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Grocery Store Adventure

Opal finds Winn-Dixie in a grocery store in Naomi, Florida. The dog knocks tomatoes, onions, and green peppers all over the floor. Dogs do not belong in grocery stores, but people do. People have been going to grocery stores and markets for centuries in order to buy food and other needed items. This activity, which gives students practice with grocery shopping, may be completed as a field trip or as homework.



Materials

- pen or pencil for each group
- copy of the form below for each group

Directions

Separate students into groups of three. Explain that you will be taking a field trip to the local grocery store. Each student is to pretend to have one dollar to spend on groceries. Students will be working in small groups to fill out the form below. To culminate the activity, lead a discussion in which students compare their findings about what they can and cannot purchase with a dollar.

Grocery Store Questions

1. Write the cost per pound of bananas. How many bananas can you buy for a dollar? _____

2. Write the cost of the most expensive loaf of bread you can find. Write down the cost of the least expensive loaf. Can you buy a loaf of bread for a dollar? _____

3. Write the cost per pound of brown onions. How many brown onions can you buy for a dollar?

4. Write the cost of the most expensive and least expensive cans of dog food you can find. Which food would your group feed a dog, and why? _____

5. If Opal had a dollar, what kind of a toy could she afford to buy Winn-Dixie in this grocery store?

6. Write the cost of a carton of eggs (choose a brand). How much would a single egg cost?

7. List ten items in the grocery store that cost about one dollar each. _____

Bottle Tree

Gloria Dump surprises Opal by showing her a bottle tree. Gloria’s tree is full of whiskey and beer bottles—“the ghosts of all the things I done wrong,” she says. You and your classmates can make a bottle tree symbolizing all the things your class has done right.

Materials

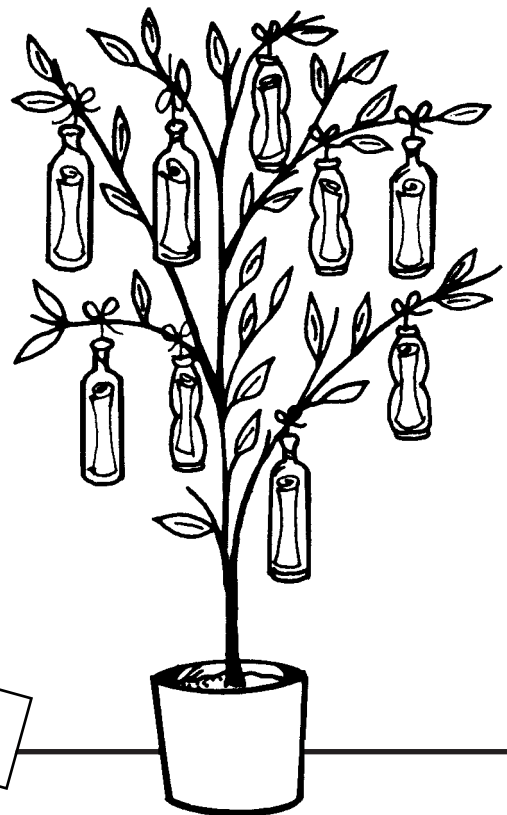
- lined paper, one sheet per student
- a schoolyard tree, potted tree, or sturdy branch
- yarn
- scissors
- small plastic bottles with labels removed



Directions

Ask students to bring a small plastic bottle from home. Then ask each student to write down one good thing he or she has accomplished this year on a piece of paper. You may or may not ask students to stand up in class and share these good deeds. Students then roll up their papers and place them inside their bottles. Assist them in tying the bottles onto the tree or branch with lengths of yarn.

Discuss the reasons why Gloria Dump created her bottle tree. Do students feel that this is a good way to remember the bad things that someone once did so that they won’t repeat them? How does the class feel about its more positive bottle tree? You may choose to leave an indoor tree or branch in one corner of the classroom as a reminder of the students’ accomplishments.



I have learned long division.

I earned a new belt in karate.

I know how to play the flute.