

I Used to Be Rich

Create a Book about Spending Money



Materials Needed

- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Optional: Color pencils or markers

Grade Range

K-2
3-5

Topics/Skills

Math: Subtraction; Narrative Writing

Learning Standards

CCSS: [Number & Operations in Base Ten](#); [Measurement & Data](#)
CCSS: [English Language Arts](#)

Duration

45 – 60 minutes

Prep Time

10 – 20 minutes

There is a story about a boy named Alexander. Alexander's grandparents came to visit and gave him \$1. He thought he was rich! Throughout the story, people encouraged Alexander to save his money, but he kept making poor choices. He ends up losing all of his money in just one week! In this activity, you will write a story about having and spending money.

Activity Challenge

Create your own story about spending money.

Preparation

1. Review the Materials Needed list and collect materials.
2. Watch this YouTube video to hear the story [Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday](#).
3. Brainstorm things that you may spend or lose money on.
4. Draft your story using the table on the next page of this sheet.

To Do

Create a story like the book: *Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday*.

1. You are the main character of the story.
2. Begin with \$1 on day 1.
3. You spend (or lose) money on something each day.
4. You spend exactly \$1, or 100 cents, over 7 days. On Day 7, you will not have any money left over.
5. Write a sentence and draw a picture for each day.
6. Write one subtraction number sentence (equation) for each day.

Observations

- Add adjectives and dialogue to make your story come to life.
- In real life, how much money do you usually spend or lose in a single day?

Extensions

- Using your subtraction sentence as a guide, check your subtraction by using addition.
- Design and create a piggy bank out of household items. Start saving your money!
- Write a Part II story about how you made money instead of losing it.

The Content behind the Activity

Subtraction in mathematics means that you are taking something away from a group or number of things. When you subtract, what is left in the group becomes less. For example: $5 - 3 = 2$. Subtraction and addition are closely linked. Although subtraction is the opposite of addition, it is also true that every subtraction problem can be rewritten as an addition problem. For example: $2 + 3 = 5$.

Narrative writing tells a story with the main character facing a challenge. Writing narratives includes being able to recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events. Narrative writing allows students to express their stories creatively and it teaches them how to express their creative thoughts in an organized manner.

Sample Outline to Story

Cover Page	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Title: Author: Date:	Write how you got \$1.00. Was it a gift from your grandparents?	Write how you made a decision that lost some of your money. Write the math equation and do the math. _____ - _____ = _____	Write how you made another decision that lost more of your money. Write the math equation and do the math. _____ - _____ = _____
Day 4 Write how you made another decision that lost more of your money. Write the math equation and do the math. _____ - _____ = _____	Day 5 Write how you made another decision that lost more of your money. Write the math equation and do the math. _____ - _____ = _____	Day 6 Write how you made another decision that lost more of your money. Write the math equation and do the math. _____ - _____ = _____	Day 7 Write how you made another decision that lost all of your money. Write the math equation and do the math. _____ - _____ = _____