ELED 3113
Fall 2018
Hayley Nowlin

Alexander Used to be Rich Last Sunday

Author: Judith Viorst

Genre: Realistic fiction

Guided reading level: M

Awards: none

Multicultural: no

Protagonist: Alexander- he learns and grows throughout the story, so he’s a round and dynamic character.

Antagonist: The people from the store and Alexander’s brothers can be pretty mean to him. They’re static and flat characters.

Settings: Alexander’s house, school, and the store where he tries to sell the cans.

Themes: Patience, time, money

Point of view: First person

Conflict: Man vs. man (alexander and his brothers) Man vs. Self (alexander against himself)

* Exposition: Alexander’s grandparents come to visit and they give each grandson a dollar.
* Rising action: Alexander feels so good about having his money, he just spends it like crazy.
* Climax: Alexander feels cheated when he realized that everyone else still has their money.
* Falling action: Alexander tries to make some more money by selling some cans back to a gas station, but they aren’t very nice to him.
* Resolution: He learns a lesson.

Personal reflection

 I love the Alexander books. I love that he’s not perfect in any of the books he’s in. It’s important for children to see that people in books aren’t perfect, and that it’s okay. That’s why I think these books are so important.

Activity

 The teacher reads Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday to the class, stopping each time he spends a portion of his money to record on a chart the item(s) and how much he spent. The students identify a combination of coins that could be used for the purchase. The teacher can also model with plastic coins one way to show the amount he spent, with the class following along. If there is more than one set of coins that will work, different students can suggest them to the class. By the end of the story, the amount of money the teacher and each of the students used should add up to one dollar. After the story has been read, the students are given the labels and paper coins to cut out and match together to create posters. It must be made explicit here that the students can only use the coins they have, so there is only one correct solution. What will help them to find the correct solution is to try and show how Alexander spent his money on each item by using the smallest number of coins possible.

Source: Pinterest