

**Classroom Economy**  
***The Toothpaste Millionaire (2006)***  
**by Jean Merrill**

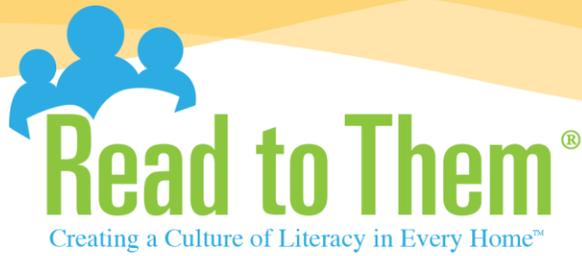
**Classroom Mini-Economy**

For the duration of the novel study, conduct a classroom mini-economy. Each student's "Job" will earn them class dollars or points. Their student duties will earn them Class Cash (bringing in homework, good report at enrichment classes, helping others, getting papers signed, etc...). Their classroom job (paper passer, line leader, attendance monitor) will also earn them Class Cash. Class Cash can be lost in various ways as well (not bringing in homework, pushing, blurting, leaving trash, etc...). This system can largely be tied to behavior and general classroom expectations.

At the end of each week, students count their Class Cash and have opportunities to spend and save their earnings. A small class store can be established with small trinkets or candy. As an alternative to goods in the class store, coupons for extra recess time or a homework pass could be purchased.

Depending on the age level of the students, lists of how to earn cash and how to lose cash can be established by the teacher or together as a class community. Class jobs may warrant a discussion about different salaries, less desirable or more demanding jobs receiving a larger sum of money. Older students may keep track of a balance sheet to record their deposits and withdrawals throughout the week. Younger students will benefit from most prices being whole numbers. Older students could work with change.

Students will complete a job application for a particular classroom job. Mock interviews could be conducted.



### **Classroom Job Application**

Name your top three job choices:

Tell what experience or strengths you have that would help you succeed at these jobs:

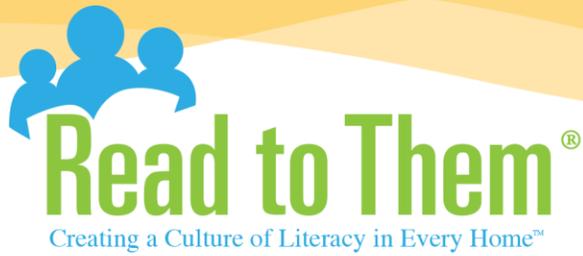
Copy this pledge on the lines below:  
I promise to do my job to the best of my ability.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### **Possible Classroom Jobs:**

- Paper Passer
- Plant Waterer
- Trash Collector
- Lunch Counter
- Attendance Counter
- Substitute
- Lunch Monitor
- Line Leader
- Door Holder
- Banker
- Desk Inspector
- Lights Monitor
- Technology Helper
- Pencil Sharpener
- Messenger
- Medic
- Recess Equipment Manager
- Shoe Tier
- Cubby Checker
- Board Eraser
- Veterinarian (class pet)
- Recess Equipment
- Gardener (plants)
- Librarian

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**How to earn Class Cash:**

- Clean desk
- Turn in homework
- Caught being kind
- Completing class job
- Hallway manners
- Compliment from another teacher

**How to lose Class Cash:**

- Missing homework
- Missing supplies
- Misbehaving
- Rude behavior
- Too loud

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