



## “Follow the Money” by Loreen Leedy

This book allows students to evaluate the money choices people make as they travel with George the quarter through his community on a purchase-by-purchase basis. This exercise provides the opportunity to:

1. Illustrate to students how money circulates through our economy;
2. Review monetary value of coins and dollars;
3. Evaluate spending decisions; and
4. Learn about and practice comparison shopping.

**Time Limit:** 30 minutes

### Supplies Needed:

- *Follow the Money* by Loreen Leedy.
- White board, poster paper, or chalkboard.
- Copy of store flyers. See masters.

### Planning Ahead – Comparison Shopping

Today, we’re going to travel with George the quarter and see the many ways people “spend him” as he travels through his town. Pay attention to the different things people buy with George.

*Librarian reads the book “Follow the Money” to students with pauses for the questions below. Allowing for responses from students, try and keep this portion of the activity to no more than 15 minutes. Time can be saved by not reading all of the dialogue bubbles in the story.*

- Page 3: Do a quick review with students of the monetary value of each coin and dollar. For example, a nickel equals five cents.
- Page 4: Point out how people are looking at the cost of items and subtracting the cost from the amount of money they have to spend.
- Page 11: Ask students how saving money is “spending it.” (Answer: It is paying yourself.)
- Page 22: Ask students, “What is a bargain?” (Answer: Something offered or bought at less than the normal price.)

*After story concluded:* It’s very easy to spend our money without thinking about it. What kinds of things do you think people spent George on without a lot of thought beforehand? (Answer: balloon and soda.) Other people in the story thought ahead about what they wanted to do with their money before they spent it. Give me some examples from our story. (Answer: grocery shopping, saving to buy the toy airplane, donating money to the animal shelter instead of buying candy, spending money earned from the yard sale on new plants for the home, using weekly wages to pay back a loan.)

Thinking ahead helps us make better decisions with our money. If the boy had not planned ahead, he would not have been able to save his money to buy the airplane. Let’s look at that page in our book. Do you see anything that shows the boy had already checked to see what a new toy airplane would cost him? (Answer: Thought bubble of plane and \$15 show he has checked the price.)



What kinds of places can you buy a toy airplane? (Answer: toy stores, department stores, on-line.) Do you think the toy airplane costs the same at each store? *Take responses.* How could you check to find the best price? (Answer: go to each store and check; look at ads.)

When you check the price of a particular item at several places *before* you buy that item, that is called comparison shopping. Comparison shopping helps you buy the item you want at the lowest price. That means you can do more with your money. Comparison shopping also helps you to plan ahead and get the item you want at the highest quality. Let's say you wanted to buy a new TV. There are lots of different kinds of TVs. By comparison shopping you could find a TV that you could not only buy at the lowest price, but also the TV that has the most features. (i.e. bigger screen, better sound system, etc.) In order to comparison shop you must first plan ahead and know what you would like to spend your money on. Second, you need to take the time to see what the item costs at several different stores and compare the features of each item.

We're going to practice comparison shopping. *The librarian divides students into three groups. Each student group represents a particular store. The librarian uses either a white board, piece of poster board, or chalkboard and makes three vertical columns labeled "Store 1," "Store 2," and "Store 3". There are three horizontal columns labeled "TV," "Teddy Bear," and "Coat." Each group is given a different store's sales flyer. Have each group look at their flyer and circle the price of each of the items and a special feature of each item. The librarian then asks each group to report the price of each item. The librarian writes the price on the board.*

Based on just the price, let's see what store we should buy each item from. *Librarian guides students through each item, price and store.* Now, before we make our final decision on which store to buy from, we should look at any special features offered. *The librarian has each group report on the TV special features and helps students select which store they will buy this item from. The librarian repeats this process with the toy airplane and coat.*

Answers:

- **TV** - best TV buy is at the Great Goods Store, while it is smaller than the TV at the Sale Barn, it costs less and gives students what they need at a significantly lower price. The TV at Second-hand Joe's is too old to accommodate game systems and can't broadcast today's digital channels.
- **Teddy Bear** - best buy is at the Sale Barn, the bear is larger than the other bears and is a better price.
- **Coat** - best buy is at Secondhand Joe's, it is the exact same coat offered at the other two stores, but costs significantly less.

Comparison shopping helps us make wise spending decisions. It is one way we can make the best use of our money. You can practice comparison shopping the next time you are at a store. Look at an item like chewing gum. There are lots of different kinds of chewing gum and their prices can be very different. Think about which chewing gum type you would choose and why. Practicing comparison shopping when you are buying a small item like chewing gum, will help you when you have to make a spending decision for something that costs more, like a bike or electronic game. Whether it is an item that costs a lot or just a little, you will still be planning ahead *before* you buy something and checking for the best price and features.

# SALE BARN!

Shop here for the lowest prices!

## A BIG BEAR NOT A BIG PRICE!

**\$5**

Features - 36 inch size



## LOOK GOOD & STAY WARM

**\$30**

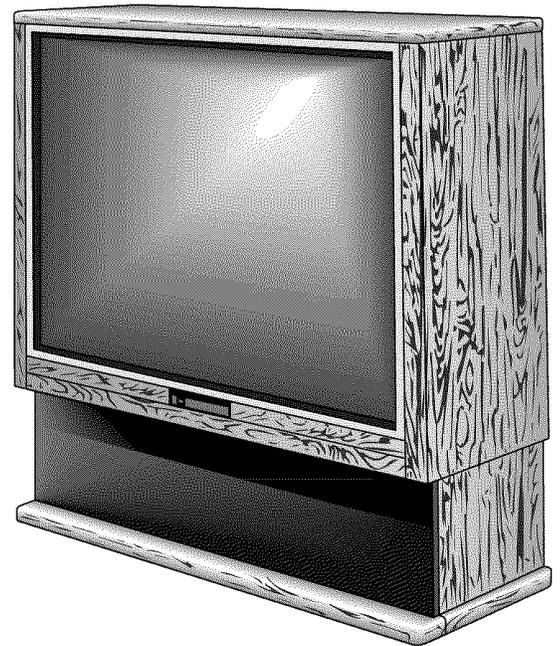
Features - all weather hood



## BIG VALUE!

**\$1000**

Features - 55 inch screen, theatre system,  
DVD player



# GREAT GOODS STORE!

*We have what you need at  
great prices!*



## **SPECIAL PRICE**

**\$548**

Features - 42 inch screen, DVD player



## **STAY WARM**

**\$45**

Features - all weather hood



## **TOO CUTE TO PASS UP**

**\$15**

Features - 36 inch size

# Secondhand

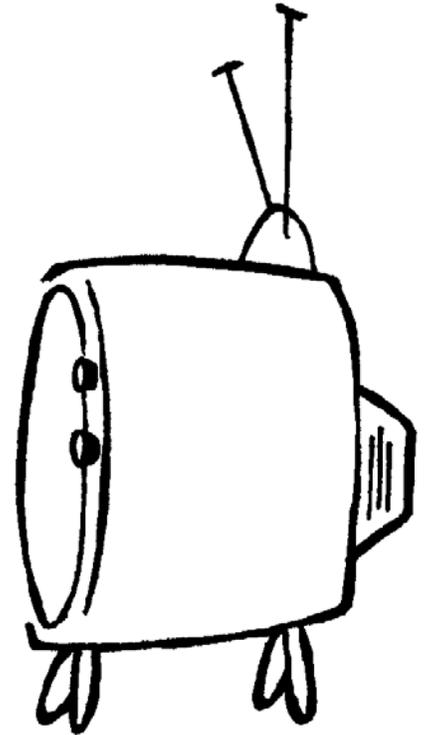
# Joe's

Why buy new? We offer low prices on used goods!

## BRING BACK THE OLD DAYS!

**\$50**

Features - rabbit ear antenna,  
game systems do not work on  
this set



## VERY CUDDLY

**\$10**

Features - 17 inch size



## WARM COAT COOL PRICE

**\$25**

Features - all weather hood