



## A Lesson on The Missing Money by Sydney Hughes

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** English Language Arts; Salary

**Lesson Description:** This lesson is for a fourth grade English Language Arts class. The students will critically read a passage, define new vocabulary from the text, engage in class discussions, and write an opinion based essay.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1?3 above.)

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make

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comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2a: Use correct capitalization.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2b: Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2d: Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3a: Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.  
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.  
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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### The Missing Money

by

**Content:** Jane had two children to raise. She had to buy clothes and pay the rent. She had a lot of bills. She worked hard to get money to pay all the bills.

Jane was a waitress. She worked every day. Even when she was tired, she went to work. She needed to earn the money.

After people ate, they would pay the cashier. The restaurant got that money. The manager used it to pay the costs. The manager paid the waitresses a salary. That is money that someone earns by doing a job. Jane's salary was \$600 a week.

Jane counted on tips to help her get enough money every week. Customers paid the waitresses extra. That extra money is called a tip. It is a way of thanking the waitress for a good job. Jane did a great job. She was friendly. She was patient. If a customer did not like the food, she would take it back to the kitchen and get them a different meal.

One night, after Jane had served dinner to a family, they left a big tip. She saw it on the table. It was \$20. Jane was taking care of another family. She turned to help them at their table. When she turned back, the money was gone. There was no tip.

She looked around the restaurant. She saw that a woman at another table was staring at her. She had not ordered food. She was looking at the menu. Jane went to ask her what food she wanted. She ordered just a sandwich. She ate it. She did not leave a tip. Jane wondered if this woman had taken the \$20. She asked the cashier, Did that woman pay with a \$20 bill? The cashier said, Yes, she did. Jane was sure the woman had stolen her money. But she could not prove it.

The next night, the same woman came into the restaurant. She gave Jane \$50. She said, I was so sorry I took your money last night. I had a bad day. Someone stole my wallet. So I was angry. So I took your money. But that was not right. People should help each other. They should share good things. Not bad things. So I want you to take the money.

Jane said she knew how it feels to need money. And she was sorry the woman lost her money. She said, Ill take the \$20 but you keep the rest. I know you need it.

The manager said, You should have called the police.

Jane said, No. We should forgive when someone apologizes and wants to make it right. We should try to help each other.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** Salary **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says, "The manager paid the waitresses a salary." What does the word "salary" mean in this sentence?

- A: Money given to someone for no reason
- B: Money someone gets by doing a job
- C: Money someone owes for doing a job
- D: Money customers give a waitress for doing a good job

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "salary" correctly?

- A: My job pays me a salary of \$800 each week.
  - B: I pay a \$300 salary for electricity every month.
  - C: I am \$1,000 in salary to the credit card companies.
  - D: I gave a \$200 salary to charity.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Tip **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author of the story says, "One night, after Jane had served dinner to a family, they left a big tip." What does the word "tip" mean in this sentence?

- A: The end of a pencil
- B: A suggestion of how to do her job better
- C: Extra money for doing a good job
- D: A messy table

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "tip" in the same way as the story?

- A: I left the maid a bigger tip than I normally do because she was so nice and did such a great job!
  - B: Careful, Jimmy, the tip of that pencil is really sharp!
  - C: Here's a tip, Sarah: double-knot your shoelaces so they do not come untied!
  - D: The boat started to tip, so we quickly ran to the other side to balance out the weight.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Stolen **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "Jane was sure the woman had stolen her money." What does the word "stolen" mean in this sentence?

- A: Given
- B: Earned
- C: Brought
- D: Taken

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses "stolen" correctly?

- A: The TV that was stolen was broken when the police found it.
  - B: I was stolen cupcakes for my birthday.
  - C: She stolen \$400 for her work that week.
  - D: My mom stolen me a new chair for my bedroom.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Earn **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "earn" mean in the sentence, "She needed to earn the money."?

- A: Take
- B: Make
- C: See
- D: Give

**Question:** Which sentence below uses "earn" correctly?

- A: Jeff takes the earn to school.
  - B: Do not earn others answers!
  - C: Did you earn your room yet?
  - D: I earn money by teaching students in first grade.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - Why do you think Jane works so hard?

Why do you think Jane works so hard? When you are sick or tired, don't you usually like to take a day off from school to recover? Do you think Jane is able to take days off?

### 2 - Why did Jane not confront the woman?

Why do you think Jane did not confront the woman who she thought stole the \$20 from the table? Would you have if you did not have proof?

### 3 - Why do you think Jane didn't take the \$50?

Why do you think Jane didn't take the \$50 from the woman? Don't you think she deserved it after she was stolen from?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here a 400 word essay on the moral of the story. Think about the important lessons the woman who took the \$20 and the manager all learned from Jane when she did not take the whole \$50. What would you have done in this situation? Make sure to provide specific examples from the text. Please include an introduction and conclusion sentence.

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