



Ambit Goes to the Bank

A read-aloud guide for teachers and librarians

A picture book for ages 4–8 about the difference between having money and knowing what you have. Roughly 10 minutes to read aloud.

BEFORE YOU READ

- Where does money live in your house? Ask for real places — a jar, a pocket, under the couch cushions.
- If you had a big pile of coins, how would you know how much was in it?
- Show the cover. Who do you think the gold one is? What is he standing on?

WHILE YOU READ

- When Ambit's secret pile appears, stop and ask the group to guess how much is there. Take every guess. Nobody can know — that is the point of the book.
- When Penny names each coin and what it is worth, say the value out loud with her. Children do not need to add anything up; they just need to hear that each coin has a name and a worth.
- When Atlas marks an X, ask why he does that. Someone will say so they remember.

AFTER YOU READ

- What can Ambit do at the end that he could not do at the beginning?
- At the start his coins were a pile. By the end they were a number. Which one is more useful, and why?
- Why is knowing what you have better than having a big pile?
- The book ends by asking whether it is enough for a hat, and never answers. What do you think? How would you find out?
- What would you save for?

WORDS WORTH PAUSING ON

coin • dime • nickel • quarter • worth • count • save • bank

The story names each coin's value as it appears, so the words arrive with their meaning attached. No arithmetic is asked of the child.



After the story

One activity, two ways to run it

COUNT LIKE PENNY

Penny knows what each coin is worth without looking. This gives children the same trick.

- Put a handful of real coins in the middle of the group.
- Sort them into piles by kind — not by value. Four-year-olds sort by size and color long before they can add.
- Name each pile out loud together: these are dimes, a dime is worth ten cents.
- Ask which pile is worth the most. Let them be wrong. The nickel is bigger than the dime, and that is genuinely confusing — it is the most useful surprise in the lesson.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN (6–8)

- Give each child a small handful and ask them to write down what they have, the way Atlas marks an X for every coin found.
- Then ask the book's question: is it enough for a hat? Decide on a price together and work out who could buy one.

CARRY IT HOME

The Three Jobs chart on the next printable gives children somewhere to keep track after the lesson — one column for spending, one for saving toward something, one for the unexpected. Free to print at ambitbudget.com/kids/fun.