listening, saying thank you). Put the papers into the bowl – this is your “kindness stew”. Take turns pulling one out and acting it out during the day or week.

Talk about how it feels to share or help someone or when someone shares or is kind to you. Optional: Cook or eat a meal together and talk about who helped make it. Does your family have a special recipe? Make your recipe and deliver it to a neighbor.

Budget Basket: Share, Save, Spend**Age 5+**

To understand sharing, saving, and planning. Gather 10 coins, beans, buttons, or paper circles. In addition, gather 3 bowls or cups labeled Spend, Save, Share. In the story Omu made stew. Omu didn't have an endless pot of stew, but she chose how to use what she had. The coins represent Omu's stew. Have the child decide how many coins go into each bowl. Spend = what Omu needs for herself, Share – what she gives to others and Save – what she keeps for later. Count together how many coins are in each bowl and talk about the choices.