

The Lucky Penny

Realistic Fiction - Written by Emily Cameron on June 29, 2009 (End of second grade)

“Angie, what’s 7 x 8?” asked Mrs. Grangers, Angie’s teacher, at school one afternoon. School was just about to end when Angie answered the question.

“Uh, fifteen?” guessed Angie, who had not been paying attention. She had been just resting her head on her desk, tired of math and English.

“Not plus, *times*, Angie. The Star test is four days later. Practice some more, ok?” ordered Mrs. Granger. Angie hung her head and nodded. “Ok,” she signed, “I will.”

“Fine, we shall answer that tomorrow. Class is dismissed,” said Mrs. Granger. There was a great hustle and bustle as everyone pushed in their chairs and lined up. But Angie did everything slowly and sadly, so of course she ended up being last person in line.

As Angie walked home with her friend, Susie, that day they tested each other on math. Susie got everything right, but Angie got some problems wrong.

Suddenly, as Susie was asking her another question, Angie dropped her bag by mistake. It tumbled a few feet ahead of them and stopped right in front of a lake.

Angie and Susie rushed over to the bag. Then Susie noticed something. “A penny!” she shouted. “A lucky penny!” It stopped your bag from falling into the lake!”

“Susie, don’t be silly. That was just luck, “ laughed Angie. She picked up the penny and stared at it closely. It had “2000” carved into it, the same year she was born! “Susie! It is a lucky penny!” Angie screamed in Susie’s ear.

“I told you.” Susie glanced at the penny and nodded. “It’s lucky, alright.”

“C’mon, let’s go!” shouted Angie, grabbing Susie’s arm and yanking her down the dirt road.

“Where are we going!?”

“To your house, of course!”

“Don’t you need to practice your math!?”

“I don’t need to! I’ve got a lucky penny!”

After a long, fun time at Susie’s house. Angie went back home while Susie curled up on her bed and thought, “It’s just an old penny. Angie’s still got to practice. I wish I could take back all I said about that penny!”

The next day, Angie and Susie went to the movies with Harry, Angie’s little cousin.

“I’ve got a whole jar of pennies!” shouted Harry after he had heard about Angie’s penny.

“Well mine is much more unique than those common ones,” boasted Angie as the movie started.

“Quick! Let me see it!” pleaded Harry.

Angie reached into her bag and showed Harry the penny.

“Wow!”

Angie put the penny back in the bag and tried to lift it up and put it on her lap, but she couldn’t. Something got caught on the bag and if it was yanked, it would make a hole. But Angie tugged, and the bag ripped. Angie didn’t know. The coin in the bag was right next to the hole, so it fell out.

When the movie finished, Angie reached into her bag and fished around for her coin, but it was not there. Her face started to droop, and she burst into tears.

That night, Angie practiced her math with her family, but she got almost everything wrong. “It’s alright, hon. You will do well,” said Angie’s mom as they walked up the steps.

The next day, Angie walked into the class sulking and sighing. She heard footsteps and when she turned around, Harry was trotting behind her. “I...puff puff...found the p-penny.”

Angie sprang into the air like a spring. “Really!? Wow! Awesome! Cool Yeah!”

Harry held out Angie’s penny. “Come to my house after school!”

“Where did you find it?” asked Angie, ignoring Harry.

“Come to my house and I’ll tell you.”

After school that day, Angie and Susie went to Harry’s house. He led them up to his room and reached under his bed. He pulled out a jar of pennies.

“Every penny in my jar has 2000 carved into it. I only collect the ones from that year,” said Harry.

Angie smiled a disappointed smile and reached into her pocket. She pulled out her coin. Then she dropped into the jar. “I don’t need it. I figured a penny can never really be lucky, only a lucky charm. And it’s not the penny that makes me good at math or not, it’s me. I’ll do more practice tonight.

“Pennies are still lucky...for me. I guess I’m going to be really lucky with all these,” Harry said, dumping out all his pennies.

Everyone laughed.