

The Lost Coin

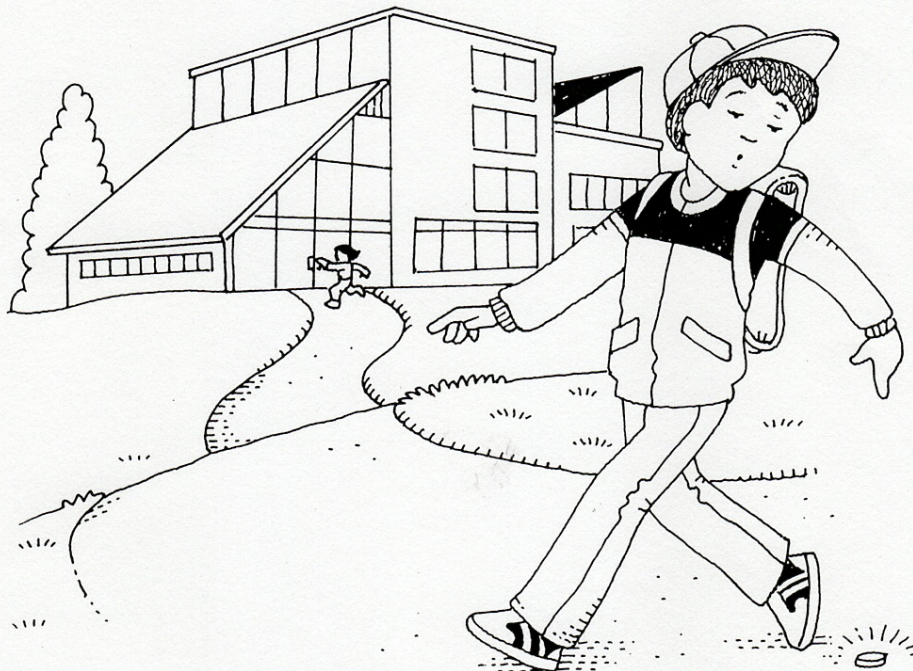
Predicting Outcomes, Elaboration

It is important for children to learn to view problems from unusual angles. This activity requires unique solutions to what may appear to be a simple problem.

1. Relate the following to students.

One day as he was walking towards school, Michael noticed something shiny on the ground. When he took a closer look, he realized that it was a large coin. But he didn't pick it up. Why?

2. Divide students into small groups. Invite each group to brainstorm possible reasons why Michael did not pick up the coin. Groups should try to identify as many varied and unusual reasons as possible. For example, the coin is in a yard with a vicious-looking dog or the coin is stuck in the asphalt. Perhaps Michael is a dog!
3. Invite each group to share their ideas with the class. Discuss with students which ideas are particularly clever or humorous. See if they can come up with one more possibility at the conclusion of the discussion.



Variation: Challenge students to brainstorm ideas for why Sal went to school wearing a diving helmet.