

# MONEY COUNTS



## Characters

Narrator 1

Ben

Narrator 2

Melissa

Mr. Cash

Mrs. Cash

## Setting

This reader's theater takes place in and around the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cash.



Mr. Cash



Mrs. Cash



Ben



Melissa

## Act 1

**Narrator 1:** A man and woman just moved in to the house next door to Ben and Melissa.

**Ben:** "Melissa, look at the sign in our neighbors' yard."



**Narrator 2:** The sign says, "Help Wanted."

**Melissa:** "Ben, this could be our chance to make some money!"

**Ben:** "Let's see what we have to do."

# Counting Money Lesson Plan

## Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students will read passages fluently after practice with repeated readings.
- **Content Area:** Students will understand the various denominations of money and what items they can buy.

## Summary

What would you do with a million dollars? In *Money Counts*, Ben and Melissa work for their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Cash to earn some extra money. By the time they finish helping their neighbors, they've discovered how to someday become millionaires. They have a great time imagining what they would do with a million dollars, but they also learn about money and the banking process.



## Materials

- *Money Counts* script booklets
- *Counting Money Character Masks*

## Introduce the Literature

Tell students that you will read a book called *If You Made a Million* by David M. Schwartz. The book teaches about making money and ways to spend it. Ask students to pay attention to different ways that money, or its denominations, can be represented. Read the story and tell students to list jobs children might do to make money. Encourage them to be creative. Have students choose their favorite way to make money from the lists, then have them create a “Help Wanted” sign. The sign should include the type of work to be done, how much the pay is, in what denominations the worker will be paid (e.g., \$1.00, 4 quarters, or 10 dimes), and a picture of the work to be done. Allow students to share their signs with the class.



## ELL Support

Give ELL students a chart with pictures of the different denominations of money, along with pictures of the equivalences. They can use the chart to create their posters.

## Involving All Students

Although there are only six roles, it is important to involve all students in the reader's theater experience. Students who do not have roles can highlight in the scripts the various signs that are around Mr. and Mrs. Cash's house. Ask them to create the signs, such as “Make \$1.00 for sweeping the stairs on the porch.” Before the reader's theater, hang the signs in the background as a simple setting for the play. Allow students who do not have roles to practice the scripts with the students who are playing the characters to meet the fluency objective of repeated readings.