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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Alexander, Que Era Rico el Domingo Pasado

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ABOUT THE STORY

When he gets a dollar from his grandparents during their visit, Alexander is thrilled. He is not used to having money, and he soon realizes that having money and keeping it are two entirely different matters. The temptation of candy, the lure of a tag sale, the sure-thing bet, all combine to whittle away at his holdings until, despite his best intentions, he is penniless once more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

One of the nation's most popular writers, Judith Viorst brings smiles to the faces of children and adults alike through her ability to see and capture in words the humor of everyday life. She has written many books for children, including *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (also available as a Live Oak Readalong in its Spanish edition). Mrs. Viorst lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and three sons.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ray Cruz grew up in New York City and has been drawing since he was five years old. In addition to his work as an illustrator, he has had extensive experience in textile design and graphic art.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group to tell what they do with money when they receive it as a gift. Ask if anyone has found it difficult to save money. Explain that in the story they are about to read, a young boy discovers how hard it is to hold on to the money his grandparents have given him.

(NOTE: Exercises devoted to vocabulary include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and the goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "How did Alexander get his dollar?"
- "What did his parents say Alexander should do with his dollar?"
- "What did Alexander do to lose his dollar?"
- "When his dollar was all spent, what did Alexander do to try to get more money?"
- "Do you think Alexander spent his money wisely? Explain your answer."
(Make judgments)

Vocabulary

Because the story deals with Alexander's family, you may wish to focus on the Spanish and English words for family members. Depending on the group's language facility, write the following Spanish or English words on the board and ask the group to give its translation in the other language.

mother / madre	grandmother / abuela
father / padre	grandfather / abuelo
brother / hermano	aunt / tia
sister / hermana	uncle / tio
niece / sobrina	nephew / sobrino
cousin / prima (female)	cousin / primo (male)

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Math: Making a Budget

Ask children to imagine what they would buy if they had \$5.00. Have them make a list of the items they might want to purchase and the cost of the items. Remind them that their list, or budget must add up to \$5.00 or less.

Art: Tag Sale Poster

Alexander spends some money at a tag sale. Ask children to think of what items they would sell at a tag sale. Have them make a poster advertising their sale, including some of the items for sale and their prices.

Social Studies: Jobs for Kids

Alexander tries to make some money after he spends all his own. Ask children to brainstorm ideas for ways kids can make money. List their ideas on the chalkboard. Discuss the various money-making options and their pros and cons.

Math: That's Where My Money Goes

Have the group check Alexander's arithmetic by practicing their own. Ask them to list and add up all of Alexander's transactions to see if they total \$1.00. Review and identify each transaction (gum -15¢; snake rental - 12¢; fine - 10¢; loss - 8¢; chocolate purchase - 11¢; second fine - 5¢; trick - 4¢; tag sale - 20¢).

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Money in Other Lands

Have children use the keywords *currencies in the world* to find out what kind of money is used in other countries. Ask each child to write down the name of a country and the kind of money that is used there. Children can report on the information they find to the class.