



Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday

Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz

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Last Sunday, Alexander's grandparents gave him a dollar -- and he was rich. There were so many things that he could do with all of that money!

He could buy as much gum as he wanted, or even a walkie-talkie, if he saved enough. But somehow the money began to disappear...

Readers of all ages will be delighted by this attractive new edition of Judith Viorst's beloved picture book.

Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday Details

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Author : Judith Viorst , Ray Cruz

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From Reader Review Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday for online ebook

Steve Holden says

This is an anchor text in our second grade reading curriculum, and I must say, I love reading it with my students each year! I grew up loving the Alexander books. Ray Cruz gives such detailed illustrations, and Viorst comes through so well in her Alexander narration. We use this text to teach point of view, and how a writer can tell a story through a character's eyes. We also use it for making inferences with illustrations connecting to the text.

My kiddos love the humor in the telling. As we work with this one for a few days, we also use it to help promote reading fluency and reading with expression. Alexander is one of the most expressive characters I can think of in the picture book world!

Megan says

This was a cute book, it is about Alexander who receives a dollar from his grandparents and his first plan is to save it but instead he spends it all and is only left with some bus tokens. This is a great book for learning about the concept of money. I would use fake coins to express how many of each coins makes up a dollar and could expand the lesson by creating a class store and having the students buy items that would add up to be a dollar.

John Kirk says

I like the idea of this book: it's intended to teach children the importance of saving rather than spending. Unfortunately, there are some problems with the execution. That's not really a criticism of the writer, but you need to be aware of the target audience.

Firstly, this is an American book, so all the references to cents/dollars/etc. will probably confuse a child in other countries (e.g. the UK). Similarly, there were some words that I didn't recognise ("lox") and other terms that aren't used in this country ("stoop").

Secondly, this book was written over 30 years ago (in 1978), and inflation has taken its toll. By modern standards, I think that he got amazingly good value for his dollar, so I would say that he actually spent it wisely rather than frittering it away. Meanwhile, electronics have generally got cheaper, so I'd guess that a walky-talky is more affordable now than it was back then. This means that the book is actually sending the wrong message!

Also, the page where Alexander ponders how long it will take him to save up has several years listed (e.g. 1981), but that will confuse a modern child. If you have to keep stopping the story to say "Ignore that" or "Pretend it says this" then that's going to disrupt the narrative flow.

Still, there are some funny ideas in here which kids will probably still relate to, and the illustrations are good

(although they're in black and white). Ideally, I'd like to see a revised international edition.

Leah Edel says

Summary:

Alexander's two older brothers both have more money than him, because he only has bus tokens left. Alexander used to be rich last Sunday when his grandparents visited and gave him some money. He meant to save his money, but instead ended up using it all on different things, like gum, bets, flushing it down the toilet, dropping it, and at a garage sale. He tried to do different things to get some money like turning in cans or losing some teeth, but that didn't work either. So, all he ended with was a few bus tokens.

Possible Topics:

1. Learning to save money.
2. Spend money wisely.
3. Be careful with your money, don't drop it anywhere.

SaraKat says

This was on my school's pillars of character reading list under 'fairness'. I guess it was supposed to show that Alexander was treated fairly by the grandparents who gave all three boys the same amount of money, but it seems to fit more under responsibility since he wasted the money and bemoaned his state off financial health afterward. It is an amusing story and I liked the way it was implied that Alexander said naughty words and acted on his violent impulses, but didn't show it. Clever. I didn't really care for the illustrations. And kids today might not understand that a few cents actually used to be worth saving!

Tracy Mercier says

This book really helped us understand how adding and subtracting well helps us spend our money smartly.

Kjsmit11 says

This book is great to use as a read aloud to students in grades 3 or 4. This specific children's complex picture book may be too simple for children in the 5th grade. I like the fact that the book has multiple characters that are incorporated throughout. I think this book would interest all students and get them thinking about saving their own money that they have. The copyright of this book is older, but the story is something that children today can relate to. All children save money and spend it on useless items.

I would incorporate this book into my classroom by doing an interactive read aloud with the whole class. Throughout the story, Alexander receives money but continues to spend it on unnecessary items. I would love to use this picture book in my math lesson about money and have each student figure out how much he spent on each item and create one large math equation. Using the older brothers' money in the math problem would also help the students see how much more they started with and who had the most money in the

beginning.

Gina says

This book is wonderful for today's students, even though it was written in 1978. It follows Alexander, who gets a dollar from his grandparents. He wants to buy a walkie talkie with it, and intends to save it. However, along the way, he sees so many things on which to spend his money. He finally ends up empty handed and tries to sell bottles, rent toys, and find money to replace his lost dollar.

I loved this book. The illustrations were bland, but that was appropriate for this book because it added to the seriousness of Alexander's predicament. It was funny, yet it was serious. It teaches a lesson we don't hear very much of today - frugality and saving.

This book would great to use in math because of the monetary value of the items in the book. It would be good for grades 2-4, I think. It would also be good to have a discussion about savings and self-control.

Stephanie says

This is another classic book that I read as a child. It's funny and has some good lessons for kids about spending and saving. It's all in black and white so it may not be the most attention grabbing, but the illustrations are still well done and I love the facial expressions.

"Last Sunday, when I used to be rich, Cathy around the corner had a garage sale. I positively only went to look. I looked at a half-melted candle. I needed that candle. I looked at a bear with one eye. I needed that bear."

Aimee says

Alexander is given money from his grandparents and he thinks he is rich. He really wants to save up his money to buy something great, but his money begins to disappear quickly.

The illustrator in this book creates a space for the text at the top of the page and the illustration at the bottom of the page. The illustrator uses all black and white sketches throughout the entire book. These simple sketches with no color leave a need for very detailed pictures to get the emotion in the book. The illustrator show great emotion on the characters faces that really bring a mood to this book. Alexander can look grumpy, mischievous, surprised, mad and nervous in a way that makes the reader really think of him as a real person. The characters in the background are each sketched to have their own emotions that explain what is going on in Alexander's day.

Jamie L. says

Text-To Self

Funny, funny read! The book "Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday," by Judith Viorst, and illustrated by Ray Cruz took me back to the experience of sibling rivalry and older brothers. Alexander and his brothers receive a dollar each, from their grandparents when they came to visit. Alexander, being the youngest, has a difficult time using his money wisely. His impulsiveness and immaturity lead to him spending all his money. His older brothers exacerbate his situation by teasing him every chance they can. Memories of my older brother teasing me made me laugh aloud and took me back to when I was a little girl. Just as Alexander's brothers tease him, my brother was similar in teasing me. He would hold me back with his hand on my head, refuse to give me the phone if a boy would call, and mostly would tease me with words. All his teasing is done with love! I know that today, but thought differently at the time. I believe if I could extend the story of "Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday," he would feel the same way I do as the teasing is done with complete love.

David says

The best lesson I've ever read, to teach kids about:

- * limited financial resources
- * the benefits of controlling impulse
- * the value of money

Beautiful in that it doesn't preach or tell, it demonstrates by example.

My son enjoys the story, and secretly picks up on the lessons...

LeeAnn Owens says

Summary: Alexander was given one dollar last Sunday. which made him a rich kid. He had the power to do so much with his money. His money slowly started to disappear throughout the week even though he kept telling himself to save it.

Evaluation: I remember reading this book as a child and I still like it to this day! Although it is fairly wordy, I feel like even children who struggle with reading can still make sense of what is happening based on pictures and words they do know. It provided "thought bubbles" and illustrations of Alexander losing money, which made it easier to follow along using the pictures in the story.

Teaching Point: I would use this story in a 2nd grade classroom to coincide with my instruction on how to count money. Alexander begins by sharing how many coins and dollar bills each of his brothers has (I could use manipulatives or drawings to help students count the coins). Then, he is given one dollar, but he spends it on various items throughout the story (students could subtract each amount he spends from his original amount until they reach 0).

Dolly says

Shows how quickly a windfall can disappear. It's on a micro-scale in this story, but the lesson holds true universally. Good story to introduce fiscal responsibility to kids. We really enjoyed reading this book together and I will be sure to look for more books by Judith Viorst at our local library.

Kathryn says

Although this book is definitely dated (the 1979 illustrations of the family made me really nostalgic for childhoods watching "Family Ties" -- and I can't imagine any kids who would be able to make \$1.00 buy anything, let alone several things, these days) the concept is one that is timeless and especially relevant in today's difficult economy. Alexander is given \$1.00 from his grandparents--he WANTS to save it up to put toward a new radio, but somehow he just keeps on finding other things he wants to buy and pretty soon he is out of money. Of course, this is also just a really great concept story for kids learning about the various things they can do with their money, some wise choices some not so wise! Told with Viorst's great humor and insight into the child's mind.
