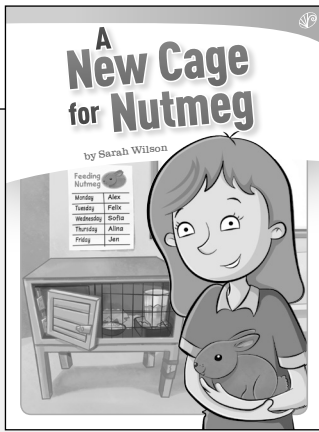


A New Cage for Nutmeg

by Sarah Wilson



Running words: 259

Book Summary

This story looks at ways to raise money by selling goods and services. Nutmeg, the classroom pet rabbit, needs a new cage. The students think of ways to raise money. Some make lemonade and muffins to sell at lunch time. Two students sell a service (dog walking) instead of a good. At the end, the class has raised enough money to buy a new cage for Nutmeg.

Themes

Animals, birds, and insects; **Financial Literacy**; Friends; Problem solving; School and community

Features of the Book

- The link to financial literacy: goods and services
- The information contained in the illustrations
- Content words for discussion: *job, pay, raise, sell*
- Phonics and phonemic awareness: consonant blends – *gr, th*; short vowel sounds – *but/fun/lunch/up/us*

Skills and Strategies

A New Cage for Nutmeg introduces and reinforces the following skills and strategies:

- making inferences;
- using prior knowledge;
- making predictions;
- discussing point of view;
- determining the author's purpose.

Materials

- copies of the Sentence Strips reproducible for this book, cut and ready for use
- copies of the BM, pencils

Introducing the Text

Begin by asking the students to think of the ways they have raised money. Together make a list, divided into goods and services.

- *Did you sell a good or a service?*
- *Why were you earning the money?*
- *Which was the most successful way of raising money?*

Ensure that the students understand the difference between goods and services.

Reading the Text

Hand one book to each student. Ensure that the content words (*job, pay, raise, sell*) are integrated naturally into the discussion. An understanding of these terms will help students appreciate the author's purpose and the decisions the characters make in the story. Encourage the students to use the information in the illustrations and text to make predictions, then to revise or confirm these as you work through the book.

Cover

Together, read the title and the name of the author on the cover and the title page. Look at the illustrations.

- *Who do you think Nutmeg is?*
- *Why do you think Nutmeg needs a new cage?*

Page 2

- *Where are the girl and the rabbit?*
- *What do you think the girl is saying?* (She is introducing Nutmeg.)

Read the text together. Confirm that the girl is in the classroom and that she is introducing the rabbit and the need for a new cage. Explain that although she is not named in the story, this girl is the narrator, or storyteller, of the book. The story will be told from her point of view.

Page 3

- *What do you think the teacher and her students are discussing?* (the need for a new cage)
- *What is the list on the wall behind her?*

Read the text together. Confirm that the class is discussing the problem (how to raise money for Nutmeg's new cage). Discuss with the students the feeding schedule on the wall and what it signifies (that all the students are involved in Nutmeg's care and are motivated to help raise money for a new cage). Have a student point out the speech marks on this page. Remind the students that these marks indicate who is speaking in the story.

Pages 4 to 6

- *What do you think the students on these pages are talking about?* (ideas for raising money)
- *How can you tell they are excited about the fund-raising project?* (Their expressions and body language are happy and excited.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Alex, Felix, and Sofia have come up with ideas to raise money (making lemonade and muffins to sell at lunch time).

- *Are these good ways to raise money? Why/why not?*

Page 7

- *How do the girls' expressions compare with those of the other students?* (They look worried instead of happy.)
- *Why might they look worried?* (They can't think of a fund-raising idea.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Alina and the narrator can't think of anything to make and sell. Ask the students to predict what will happen in the story. Will Alina and the narrator find a way to raise money? Will the class raise enough money to buy the new cage?

A New Cage for Nutmeg

Pages 8 to 9

- *Where are Alina and the narrator now?* (at one of their homes)
- *What are they doing?* (using the computer and talking)

Read the text together.

- *Who is Charlie?* (a dog)
- *What do you think Alina’s idea is?*

Pages 10 to 11

- *What are Alina and the narrator doing?*

Read the text together.

- *Did you predict Alina’s idea correctly?*

Revisit the earlier discussion about the difference between a good and a service.

- *Is walking dogs a good or a service?*

Page 12

- *What is the class looking at?* (Nutmeg in the new cage)
- *Was your prediction about the class’s fund-raising efforts correct?*

Read the text together. Discuss how the class might feel about their success.

Revisiting the Text

- Revisit the list of ways the students have fund-raised. Ask which ways they would use again and why. Was the most successful way also the most enjoyable.
- Find and list the “gr” and “th” consonant blends in the story. With the students, add any other words they know that begin with these blends.
- Write the words “but”, “fun”, “lunch”, “up”, and “us” on the board. With the students, make a list of other words that contain the short “u” sound.

Following Up

- Encourage the students to think of examples of goods and services that are often sold together, such as a store that sells new curtains and hangs them at a person’s home, or a store that sells new tyres and puts them on a person’s car. Ask what is the advantage to buyers and sellers of having these goods and services sold together. (Buyers have the convenience of receiving related goods and services in one place; sellers make more money.)
- Give the students copies of the BM for this story. The students can complete the graphic organiser with the ways of raising money for Nutmeg’s cage.