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Lunch Money



Synopsis

MEET GREG KENTON, BILLIONAIRE IN THE MAKING. Greg Kenton has two obsessions -- making money and his long-standing competition with his annoying neighbor, Maura Shaw. So when Greg discovers that Maura is cutting into his booming Chunky Comics business with her own original illustrated minibooks, he's ready to declare war. The problem is, Greg has to admit that Maura's books are good, and soon the longtime enemies become unlikely business partners. But their budding partnership is threatened when the principal bans the sale of their comics in school. Suddenly, the two former rivals find themselves united against an adversary tougher than they ever were to each other. Will their enterprise -- and their friendship -- prevail?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (129 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In Lunch Money, Greg Kenton, a normal 12 year old kid, is obsessed about money. He's always trying to earn money anyway he can, collecting bottles, extra chores, the works. He then thought of an idea, selling toys to his schoolmates, but the principle found out about it and banned him from selling them at school. Even though his idea for great money making was snatched away, he quickly regained his creativity. He thought of a genius idea to earn a load of more money. Little comic books, about the size of a credit card. The only bad thing about selling these mini comics, is it's giving Greg a lot of trouble. Maura, his neighbor, reproduced his idea into her own. A mini book,

short stories about unicorns. Greg became furious against Maura thinking she was copying his idea. After many arguments and a fight that ended with a bloody nose and a teacher almost passing out, Greg and Maura made a deal to publish their own combination of a comic and story for the students at school. Later, the principal then again banned the comic books. Greg later noticed a flyer for a book fair. Comic books, were advertised in the flyer. Soon after finding this out, Greg and Maura sent a request to the school committee. Hoping to get permission to sell their books, realizing how unfair it was for the school to sell comics but Greg and Maura couldn't. This story teaches you a great lesson about being selfish and learning how to share and respect others. It's one of your typical self changing books, but with a fun twist. Lunch Money is a page turning thriller and when you start to read it, you won't want to put it down.-S.K. :]

In each of his school stories, Andrew Clements manages to touch on many of the same issues, but always has something new to explore. This one is another in this great line. "Lunch Money" focuses on Greg Kenton, a boy who is only in the sixth grade, but is already hard at work on planning a business empire. Although he enjoys many normal-kid activities, he's already working hard --- raking leaves, shoveling snow, doing extra chores for cash and various other activities. His first ever bank deposit was \$3,200 and then he decided that school would be a great place to make money. His attempts at selling candy and toys were shut down by the principal, but he has a new idea that he's sure will work --- Chunky Comics --- miniature comic books, hand-drawn, mass-produced and sold for a quarter each. It's a great idea, but problems soon crop up:- His long-time rival --- Maura Shaw --- steps in with a plan of her one- The administration, of course, eventually catches wind of Greg's plan, once again throwing a wrench in the works. So what follows is a tale of two rivals finding out things they never knew about each other and thoughtful questions about school policies, courage, hard work and what's truly important in life. Like all Andrew Clements novels, this story is extremely well written and easy to follow. The characters are identifiable and believable --- the other most major character in the story being the math teacher named Mr Zenotopoulous, known to most simply as Mr. Z. Mr. Z. fears the sight of blood and has a long history of avoiding conflict because of this, but he ends up finding himself more involved in the situation that develops with Greg, Maura and the comics than he ever would have thought possible. In this, Clements once again shows his knack for helping his readers to see things not just from the students' points-of-view, but from the teachers' as well.

LUNCH MONEY is a character-driven middle grade novel that centers on two richly drawn

characters. From the first page the reader gets a sense of Greg Kenton's entire motivation in life: money. He is driven to earn it, save it, and spend it. His nemesis, Maura Shaw, also has a head for business and has been competing with Greg since they were toddlers. At the end of his fifth grade year, Greg discovers that his fellow classmates have a lot of spending power. He notices that each of them has an extra quarter or two every day to spend at lunch on pencils, ice cream sandwiches and cookies. Greg is determined to get a piece of the action. All he needs is the right product to sell to them. Candy and toys won't go over big with the teachers and principal, but who could complain if he sold books to the kids? Soon Greg's Chunky Comics business is born. Greg writes, illustrates and produces the comics at home. His business takes off and he is getting rich quick. But obstacles soon get in the way of Greg's thriving business and threaten to shut him down. Will he be able to overcome these hurdles and grow his business? In this age of commercialism and consumerism, Andrew Clements --- the author of FRINDLE and a number of popular school stories --- will have readers thinking about what it means to be a success in life. Greg Kenton learns a thing or two about success, and readers will too. I wish Andrew Clements success with this delightful middle grade novel. --- Reviewed by Renee Kirchner (...)

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