

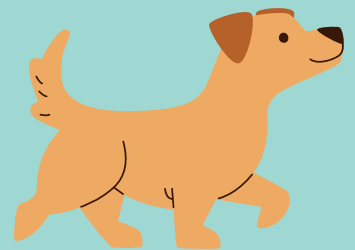
A Reading Guide for Parents

# ARTHUR'S PET BUSINESS

by Marc Brown

 Ages: 5+

Big goals take work - and this story shows how effort, patience, and problem-solving can lead to something truly rewarding.



RADIX

# Story Snapshot



## Real-Life Tip

This story is a launchpad for talking to kids about earning money, building trust, and working hard toward long-term goals. It also introduces the concept of starting a business in a kid-friendly way.



Arthur really wants a pet dog—but first, he has to prove he's responsible. To show his parents he's ready, Arthur starts a pet-sitting business, caring for all kinds of neighborhood animals. It's going well... until Perky the dog disappears. Turns out she wasn't lost—she was under Arthur's bed, giving birth to puppies! Perky's owner is thrilled and gives Arthur \$10, plus the ultimate reward: one of the puppies to keep.

# Conversation Starters

## Before Reading:

- What kind of pet would you want? What would you need to do to take care of it?
- Do you think kids can earn money?

## While Reading:

- What do you notice about how Arthur treats the animals?
- Why do you think Arthur's parents wanted him to prove he was responsible?

## After Reading:

- How did Arthur show he was ready for a pet?
- What does it mean to be responsible with money—or with animals?
- How did Arthur's work lead to a bigger reward than he expected?
- What might have happened if Arthur gave up halfway?
- Can you think of something you've worked hard for?





# Key Themes



## Responsibility

Arthur doesn't just talk about being ready—he proves it by consistently showing up, solving problems, and staying committed to his goal.



## Earning Money

The \$10 Arthur receives isn't a gift—it's earned through time, effort, and trust. This reinforces that money is a reflection of value provided, not something handed out for free.



## Entrepreneurship

Arthur sees a need in his neighborhood—pet care—and turns it into an opportunity. It's a great example of creative problem-solving and how small business ideas can come from kids' interests and abilities.



## Delayed Gratification

Arthur doesn't get his dog right away. He builds trust, earns money, and puts in the work over time—a clear lesson in how patience and persistence can lead to big rewards.



# ARTHUR'S PET BUSINESS



## Talk about it with your kids

- Why do some people start businesses instead of working jobs?
- What kinds of work can kids do to earn money in a safe, age-appropriate way?
- How do we show others they can trust us?
- What are good reasons to earn money—besides just buying things?
- Have you ever helped someone and felt proud afterward?
- What's one thing you could do now to practice being responsible?



## Activities to try at home

- **Pet Business Brainstorm:** Have your child imagine a pet-care business. Create a list of services, pricing, and customer rules.
- **Responsibility Tracker:** Use a sticker chart or checklist to track daily responsibilities—homework, chores, or pet care. Talk about consistency.
- **Money for Goals Jar:** Give your child a chance to earn money for specific tasks and decide how to divide it between save/spend/give jars.
- **Puppy Math Game:** Ask how many pet-sitting jobs they'd need to afford a real puppy or pet supplies—great for early budgeting conversations.

# Family Money Moments

## Mini Challenge: Earn & Plan

Assign your child a paid responsibility that mimics “pet-sitting” (feeding the dog, brushing the cat, checking the fish tank). Track their effort over the week and reward them accordingly.

Then, talk about how they’d like to use their earnings—save for a goal, spend on a small treat, or share with someone else. It’s a simple way to show that effort creates options.

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## Daily Practice Tip:

Start a “goal tracker” for something your child wants. Let them chart their effort or earnings over time so they can experience the satisfaction of working toward something meaningful.

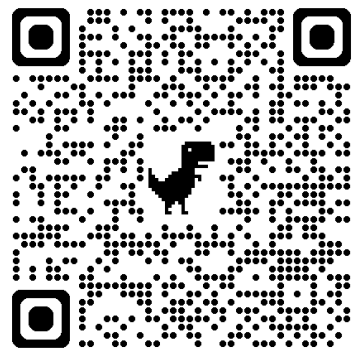


# Want more money moments?



## See the full book list

We've curated a full list of age-appropriate, story-driven books to help kids build a strong foundation in financial confidence.



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