

Lunch Money

“*Lunch Money*” is a story about a money-obsessed child, Greg Kenton. When he was a kid, he was good at making money. He discovered that almost every classmate brought pocket money to school, so he decided to sell something that children liked at school. However, his ambitious “enterprise” was banned by the principal, Mrs. Davenport since school was not a place for doing business. This didn’t frustrate Greg but strengthened his motivation to sell his comic books by cooperating with Maura, who used to be his rival. Greg and Maura took part in School Committee meeting to get special permission and they even promised ten percent of their profits to the school library.

Although the principal disapproved of trading, Greg and Maura still found their common interests and learned how to manage money. They developed their painting skills by publishing comic books. Finally, they even became good friends to fight against the School Committee for the permission of selling their comic books. Through this event, Greg no longer took money as his most important thing in his life.

I learn a lot from this interesting novel as a reader. At first, I feel that Greg’s attitude toward Maura is prejudiced because we should not look upon everyone as our rival; instead, we should try to be friends with everybody and build a positive relationship with them. After all, humans are not isolated creatures. When we are in times of need, we can always ask for aids from friends. On the other hand, if I were Greg, I might not be able to be brave enough to join School Committee meeting but choose to give up selling comic books at school. Thus, I do appreciate his courage to speak up for himself in a well-organized and convincing way.

The relationship between Greg and Maura is also interesting to be explored. Although Greg and Maura were originally enemies, they became partners in the end. The spirit of their cooperation is worth learning because cooperation can help us achieve a common goal with higher efficiency. For example, if I’m assigned a group report, we group members can play different roles in the task in order to efficiently gather individual efforts. Some can look for related data in a book or surf the Internet for required information, some can write papers, and others can prepare for the oral presentation. In this way, we can finish things soon and save a lot of time with cooperation, which can not only increase the productivity but enhance the friendship. Therefore, I believe that human beings are social animals that can’t live by themselves.

I feel this novel is very interesting. People will enjoy it once they have the chance to read the novel. What I feel the most important is that money is not omnipotent because family, health, friendships, and love are too valuable to be evaluated by money. Nowadays, it's more and more likely for us to learn of lots of issues on fighting for money among family members. After seeing these events, I start to realize that money can sometimes be harmful to our family relationship. Therefore, I warn myself not to take it as my priority in life but try to use it in a wise way such as helping those in need.