**Counting with Common Cents: Penny’s Journey** by Deirdre McCarthy

Penny’s Journey is a clever children’s picture book that takes the reader on a magical counting journey. Its witty rhymes and page-turning text encourage the reader to be an active participant throughout the story. Penny inspires children to count by ones using pennies as the primary tool. As she travels throughout the magical money tree, she encounters many animals who help her along the way. This book introduces financial literacy to early elementary school age children and teaches counting, coin currency and the value of saving.

**Grade level:** PreK – 1 (ages 4 – 7 years)

**Teacher Lesson Plans:** [Counting with Common Cents](stlouisfed.org)

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**Counting with Common Cents: Nick’s Tricks** by Deirdre McCarthy

Nick inspires children to count by fives using nickels as the primary tool. As he travels around the magical money tree, Nick encounters animals that practice saving. The book utilizes memorable rhymes, beautiful illustrations, and page turning text to encourage the reader to be an active participant throughout the story while teaching how to count, coin currency, and the value of saving. It is a wonderful addition to this financial literacy picture book series.

**Grade level:** PreK – 1 (ages 4 – 7 years)

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**Counting with Common Cents: Dime’s Quest** by Deirdre McCarthy

Dime inspires children to count by tens using dimes as the primary tool. She travels from the magical money tree to complete a coin counting quest and encounters many animals and some friends who help her along the way. This book utilizes memorable rhymes and page turning text to encourage the reader to be an active participant throughout the story while teaching how to count, coin currency, and the value of saving. Counting with Common Cents: Dime’s Quest is beautifully illustrated. It is a unique book and a terrific resource.

**Grade level:** PreK – 1 (ages 4 – 7 years)
2021 Summer Reading List

**Betty Bunny Wants Everything** by Michael Kaplan
Students learn about wants, choice, and scarcity. “Betty Bunny doesn’t know why she can only buy one toy in the toy store when she wants them all. Her family tells Betty Bunny she can’t have everything she wants and come up with a lesson to teach her the value of money and spending limits. But the precocious bunny comes up with a hilarious loophole. Betty Bunny’s preschool perspective and negotiating skills will leave you in stitches.”

*Grade level: PreK – 1 (ages 4 – 7 years)*
*Teacher Lesson Plans: Kiddynomics: Lesson 1: Betty Bunny Wants Everything (stlouisfed.org)*
*Parent Q&A: Q&A: Betty Bunny Wants Everything (stlouisfed.org)*

**The Berenstain Bears’ Mad, Mad, Mad Toy Craze** by Stan and Jan Berenstain
This classic Berenstain Bears story is a perfect way to teach children about individuality and not having to follow the crowd! Come for a visit in Bear Country with this classic First Time Book® from Stan and Jan Berenstain. Brother and Sister’s friends have started collecting a new toy called Beary Bubbles and the cubs just must have them! Will Brother and Sister come to realize that it’s all just a fad, or will they be stuck in a toy craze forever?

*Grade level: PreK – K (ages 3 – 7 years)*
*Teacher Lesson Plans: The Berenstain Bears’ Mad, Mad, Mad Toy Craze Lesson (stlouisfed.org)*
*Parent Q&A: Q&A: The Berenstain Bears’ Mad, Mad, Mad Toy Craze (stlouisfed.org)*

**Just Saving My Money** by Mercer Mayer
Little Critter works hard for his money! When he wants a new skateboard, his Dad tells him that he needs to save his own money to buy it! He tries his very best, but soon finds that saving enough for what he wants isn’t so easy.

*Grade level: PreK – 2 (ages 4 – 8)*
*Teacher Lesson Plans: Just-Saving-My-Money.pdf (stlouisfed.org)*
*Parent Q&A: Q&A: Just Saving My Money (stlouisfed.org)*

**Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt** by Kate Messner
Explore the secret world beneath the dirt that brings the world of nature to life: Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt exists a busy world—earthworms dig, snakes hunt, skunks burrow—populated by all the animals that make a garden their home. Follow a young girl and her grandmother as they journey through the year planning, planting, and harvesting their garden—and learn about what’s happening in the dirt to help make it all happen.

*Grade level: K – 2 (ages 5 – 8 years)*
2021 Summer Reading List

**Uma Wimple Charts Her House** by Reif Larsen

Uma’s been making charts since she was a little kid. But when her teacher gives the class Uma’s dream assignment—to make a chart of their own homes—she is thrown for a loop. Oh, the possibilities! Oh, the pressure! What makes a house “house-y” she wonders. To figure it out, she asks each member of her family—Mom, Dad, and brothers Rex, Bram, and Lukey. But it’s not until she has a meltdown and Lukey comforts her that Uma figures out the secret to her chart—and her family. It’s the love that is shared inside a house’s walls.

*New release June 15, 2021*

*Grade level: Preschool – Grade 3 (Ages 4-8)*

**From Seed to Plant** by Gail Gibbons

Flowers, trees, fruits—plants are all around us, but where do they come from? Learn about the processes of pollination, seed formation, and germination. Important vocabulary is reinforced with accessible explanation and colorful, clear diagrams showing the parts of plants, the wide variety of seeds, and how they grow. The book includes instructions for a seed-growing project and a page of interesting facts about plants, seeds, and flowers. A nonfiction classic, and a perfect companion for early science lessons and curious young gardeners (included in the Common Core State Standards Appendix B).

*Grade level: K – 3 (ages 4 – 8 years)*

**The Tortilla Factory** by Gary Paulsen

In clear and eloquent language, Gary Paulsen pays tribute to a cycle of life—from seed to plant to tortilla. Workers till the black soil, operate the clanking machinery of the factory, and drive the trucks that deliver the tortillas back into the hands that will plant the yellow seeds. With Ruth Wright Paulsen’s expressive paintings, The Tortilla Factory brings forth the poetry and beauty of a simple way of life.

*Grade level: K – 3 (ages 4 – 7 years)*

*Teacher Lesson Plans: The Tortilla Factory (stlouisfed.org)*

*Parent Q&A: Q&A: The Tortilla Factory (stlouisfed.org)*

**Grandma’s Special Gift (Luke and Deedee’s Money Adventures)** by Sammie Joseph-Fredericks

Every year, Luke looked forward to receiving birthday presents from his grandma. She always knew exactly what he wanted. This birthday is different. Instead of a toy, Grandma sends him three envelopes with special instructions. Follow Luke and his best friend, DeeDee, as they open Grandma’s special gift and learn some very important lessons about saving, spending, and sharing.

*Grade level: K – 3 (ages 5 – 8 years)*
**2021 Summer Reading List**

**Ada Twist, Scientist** by Andrea Beaty
Scientist Ada has a boundless imagination and has always been hopelessly curious. Why are there pointy things stuck to a rose? Why are there hairs growing inside your nose? When her house fills with a horrific, toe-curling smell, Ada knows it’s up to her to find the source. What would you do with a problem like this? Not afraid of failure, Ada embarks on a fact-finding mission and conducts scientific experiments, all in the name of discovery. But, this time, her experiments lead to even more stink and get her into trouble!

*Grade level: K – 2 (ages 4 – 7 years)*

**Right This Very Minute: A Table-to-Farm Book About Food and Farming** by Lisl H. Detlefsen
What’s that you say? You’re hungry? Right this very minute? Then you need a farmer. You have the stories of so many farmers right here on your table! Award winners Lisl H. Detlefsen and Renee Kurilla’s delicious celebration of food and farming is sure to inspire readers of all ages to learn more about where their food comes from—right this very minute!

*Grade level: K – 2 (ages 4 – 7 years)*

**Living Things and Nonliving Things: A Compare and Contrast Book** by Kevin Kurtz
Even though it is easy to tell that a squirrel is a living thing and a rock is a nonliving thing, when we try to define what makes something a living thing, it gets complicated. Nature is so diverse that every rule we come up with has exceptions. This book uses simple prose text and striking photographs to allow young readers to compare the characteristics of living things and nonliving things while also seeing how some nonliving things have many things in common with living things.

*Grade level: K – 3 (ages 4 – 9)*

**You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime** by Harriet Ziefert
Clink, clink, clink, clink...Clink, clink, clinkity... Money saved in a bank makes your brain think-thinkity! Children are fascinated by money – how it looks, feels, smells, and most of all, what it buys. And Pete is no exception. The rhymed verse describes how Pete saves his allowance, spends too much of it, has second thoughts, and starts over. Young readers will not only applaud Pete’s decisions, but join him in his computations as he saves, spends, and strategizes over future purchases. The lively combination of fact and fiction, plus humorous art, will prove both thought-provoking and thoroughly enjoyable.

*Grade level: K – 3 (ages 5 – 8 years)*

*Parent Q&A: Q&A: You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime (stlouisfed.org)*
**2021 Summer Reading List**

**Lemonade for Sale** by Stuart J. Murphy

Four children need some money to fix their clubhouse, so they decide to sell lemonade. For three days, they track their sales and record the number of cups they sell each day, showing a steady increase and then a noticeable drop. After finding out that the competition is a new kid juggling down the street, they ask him to perform beside the stand and sales increase “over the top.” A two-page appendix is included for adults and kids who need additional ideas for using this book.

*Grade level:* 2 – 3 (6 – 9 years)

*Teacher Lesson Plans:* [Lemonade For Sale: Lesson Plan](stlouisfed.org)

**Less than Zero** by Stuart J. Murphy

Perry the Penguin needs nine clams to buy an ice scooter, but he’s not very good at saving. As Perry earns, spends, finds, loses, and borrows clams, a simple line graph demonstrates the concept of negative numbers.

*Grade level:* 2 – 3 (ages 8 – 10 years)

*Parent Q&A:* [Q&A: Less Than Zero](stlouisfed.org)

**Those Shoes** by Maribeth Boelts

All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. But Jeremy’s grandma tells him they don’t have room for “want,” just “need,” and what Jeremy needs are new boots for winter. When Jeremy’s shoes fall apart at school, and the guidance counselor gives him a hand-me-down pair, the boy is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren’t much fun, and Jeremy comes to realize that the things he has—warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend—are worth more than the things he wants.

*Grade level:* 2 – 4

*Teacher Lesson Plans:* [Those-Shoes.pdf](kansascityfed.org)

**Four Feet, Two Sandals** by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

When relief workers bring used clothing to the refugee camp, everyone scrambles to grab whatever they can. Ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly, until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. As the girls go about their routines—washing clothes in the river, waiting in long lines for water, and watching for their names to appear on the list to go to America—the sandals remind them that friendship is what is most important.

*Grade level:* 3 – 5

*Teacher Lesson Plans:* [Four Feet, Two Sandals](stlouisfed.org)
2021 Summer Reading List

**Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman
A Vietnamese girl plants six lima beans in a Cleveland vacant lot. Looking down on the immigrant-filled neighborhoood, a Romanian woman watches suspiciously. A school janitor gets involved, then a Guatemalan family. Then muscle-bound Curtis, trying to win back Lateesha. Pregnant Maricela. Amir from India. A sense of community sprouts and spreads. Thirteen speakers bring to life a community garden’s founding and first year. The book’s short length, diverse cast, and suitability for adults as well as children have led it to be used in countless one-book reads in schools and in cities across the country. Seedfolks has been drawn upon to teach tolerance, read in ESL classes, promoted by urban gardeners, and performed in schools and on stages from South Africa to Broadway.
Grade level: 3 – 6+

**The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough** by Katie Smith Milway
is poor, and they may not have enough to eat or to sell for other essentials such as health care, school uniforms, and books. When María’s father must leave home to find work, she is left in charge of their garden. Then a new teacher comes to María’s school and introduces her to sustainable farming practices that yield good crops. As María begins to use the same methods at home, she sees improvements, which allow her family to edge their way out of the grip of the greedy “coyotes” --- middlemen who make profits on the backs of poor farmers. Little by little, the farms and the hopes of María and her neighbors are transformed as good gardens begin to grow.
Grade level: 3 – 7 (ages 8 – 12 years)

**The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian’s Art Changed Science** by Joyce Sidman
Thirteen year old Maria Merian loved to draw bugs. With a keen eye and deft hand, she rendered soft green caterpillars, papery-winged moths, and the dazzling, intricate beauty of the butterflies. But drawing these fascinating creatures wasn’t enough for Maria; she wanted to understand their small, mysterious lives. Where did they come from? What did they eat? And perhaps most miraculously of all, was there a connection between creeping caterpillars and beautiful butterflies? One of the first naturalists to observe live insects directly, Maria Sibylla Merian was also one of the first to document the metamorphosis of the butterfly.
Grade level: 5 – 7 (ages 10 – 12 years)
2021 Summer Reading List

The Story of Seeds by Nancy Castaldod

Our food is in crisis. What will you do to protect it? Something as small as a seed can have a world-wide impact. As the world becomes more aware of the threats that climate change, genetic modification, and deforestation have on the longevity of our natural resources, young readers must rally to preserve our food and world. Readers of Michael Pollan will thoroughly enjoy the depth and fascinatingly intricate social economy of seeds.

Grade level: 7 – 9 (ages 12 years and up)

A Gebra Named Al by Wendy Isdell

"Winner of multiple awards for educational fiction as well as quality fantasy, this charming story brings us the adventures of Julie in the Land of Mathematics. Julie is a young teen who struggles with her homework, especially math, until a mysterious Imaginary Number leads her into Mathematics. There she meets Al the gebra (who is like a zebra), and horses who represent elements on the Periodic chart. She sets off on a quest to find her way home, and in the process, learns the foundations of algebra and chemistry. Join Julie in her journey through Mathematics, where the Orders of Operations are actual places and chemistrees are real plants with atomic fruit. Will Julie ever get home? Written when the author was age fourteen, this work of fiction has been used in various school systems throughout the U.S to help supplement cross-curriculum learning. It can also be enjoyed as light fantasy reading."

Grade level: high school (ages 13 – 17 years)

Sir Cumference and the First Round Table by Cindy Neuschwander

Join Sir Cumference, Lady Di of Ameter, and their son Radius for wordplay, puns, and problem solving in a geometry-packed math adventure. King Arthur was a good ruler, but now he needs a good ruler. What would you do if the neighboring kingdom were threatening war? Naturally, you’d call your strongest and bravest knights together to come up with a solution. But when your conference table causes more problems than the threat of your enemy, you need expert help. Enter Sir Cumference, his wife Lady Di of Ameter, and their son Radius. With the help of the carpenter, Geo of Metry, this sharp-minded team designs the perfect table conducive to discussing the perfect plan for peace. Note: This is the first of 11 books in the Sir Cumference series that make math fun and accessible for everyone.

Grade level: 1 – 7 (ages 8 – 12 years)
2021 Summer Reading List

All About the Green: The Teens’ Guide to Finding Work and Making Money by Kara McGuire

Let’s face it, we all need money to live. How we earn it is up to us. Whether you want to work for someone else or start your own business, this book will help you learn how to land that first job, figure out your paycheck, and negotiate a raise.

Grade level: 5 – 9 (ages 10 – 15)

Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank by Paula Yoo

As an Economics professor in Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus met a young craftswoman in the village of Jobra who needed to borrow five taka (twenty-two cents) to buy materials. No bank would lend such a small amount to an uneducated woman, so she was forced to borrow from corrupt lenders who charged an unfair interest rate and left her without enough profit to buy food. Muhammad realized that what stood in the way of her financial security was just a few cents. Inspired, Muhammad founded Grameen Bank where people could borrow small amounts of money to start a job, and then pay back the bank without exorbitant interest charges. Over the next few years, Muhammad’s compassion and determination changed the lives of millions of people by loaning the equivalent of more than ten billion US dollars in micro-credit. Twenty-two Cents is an inspiring story of economic innovation and a celebration of how one person—like one small loan—can make a positive difference in the lives of many.

Grade level: ages 9 – 12
Teacher Lesson Plans: Twenty-Two-Cents-Lesson.pdf (kansascityfed.org)

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

Set amid the civil rights movement, this is a true story of NASA’s African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America’s space program. Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of talented African-American professional women worked as ‘human computers’, calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Segregated from their white counterparts, they used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets and astronauts, into space.

Grade level: high school – adult
Young Readers’ Edition Grade Level: 3 – 7 (ages 8 – 12 years)