Teacher's guide

The Weekend Cash Call

words from Daddy's mouth

The Weekend Cash Call

By Lily Burgess

Illustrated by Kate Hawthorne

ISBN: 978-0-9922716-5-7

Teachers' Notes

Prepared and written by a teacher with experience in both whole class and special education

These notes are made available free of charge for use in schools.

They may not be reproduced and sold commercially.

Index

Synopsis 5
Background 5
Themes 5
Writing style 6
Study notes 6
Activities 7
Drama 8
Mathematics 8
Writing 9
Health 9
Social science 9
Science 9
Music 9
Oral language 9
About the author 9
About the illustrator 10
Worksheets available 12

The Weekend cash call

1 Synopsis

The Weekend Cash Call is the third book in the *Words from Daddy's Mouth* series. In this story, the father tells how, as a young boy (and even as an adult) he won a number of radio show competitions. Some of the prizes he won were quite valuable, while others proved disappointing. However, his biggest disappointment was missing out on a cash call competition, which would have netted him some $622.44 (a fortune for a child in the early 1980s). He missed out because his mother insisted he go out to play, rather than spend extended time sitting by the phone and listening to the radio. As a consolation prize the station sent him a $2 scratch-it ticket, which proved a non-winner. However, a tape recording of the conversation with the radio announcer proved a source of merriment for all the family for many years.

In the course of his recount, the father explains various outdated technologies (such as vinyl records, cassette players and rotary dial telephones) and mentions a number of popular bands, singers and a movie.

2 Background

This story includes a number of anecdotes from the 1980s to the present day. The earlier stories are set in the ACT, the later ones in Brisbane, Queensland.

3 Themes

Reminiscing about childhood experiences:

- Persistence and perseverance will usually be rewarded.
- Sometimes, despite our best endeavours, we must accept misfortune.

4 Writing style

This story is written in the conversational style of a father recounting childhood events to his daughters Stephanie, Jasmin and (new family member) Avey, as told by his daughter, Lily.

The text involves some narration and considerable dialogue. Direct speech is marked by quotation marks (inverted commas).

5 Study notes

To introduce the story:

a Ask the students if their parents/ grandparents have ever told stories about their childhood.

- Explain that this is a story a father tells to his daughters, and read the introductory notes.
- Show the students the front cover, read the title, and ask them to predict what a story about a cash call might entail.
- Ask the students if they have ever entered a radio station competition, and if so, whether they have ever won a prize.

- Discuss how difficult it is to win such a competition, and how it is necessary to be extremely patient and persistent to win.
- Read the story for enjoyment.

Following the reading of the story:

b Discuss the two layers to the story (Dad telling a stories to his daughters, and the series of anecdotes relating to the various radio competitions).

- Leaf through the book, and identify the illustrations of Dad telling stories to his daughters (pp. 7, 11, 14, 16, 19, 27, 30, 32, 38, 44 and 45). Are their clothes the same in each picture?
- Now look at p. 25. In this picture, the family wear different clothes. Why?
- Leaf through the book again, and identify Dad's anecdotes.

6 Activities

- Draw up a chart, listing the the prizes Dad won, and where possible, his age at the time.
- List the various bands, singers and the movie mentioned in the story.
- Have the students research cassette players, boom boxes, vinyl records and rotary dial telephones.
- Hold a 'Retro Day', and have the students dress in 1980s style clothing (use the illustrations on pp. 9 & 12 for ideas).
- Ask the students how they earn extra pocket. Graph their various money-making ventures.

7 Drama

- Have students play-act the dialogue on pp. 40-42. Then change the scenario (for example, someone else answers the phone, the amount is guessed correctly, the phone drops out at the crucial moment etc) and have the students improvise new dialogue.

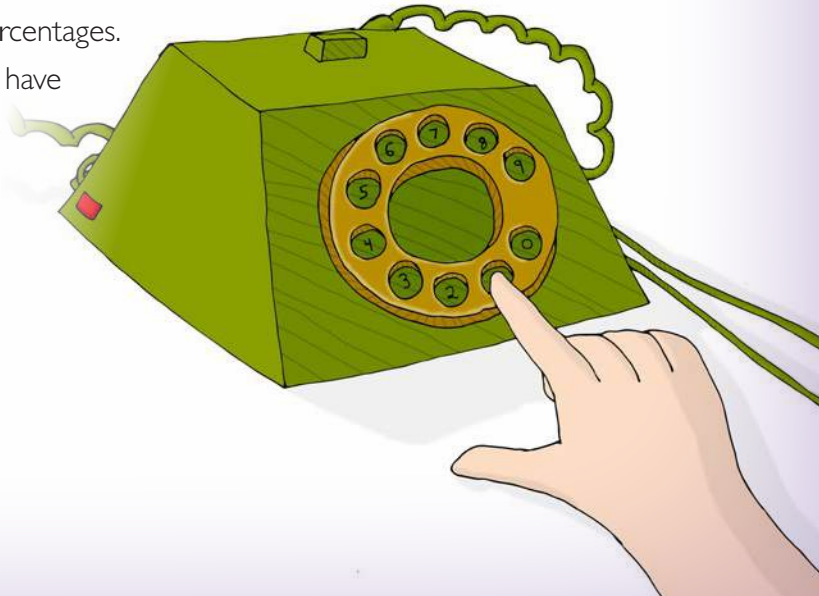
8 Mathematics

a Discuss the concept of inflation, and have the students research what $622.44 would be worth in current terms.

- On p. 33, Dad mentions there was a 1 in 100 chance of winning the competition. Introduce the concepts of chance and probability. Use the internet to access chance and probability games and worksheets suitable for the age/ ability levels of your students.

b Timing was a crucial factor in winning radio competitions (pp. 15, 16). Revise/ introduce telling the time. Discuss the differences between analogue and digital clocks/ watches.

- On p. 29, Dad mentions percentages. Introduce this concept, and have the students work out 50% of the price of tickets to the movies, concerts etc.



9 Writing

- Ask the students to write an account (real or imagined) of an occasion when they won (or failed to win) a competition. Did they win a worth-while prize (or something of little value, such as 'The Spring Clean' prize on pp. 30, 31). Have the students write about their feelings on receiving (or not receiving) the prize.
- Various singers, bands and the movie 'La Bamba' are mentioned in the text. Ask the students to research the stories behind these entertainers, write a synopsis of their findings, and present this to the class.

10 Health

- In this story, the mother insists her son go outside to play because he has been sitting inside for an extended time (p. 34). Discuss the importance of outdoor exercise, and the need to balance indoor and outdoor activities.

11 Social Science

- This story could be used a starting point for a discussion of trends in the mid to late 20th century. Ask the students to identify the various bands/ singers mentioned in the text, and order them according to the eras when they were most popular. Then draw up a chart. For each decade from the 1950s, identify popular bands/ singers, significant historical events, the general economic conditions, block-buster films and fashions. Theorise as to whether there is any connection between these different aspects of society. For example, do fashions tend to be more extreme during periods of prosperity, and more conservative during economic downturns?

- Investigate how bands, such as the Beatles, have played a role reflecting public sentiment during periods of social change. For example, John Lennon's song 'Give Peace a Chance', became a catch-cry of the anti-Vietnam war movement in the 1970s, and his murder in 1980 inspired dissidents in the former Czechoslovakia to create the graffiti splattered wall in Prague, now known as Lennon Wall.

12 Science

- If possible, locate a rotary dial telephone and time the students dialling a given (non-existent) phone number – compare this with dialling the same number on a touch phone.
- Arrange an excursion to a technology museum (such as the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney or the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra).
- Set up a class exhibition of out-dated household items (vinyl records, rotary dial telephones, cassette tape recorders, early computers, mix-masters, irons, meat-safes…).

13 Music

Choose bands/ singers mentioned in the story that are suited to the age/ interests of your students. (For example, The Wiggles would be a good choice for younger students, while the Beatles might suit older students). Listen to their music and learn some of their songs.

14 Oral Language

Set up class radio station. Play recordings, conduct interviews and hold competitions.

15 About the author

About how this all began (and why Lily Burgess is the author on the cover of the books)

By Matthew Burgess

Being a full time lawyer Matthew needed a creative outlet, and in 2010, he began writing business books for other professional service providers.

However there was still something missing. His wife said she married me because he made her laugh with the crazy stories he told her when they first met and that he should write a book.

Many years later they began to raise 1, then 2, then 3 and finally 4, precious girls and Matthew started to share stories of his childhood with his children.

It soon became one of the family's favourite pastimes. Often embellished and seldom kept on track the girls would be absorbed. What was fact became blurred in the magic of the stories told.

A strong undertone in the stories are various life lessons, while also ensuring a healthy dose of humour and role playing.

When his third daughter, Lily, was about four years old, she said "Daddy, please tell me another story from your mouth".

From that day on, the stories became known as "Words from Daddy's mouth". Over time, the stories became known as "Lily's stories". It was therefore a natural progression that Lily Burgess would became the pseudonym for the authoring of the children books to help distinguish them from his other publications.

With so many stories, a list was created to remember them all (at last count the list was nearing 500). So over time a game developed where the girls would choose a number from the list. Whatever story related to the number chosen would be the story that would be told.

16 About the illustrator

Kate Hawthorne has two Bachelors degrees, one in Fine Arts and one in Arts & Sciences. She illustrates primarily for theatre and graphic novels, though in the past she has illustrated for her college newspaper, posters, and many other contests.

Below are my steps for illustrating The Big Rusty Nail and all of the books in this series. The steps below are very common in the industry for illustrators and graphic novelists to employ. However different illustrators may make different choices at each step based on the story and style they are trying to achieve for their unique work.

1. First, I read the entire story through to see what I'm drawing and what the overall story and progression of the pictures should be.
2. Then I divide up the story into chunks of text that go together and that I know I could draw a good unique picture for.
3. Next I sketch the pages in pencil so that I can easily fix anything or change it if necessary. This step tends to be the most daunting as it's creating something from scratch and getting all the proportions correct.
4. After that I slowly and precisely inks the pages with a micron pen, as ink cannot be erased, so than I then only have a clean copy of the lines I want to keep from the illustration. This also provides me something easier to scan as scanners

do not pick up pencil very well. It's also harder to convert a pencil drawing into something I can color as they are very messy.

5. This next step has a lot of mini steps that include scanning the pages, several steps that convert them into a smooth digital copy, several more that clean up the lines and pages, and then the last part of this step is to color.

6. Next I shade everything by hand from the smallest details to the largest objects so that I can achieve the shading for the exact area I need.

7. The final step is to add line shading, black lines/tic marks along where the shading goes. This adds extra character and design and makes the drawings seem more complete. I also do detail work on this step such as putting the entire cross hatching on the school kids hats or filling in lines that got erased or covered during all the previous steps.

17 Worksheets available

- Word Search
- Word Study
- Crossword
- Comprehension

Name: _____

The Weekend Cash Call

Comprehension Sheet

Who is listening to Dad's story telling?

_____

What was Dad's record for dialling the phone number for 2CC?

_____

How old was Dad when he tried to win the Weekend Cash Call?

_____

Explain what you had to do to win the Weekend Cash Call.

_____

_____

_____

What would you do if you won a prize of $1000 on a radio competition?

Do you agree with Stephanie, that it wasn't very nice to hand out the prizes from 'The Spring Clean', to the kids at school?

Why?

What would you do if you won 15 double passes to the movies?

Draw what happened when the mother told her son to go outside and play, and he missed the latest amount on the Weekend Cash Call.

Name: _____

The Big Rusty Nail.

Word study. Write down meanings for these words.

valuable _____

proud _____

vinyl _____

famous _____

popular _____

record (meaning 1) _____

record (meaning 2) _____

minute (meaning 1) _____

minute (meaning 2) _____

Read these words:

weak	week

Write a sentence for each:

Now complete this table

Read	Sound	Write word	Draw a picture
week	w-ee-k		
seek	s-ee-k		
feet	f-ee-t		
street	s-t-r-ee-t		

Read these words and write a sentence for each:

sent

cent

scent

Word building - read and write these words

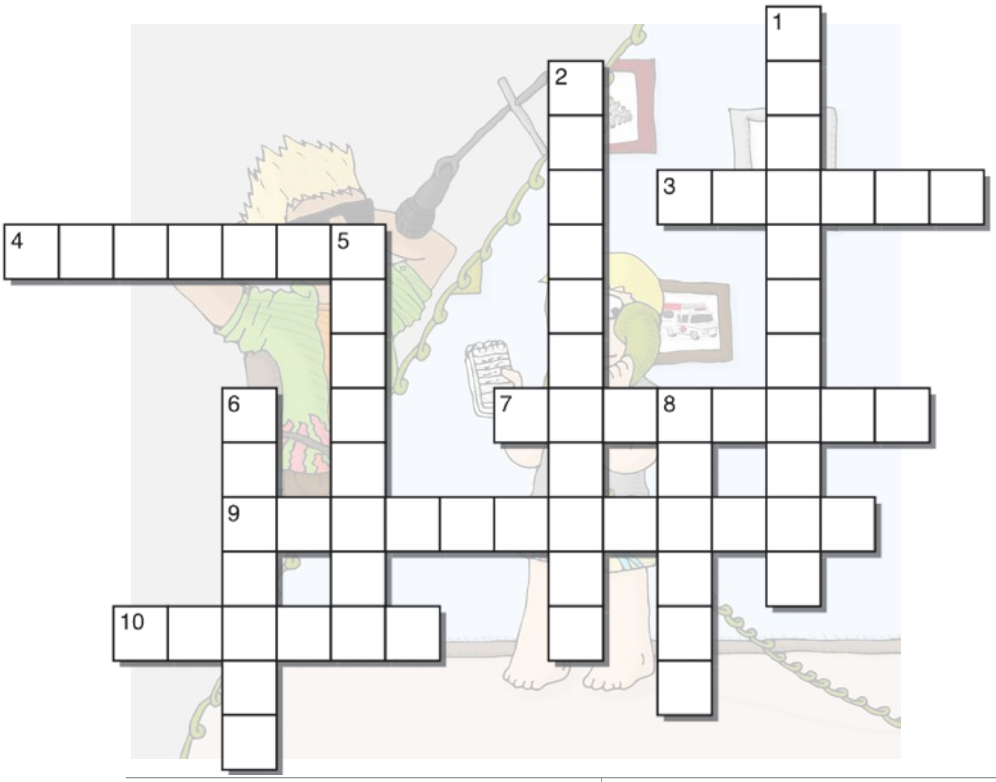
record	records	recorded	recording

Draw pictures for these words:

theatre		vehicle	
tickets		coffee mug	
scratch-it ticket		t-shirt	
record		paper hat	

Explain the proverb: 'Fortune favours the brave':

The Weekend Cash Call



Across

3 Over the years Dad won about _____ on his arm.

4 The DJ had to wait close to _____ minutes before Mum and Matthew got back to the phone.

7 Dad kept a _____ tape recording of the Weekend Cash Call.

9 The four-wheel drive car that delivered the prize to the door was called '_____'

10 The Weekend Cash Call competition had been running all _____

Down

1 The first record Dad won was by a musician called 'Bruce _____'

2 The Wiggles band were once called 'The _____'

5 Who was the performer Dad met?

6 What was the name of the movie Dad took his class to?

8 The 'Take 40 Australia' show was on every _____

The Weekend Cash Call

i	c	c	r	c	f	b	h	x	c	l	b	m	x	g
l	l	o	x	q	j	q	c	v	c	c	f	o	t	r
c	w	u	n	s	k	r	r	p	a	o	p	n	e	e
r	a	p	f	c	y	l	e	h	s	m	r	e	c	c
e	b	l	j	d	e	n	d	o	h	p	m	y	h	o
j	u	t	l	o	o	r	i	n	a	e	g	w	n	r
b	t	a	d	l	q	u	t	e	r	t	c	e	o	d
q	m	p	o	l	y	a	c	a	r	i	l	e	l	i
l	g	e	o	a	z	c	z	j	k	t	w	k	o	n
q	p	j	s	r	z	j	f	p	p	i	b	e	g	g
d	i	a	m	i	n	u	t	e	s	o	l	n	y	j
w	r	d	u	a	l	x	h	p	m	n	k	d	k	e
p	e	r	f	o	r	m	e	r	r	a	d	i	o	f
t	i	c	k	e	t	s	w	l	i	s	t	e	n	o
s	f	k	r	e	c	o	r	d	s	f	k	y	s	x

call
dollar
performer
records
weekend!

cash
listen
phone
tape

competition
minutes
radio
technology

concert
money
recording
tickets!

words from
Daddy's mouth