

# Ava's Adventure

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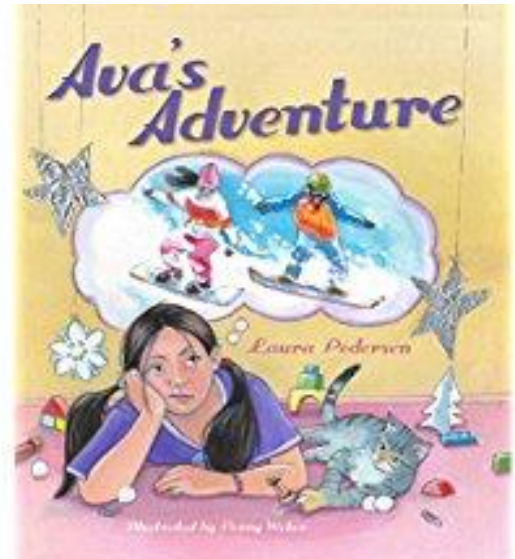
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Children / Resolving Conflict / Multicultural;

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 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.
- For more information and photos guides to milk jug houses: <http://www.filthwizardry.com/2009/07/fairy-houses-and-fairy-wings-for-your.html>

#### 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...

<http://www.usingenglish.com/files/pdf/architecture-vocabulary.pdf>

### 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>