



## Little Critter: Just Saving My Money

By Mercer Mayer

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### ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Little Critter's skateboard is broken, he wants to buy a new one, but his dad wants Little Critter to earn and save his money to replace the broken skateboard. So Little Critter does chores, feeds the dog, and sells lemonade to earn money. As the money in his piggy bank grows, Dad takes Little Critter to the bank to open a savings account and to make a deposit. Eventually Little Critter earns enough money, but, surprisingly, he changes his mind about just how he wants to spend it.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What chores does Little Critter attempt to do that make messes? Who cleans up the messes he makes while he is doing chores?
2. What do the illustrations show the reader about Little Critter's experience at the bank? Why is he upset when the man takes his money jar?
3. Why does Little Critter work so hard to buy a new skateboard and then decide he wants to buy something else? What does he buy?
4. How does working and saving his money prove to be a valuable lesson for Little Critter? What does Little Critter learn about the value of a dollar?

*The above questions correlate to Common Core State Standards (Reading): RL.K.1, RL.1.1, and RL.2.1; (Speaking & Listening): SL.K.1, SL.1.1, and SL.2.1, SL.K.3, SL.1.3, and SL.2.3.*

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**A Penny Saved Is a Penny Earned:** After writing this idiom on the board, ask students to discuss its meaning. Then ask students to write an explanation and draw an illustration of the idiom based on their understanding of the discussion. Post explanations and illustrations in the classroom. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2, W.1.2, and W.2.2; (Language): L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.1.2; L.K.2, L.1.1, and L.1.2.*

**Chores Galore:** Little Critter works hard and saves the money he earns. Ask students to write about the chores they do around the house or chores that they could be doing to help. Then ask students to create a miniposter. On the left side, have students draw themselves doing the chore to earn money; on the right side, have students draw a picture of the object they would buy with the money they earned. Post miniposters in the classroom. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2, W.1.2, and W.2.2; (Language): L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.1.2; L.K.2, L.1.1, and L.1.2.*

**A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words:** Ask students to look at the illustrations on each page and think about what they show the reader about the characters that the words don't tell them. Ask students to choose one page and explain what they understand about the character or events based on the visual information from the illustration. Have students share their writing and ideas in small groups. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.K.7, RL.1.7, and RL.2.7; (Writing): W.K.2, W.1.2, and W.2.2; (Language): L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.1.2; L.K.2, L.1.1, and L.1.2.*

**Letter to Dad:** Little Critter was not too happy when his dad told him he didn't have enough money for a skateboard, but Little Critter was willing to work hard to earn it. When Little Critter bought his Robot Dinosaur, he told his dad he was glad he saved his money. Ask students to pretend they are Little Critter and write a thank-you letter to Little Critter's dad explaining why he is glad he saved his money. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3, W.1.3, and W.2.3; (Language): L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.1.2; L.K.2, L.1.1, and L.1.2.*

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