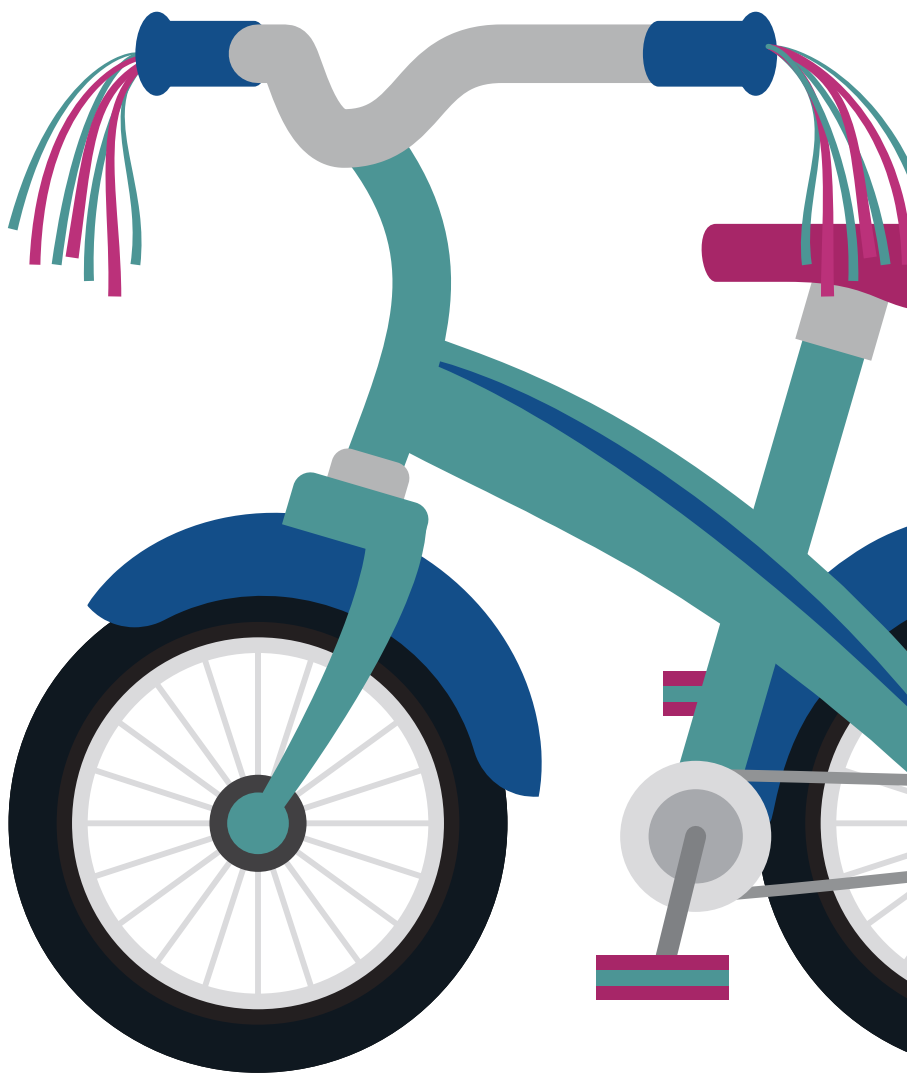


Money Monsters Learn to Save



Welcome

Meet the Money Monsters! They're a group of creatures who are new to our universe.

That means they need to learn about many important things like school, friendship, and financial literacy. Financial literacy is when you have the knowledge and skills to make money choices that are right for you.

The Money Monsters stories will introduce you to ideas, habits, and activities that you'll need as you grow up and start to manage your own money.

The Money Monsters have a lot to learn and we hope you'll learn a lot from them, too!





Hi, I'm Oodle. I'm not your usual dog. I'm red and gold, and I walk on six tentacles. I belong to Foozil. We're Money Monsters. We're new to your universe, and wow, there are a lot of new things to see and learn here! This is a story about when we, the Money Monsters, learned about saving money.

One day I was out walking with Foozil and her Money Monster friend Gibbins when we saw a store called Wonderful Wheels.

"LOOK! Isn't it just awesome?" shouted Foozil.

"Wow!" said Gibbins. "That's beautiful."



I pressed my purple nose against the window and saw a cool-looking bike with streamers and glitter and everything.

"The Whizbang," said Foozil, dreamily. "Do you think my legs could reach the pedals?"

"If we had bikes, we could ride them to school," said Foozil.

"We could ride them anywhere," said Gibbins.

"And we wouldn't need to wait for your parents to drive us," I added.

"Let's get them in time for summer!" yelled Foozil.

The two friends danced and jumped around with excitement, which attracted lots of looks from the humans around us. "BIKES," they sang. "WE'RE GETTING BIKES!"

On the walk home, Foozil and Gibbins started to think about how they could pay for their new bikes.

"The sign said a Whizbang costs \$100," Foozil said.

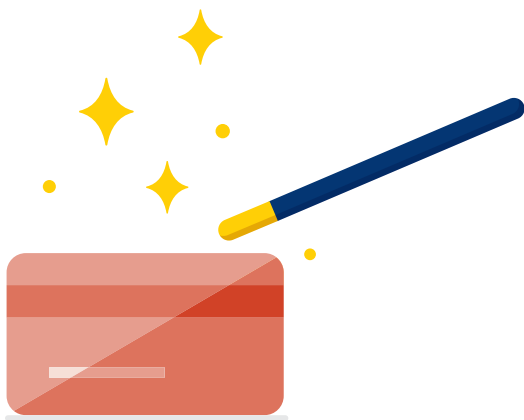
"How can we pay for that?"

"I wish we had a magic money card like some human parents do," said Gibbins.

"Do you have any of the paper money?" Foozil asked.

"I have \$2," Gibbins said.

"That's not enough," said Foozil. "But we have to start somewhere."

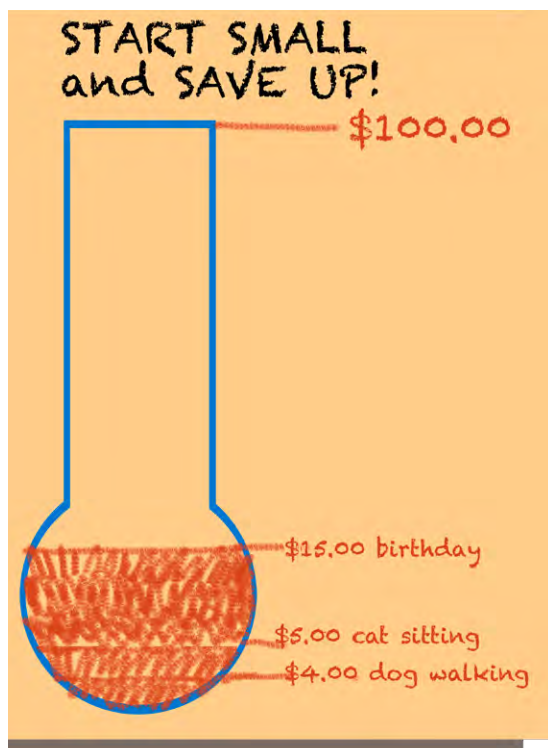


“Our teacher says that you have to start small and save up in order to meet your savings goals,” Gibbins said.

“Well, \$2 **IS** small. I hope she’s right and we can save enough money so we can have bikes in time to enjoy them this summer,” Foozil said.

When we reached our house, the two friends sat at a table, thinking.

“We need a plan,” said Foozil.



“Yes, we need to figure out how we can save enough money so we can buy bikes in time for summer,” said Gibbins.

I watched Foozil get out her blue pencils and draw a chart that looked like a thermometer. She said she was going to use a red pencil to color in any money she saved up. Gibbins went home. He was so excited about the bike, he

used his crayons to draw a picture of it. He taped it on his bedroom wall. He thought it would help him remember what he was saving his money for.

A few weeks later, I heard Foozil on the phone with Gibbins.

"I made a list of ways we could earn money. Number one: Sell some of our toys. I bet someone would want them," said Foozil.

"Good idea," said Gibbins.

"Number two: Do odd jobs for the neighbors," said Foozil.

"Walk dogs!" I said excitedly.

"Excellent idea, Oodle!" said Foozil.

Over the next few months, I helped Foozil walk our neighbors' dogs. It's a lot of fun, but they don't talk much. So I think it's going to take me some time to become friends with them.

Each time Foozil earned money, I watched her color in her thermometer.

She earned \$4 every time she walked a neighbor's dog.

She earned \$5 for feeding a friend's cat for two days while her family took a weekend trip.

She even got \$15 for her birthday.



Little by little, we watched her savings grow.

One morning near the end of the school year, Foozil and I ran over to Gibbins's house to tell him how much money she'd saved. "Gibbs, guess what?" she said, dancing around him. "I saved enough for the Whizbang bike, and we still have two weeks before summer break starts!"

She stopped dancing when she saw how green Gibbins was. He always turns green when he's upset about something.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

"I sold some of my toys and books, and I helped out with chores. I did start small and save up! But I used some of the money I saved to go to the movies with some friends from school. I also bought

pizza when I was really hungry. And some new markers for a school project. Now I don't have enough money to buy a Whizbang."

"Why didn't you tell us?" Foozil asked.

"I didn't want to let you down," Gibbins said.



"Oh, Gibbs! It's okay to spend money sometimes, especially when you're hungry! We'll think of a way you can still get a great bike."

After a few minutes of the two friends thinking, and me snacking, Gibbins said, "I could get my bike later in the summer.

That would give me time to earn more money. And we'd still have a little time to ride before school starts."

I thought that was a great idea, but Foozil wasn't happy.

"Aw, I really wanted to ride our bikes together all summer," she said.

"Maybe I could buy a less expensive bike or one on sale," said Gibbins.

"That's right!" said Foozil. "You could even buy a used bike!

How much did you save?"

"I've got \$55," he said.

"Let's get to work. Let's look for a used bike nearby on the Internet," said Foozil.

"Don't forget the board at the library where people post things they want to sell," I added.

They spent the next few days huddled over the computer, visiting the library, and talking to friends until finally their hard work paid off.

"HEY!" Foozil exclaimed, pointing to the computer screen.

"Check out this one. It's just like the Whizbang, but it came out five years ago."

"Wow! It looks like the person who owns this took really good care of it," said Gibbins. "And it only costs \$45!"

"I can get that bike and still have some money left over!"

Relieved, they both laughed.



On the first day of summer, the two friends looked pretty cool with their bikes.

"Are you ready for takeoff?" asked Gibbins.

"Ready, Captain," said Foozil.

"Engage!" I shouted.

It was going to be a fantoobulous summer.



Meet the Money Monsters

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has created the Money Monsters story series to help children develop financial literacy skills. The stories focus on important money concepts like borrowing, earning, protecting, saving, and spending. The Money Monster stories are part of a larger set of activities and resources available for elementary school students.

The Money Monster books are:

- ★ **Money Monsters Learn About Careers:** Money Monsters explore careers they may want to have when they grow up.
- ★ **Money Monsters Learn to Become Good Borrowers:** Money Monsters discover how to be responsible with other people's things.
- ★ **Money Monsters Learn to Protect Their Things:** Money Monsters find out why it's important to keep their money and valuables safe.
- ★ **Money Monsters Learn to Save:** Money Monsters practice saving money to buy something special.
- ★ **Money Monsters Learn What Things Really Cost:** Money Monsters compare the amount of work and money different pets need.

To find financial literacy activities for elementary school students, go to:
consumerfinance.gov/teach-activities



Consumer Financial
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