Ava’s Adventure

Laura Pedersen
Illustrated by Penny Weber
Hardcover, $16.95
9 x 10, 32 pages, color illustrations
Children / Resolving Conflict / Multicultural;
Grades 2-5

Summary
When Ava’s parents tell her they can’t afford to send her on a weekend snowboarding trip with her friend, she escapes to her room. But her disappointment turns into fuel for her creative imagination. Ava ends up having more fun creating than her snowboarding friend and discovers that she wants to build things when she grows up.

Ava’s Adventure will lead to discussions about
• Family economic diversity
• Learning a skill, playing the violin or knowing how to snowboard
• Career choices, being an architect or professional snowboarder
• Snow day activities
• Expecting the unexpected, experiencing excitement and disappointment
• Low cost ideas for having fun

BEFORE YOU READ

Background
It can be difficult for children to understand why their family can’t afford to do or buy something that a friend’s family can. Getting left out of something because it costs too much is disappointing. Ava’s Adventure addresses issues of economic diversity sensitively, and shows the creative side of being left behind from a costly trip. Children
that are encouraged to work creatively instead of always spending money to have fun will learn satisfaction in in their own work while honing in on a skill, whether it is learning an instrument, knitting, or using material from around the house to make little buildings.

**Access Prior Knowledge**

- What does the expression “money doesn’t grow on trees” mean?
- Have you ever created your own fun when you had to stay home from something?
- Does having fun always need to cost money?

**AFTER YOU READ**

**Activity**

**Create your own village using various recycled materials**

- Give children milk jugs, detergent containers, and other materials big enough to create buildings out of.
- Provide markers and ask children to draw doors and windows on their containers. Explain that the markers are for tracing out the shapes that they will learn how to cut out later.
- Show how to use scissors for cutting out the doors and windows.
- Girls may want to make fairy houses. Provide pipe wire and show how to make ladders. Bonus: glitter and stickers will add decoration to the houses.

**Create your own project!**

Encourage children to start thinking creatively on their own. Give them a bunch of materials and tell them to come up with something to make. Encourage them to talk about how they made their creation and what materials were used. Ask the how much they think it cost to make
Architecture vocabulary

- Brainstorm at least two pieces of vocabulary into each of the categories below:

People associated with buildings
Materials associated with buildings
Equipment that architects use
Parts of a room
Parts of a house or flat
Parts of a building
Types of house
Types of other buildings
Things architects do and produce

- Match the groups of words below to the categories above.

Floor Socket Double glazing
Fitted kitchen Balcony (Roof top) terrace
Ground floor/ First floor Lift/ Elevator Basement/ Cellar Foundation
Penthouse Communal area Gate Window cleaning cradle
Detached house Terraced house Cottage
Block of flats/ Apartment building Care home Multi storey car park Luxury flats/ Condo
Studio flats Hospital Public building
Brick Tile Wood Glue Plaster Plywood Screw
CAD programs Set square Protractor Foam/ Styrofoam Compass Surveying equipment
Ceiling Air conditioning Handle
Open-plan dining room/ kitchen Playground Veranda
Fire escape Bicycle racks Roof Mezzanine Sewage Lobby Partition wall Skylight
Semi-detached house Bungalow Mansion
Old people’s home/ Nursing home Community center Skyscraper Shopping center/ Mall
Health center/ clinic Department store
Reinforced concrete  Stone  Nails Paint
Wallpaper  Insulation
Pen tablet  Ruler  Rubber/ Eraser  Automatic pencil/ Mechanical pencil  GPS
Plan  Sketch  Doodle
Concierge  Builder  Surveyor  Landscape architect  Electrician
Interior designer  Carpenter  Safety inspector  Plasterer
Drawing  3D model  Blueprint
Security guard  Bricklayer  Site manager  Plumber
Civil engineer  Decorator  Electrician  Roofer  Architectural engineer

- Choose one of the words above that you know and explain which one you are thinking of without using any part of its name until your partner works out which one you are talking about.

- Useful language: You can find it... It's used for... It’s (usually/always) made of...


For Further Discussion

- How can being bored actually be a good thing?
- Why is having a skill like playing an instrument or building things important?
- Thinking about economic diversity, what kind of activities can you create with your friends that cost little to nothing to do?

Further Reading

Unplugged Ella Finally Gets Her Family Back by Laura Pedersen (Tilbury House, 2012)

The Mushroom Man by Ethel Pochoki (Tilbury House, 2006)

Internet Resources
You may find the following Internet resources helpful as your students continue to explore the topic of the book.

**KinderIQ**
A website designed to give kids activity ideas for outdoor, musical, rainy day, and more.  
https://www.kinderiq.com/activities-for-kids.php

**Kids.Gov**
Government website that introduces kids in grades K-5 to career options.  
https://www.kinderiq.com/activities-for-kids.php