



“A Chair for my Mother”

by Vera B. Williams

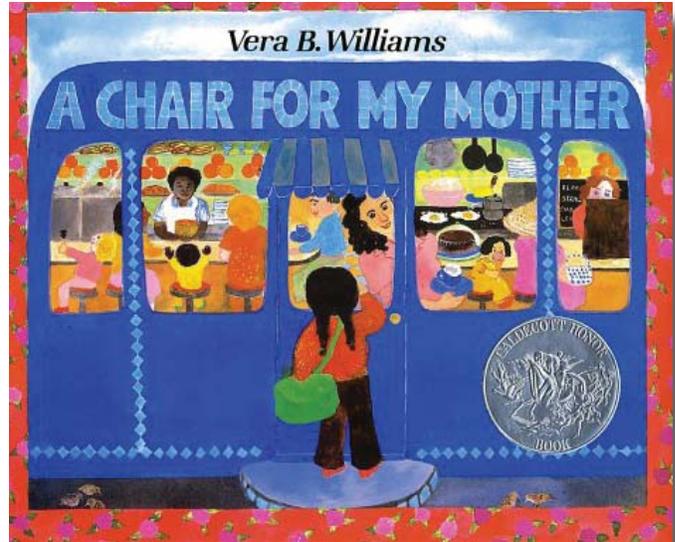
A Chair for my Mother is written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams. Copyright 1982. Published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Publisher Book Description:

After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save their coins to buy a really comfortable chair for all to enjoy. *A Chair for My Mother* has sold more than a million copies and is an ideal choice for reading and sharing at home and in the classroom.

About the Author

Vera B. Williams began her career in children’s books by illustrating *Hooray for Me!*, written by Remy Charlip with Lilian Moore. Her beloved *A Chair for My Mother* won multiple awards, including a Caldecott Honor, and “More, More, More,” *Said the Baby* also received a Caldecott Honor. Vera B. Williams was the recipient of the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award; she was awarded the 2009 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children’s Literature; and she was the US nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2004.





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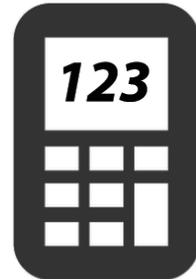
Students will learn about how work generates income, which in turn can be saved to achieve a goal. This story provides occasion to discuss human resources so students are aware of the value of work. Students will learn to:

1. Define human resources as they relate to generating income;
2. Identify the relationship between income and saving;
3. Create strategies for achieving a saving goal.

Time Limit: 40 minutes

Supplies Needed:

- *A Chair for my Mother* by Vera B. Williams
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Activity worksheets



Resources for this activity were adapted from original materials by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, www.stlouisfed.org/education_resources

How is Money Earned?

(1) (5 minutes) Most people work to earn money. Some people do physical work. Others do mental or “thinking” work. Some workers do physical and thinking work, like plumbers or carpenters. **Ask students what kind of workers do both physical and thinking work (Answers will vary buyymay include police officers, mechanics, or farmers.)**

(2) People who do mental or physical work are sometimes called “human resources.” Human resources work hard to make and complete tasks for customers. I’m going to read you a book about two characters, a mother and her daughter, who are human resources.

(3) (10 minutes) Read the story.

(4) (5 minutes) Discuss. What work does the little girl and her mother do at the restaurant?

Answer: She peels onions, fills ketchup bottles, and washes salt and pepper shakers. The mother waits tables. **Feel free to ask the students what kind of physical or mental work the girl does. You may also do so for the mother.**

(5) Money that people earn for their work is called income. People spend some of their income to buy things they want. Some save a portion of their income to buy things in the future. This is called “saving.”

(6) Why did the mother a daughter need to save?