



We'll Share \$ Save \$ Spend Smart Tool!®

Help Kids
Learn About
the Value of
Money!

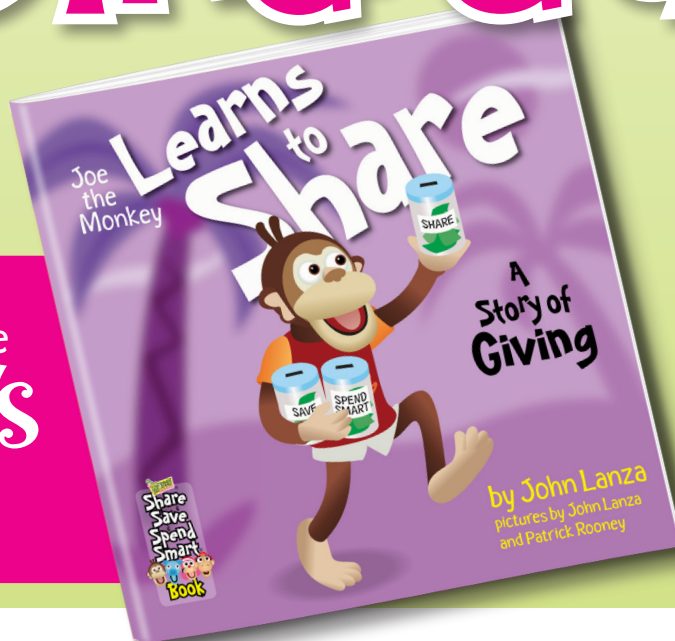
Questions and activities
for discussion or thinking
for children Pre-K, K-3

Written by John Lanza
with Kerrie Davis and
Kylene Casanova for use
by credit unions, financial
institutions, parents and
teachers worldwide.

Based on the book
"Joe The Monkey
Learns To Share"
written by John Lanza

READING GUIDE

Designed to be used
in conjunction with the
**CHILDREN'S
Book!**



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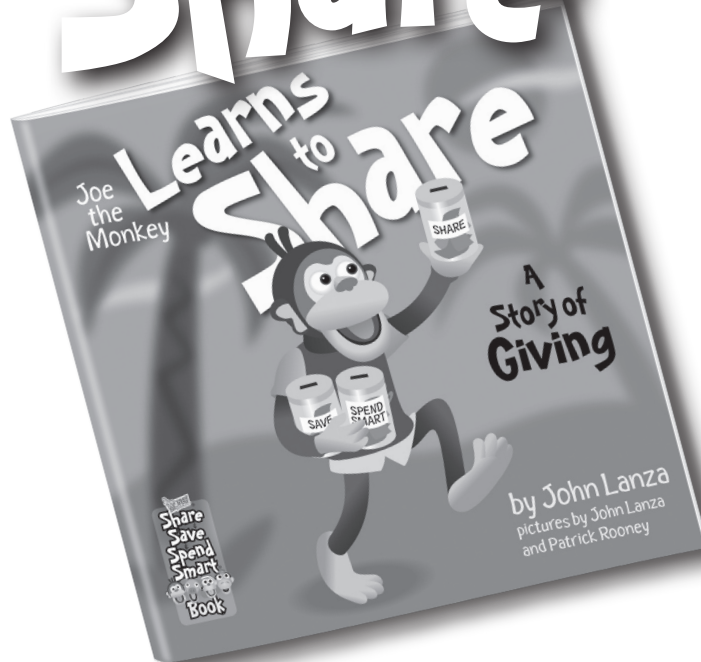
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READING GUIDE

Joe the
Monkey

for

Learns
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First Edition

General Reading and Presentation Notes

- Modify your tone to reflect the character's feeling throughout the book. When Joe is excited, sad, or concerned, make sure your voice replicates the mood.
- The pictures in this book tell a story as much as the words. Give adequate time for the entire group to see the pictures before turning to the next page.
- Before you start to read the story, ask the kids if they like sharing their money. Discuss why or why not. After the brief discussion, tell the students that sharing is a very important thing to do with our money and it can also be very rewarding. While it's not always easy to spend money on others, Joe the Monkey is about to see why it's a really nice thing to do.
- At the end of the lesson thank the children for being good listeners. Let them know that because they were such great students, you want to give them a special treat but explain that you are going to give each student two of the items. One is for them to keep and the other they need to share with a friend in a different class, a neighbor, or a sibling. Instruct them to pay attention to how nice it feels to share and how happy the other person is of their kindness. Possible treats could be a special pencil, candy, small toy, sticker, etc.



Topics for Discussion

- Joe has three jars for his money. Why is it a good idea to separate your money into three different containers for saving, sharing and spending smart?
- What are other things you can share besides money? Point out that in the book, Joe was already sharing by helping Screecher learn new tricks, and Clara was not only using the money in her share jar to buy yarn, but she was sharing her talent of knitting by making the yarn into hats.
- Discuss how you feel when you share with someone else or how it makes you feel when someone shares with you.
- Joe learned a new word – charity – during the story. What does that word mean? Do you know what the word “donate” means?
- Vargas says that he feels better when he buys things. Do you ever feel the same way? What did you think of Vargas’ advice to Joe to buy the video game?
- Do you think it was a good idea for Joe to take the money from his share jar to buy the Jumpin’ Jaguar video game he wanted? Why not? Later he returned the video game to the store, was that the right thing to do? Why?
- If Joe still wants the Jumpin’ Jaguar video game, what should he do?
- There are many groups at our school, in our neighborhood or in our town that we can share our money with. Ask if anyone has ideas of how they could share their money with others.
- Do you think Joe will continue to use the money in his share jar to help buy new vines for monkeys who do not have one?
- In the story, Joe’s friends and family all share their money with different groups. Make clear to the class that not everyone has to give to the same thing and you also don’t have to give all your share money to just one cause. You can donate to several different charities if you would like.
- Do you get an allowance. If so, do you give any of that money away?
- What is a charity? They should know now that they’ve read the book, but perhaps explain if they don’t understand, “A charity is an organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.” (source: Dictionary.com)
- Do you put your allowance into a piggy bank? 3 jars? A bank or credit union?



Activity Ideas

- Make a list of things your family or class could share with others. Some ideas might be things you can buy with the money in your share jar, others might be things you already have but would be willing to give away. (i.e. outgrown clothes, toys you don't play with, movies you don't watch)
- Organize a fundraiser for a local charity or family in need. You can either collect items (i.e. non perishable food for a food pantry) or host an activity that raises funds (i.e. lemonade stand to benefit a family with a sick child).
- Have each person draw a picture of how they would like to share their money, perhaps inspired by Joe's charity. Prompt them to think of something meaningful to them.. Ask if anyone would like to tell the class about their idea.
- Give examples of different things Joe the Monkey could do with his money. Have the class decide what jar he should take the money from. Examples:
 - o Green licorice for Joe (Spend)
 - o Birthday present for Piggs (Share)
 - o A carrying case for his Super Vine 3000 that cost several weeks of allowance (Save)
 - o Bananas for the vine swinging team (Share)
 - o A new shirt for Joe to wear at the band's next show (Spend)
 - o A fancy new controller to play Jumpin' Jaguar's Journey game with (Save)
- Your family or class could discuss an idea to perform a "random act of kindness." For example, you could purchase smile stickers and hand them out to folks in the community. You might offer up high fives to people on the street just to help make their day just a little brighter. Bring the idea up for discussion and see what the kids create. Of course, you will need to advise to ensure that whatever idea you pursue puts their safety first.
- **Share Jar visualization** — We often visualize our save goals like a new bicycle, video game or, in Joe's case, the Supervine 3000! You can use this same technique to save money in your share jar for someone or something else. Think of some way you'd like to give away your money. *(NOTE: For a fun way to expand on this activity, copy the Sharing visualization printable on the following page and let the children fill it out and color it.)*



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Learn to Share

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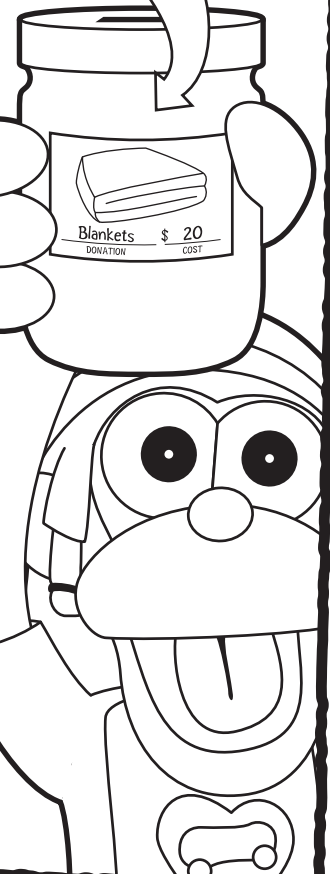
YOUR DONATION

3 DRAW YOUR DONATION

4 CUT OUT THE LABEL AND PASTE IT ON YOUR JAR

1 WRITE YOUR DONATION

2 HOW MUCH WILL YOUR DONATION COST?



Notes





Saving
Money Is
Fun

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