

A Reading Guide for Parents

# THE LEMONADE WAR

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 Ages: 8+



Two stands.  
One summer.  
Plenty of lessons  
about money—  
and each other.

RADIX

# Story Snapshot



## Real-Life Tip

This story introduces real-world business concepts—like profit, marketing, pricing, and supply—and adds depth with emotional themes like jealousy, communication, and conflict resolution.



Siblings Evan and Jessie are both smart—but in different ways. When Jessie is skipped a grade and joins Evan’s class early, the two enter a heated competition to see who can make more money selling lemonade before school starts. As the rivalry escalates, they each learn hard lessons about honesty, fairness, and what it really means to “win.” In the end, the money matters—but their relationship matters more.

# Conversation Starters

## Before Reading:

- Have you ever sold something before—or wanted to start a business?
- What do you think makes a business successful—just a good product, or something more?

## While Reading:

- What decisions are Jessie and Evan making about money—are they thinking ahead?
- Why do you think setting prices and picking a location are important for a business?

## After Reading:

- What do Jessie and Evan each do well as business owners?
- How did they track—or lose track of—the money they made?
- What financial mistakes did they make, and how could they have avoided them?
- What did they learn about saving, spending, and competing fairly?
- If you were in charge of a lemonade stand, how would you plan to earn a profit?



# Key Themes



## Business Basics for Beginners

Jessie and Evan use real strategies—like location scouting, pricing tactics, and customer targeting—to run their lemonade stands. Kids are introduced to core financial literacy ideas in a fun, accessible way.



## Smart Comes in Different Forms

Jessie is book-smart and organized; Evan is people-smart and persuasive. Their differences spark conflict, but also show how diverse strengths contribute to success.



## Money & Morals

As the competition intensifies, ethical lines blur. The story explores what happens when emotions cloud judgment—and how to make things right when money causes mistakes.



## Entrepreneurship is Messy & Rewarding

From spilled lemonade to stolen cash, not everything goes as planned. The story shows kids that running a business means dealing with unexpected challenges—and growing through them.



# THE LEMONADE WAR



## Talk about it with your kids

- What does it take to run a real business?
- How do emotions like jealousy or pride affect our decisions with money?
- Why is it important to plan—and what happens when we don't?
- What does it mean to compete fairly?
- What do Jessie and Evan each teach us about solving problems?



## Activities to try at home

- **Start Your Own Lemonade Business:** Even for just a day, run a family stand. Let your child plan pricing, supplies, and marketing.
- **Create a Business Plan:** Have your child brainstorm a product or service to “sell” and walk through a mini business plan: What will it cost? Who are your customers? How do you earn profit?
- **Business Ethics Scenarios:** Roleplay situations (e.g., “You find your competitor’s money box” or “A friend wants a freebie”). Discuss what the right move is.
- **Sibling/Partner Challenge:** Pair up and assign different “strengths” (creative, analytical, outgoing). Work together to complete a small task or project. Reflect on how diverse skills made it better.

# Family Money Moments

## Mini Challenge: Run a Real or Simulated Business

Help your child set up a small business—lemonade, dog walking, handmade crafts, or a pretend store at home. Track income, expenses, and “lessons learned.”

This builds real-world entrepreneurial thinking and appreciation for effort, pricing, and problem-solving.

### Ethics in Action Prompt:

Ask: “What would you do if a friend broke the rules to win a competition?” Roleplay and discuss how values guide our money decisions—even in friendly rivalries.

### Daily Practice Tip:

During shared activities, ask: “How would you turn this into a business?” This makes everyday interests (art, baking, helping) a springboard for creative earning.

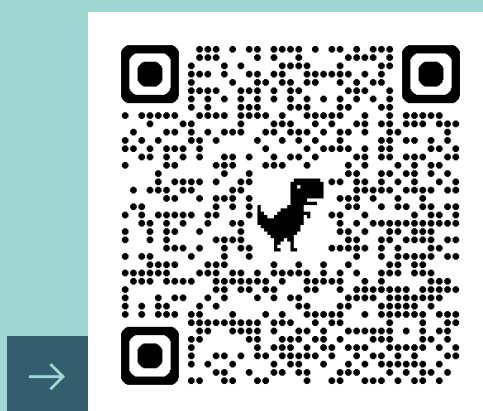


# Want more money moments?



## 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.



Screenshot, save to photos, then press and hold QR code on photo