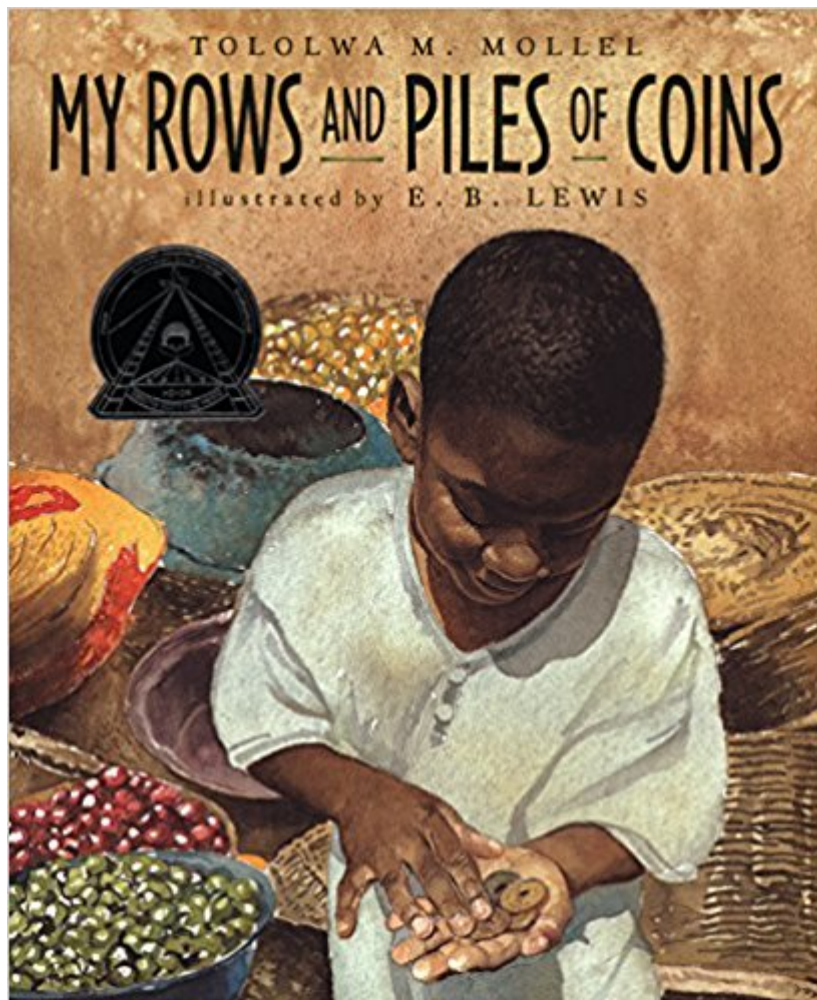


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# My Rows And Piles Of Coins



## Synopsis

"I emptied my secret money box, arranged the coins in piles and the piles in rows . . ." The market is full of wonderful things, but Saruni is saving his precious coins for a red and blue bicycle. How happy he will be when he can help his mother carry heavy loads to market on his very own bicycle--and how disappointed he is to discover that he hasn't saved nearly enough! Determination and generosity are at the heart of this satisfying tale, set in Tanzania and illustrated with glowing watercolors that capture the warmth of Saruni's family and the excitement of market day.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; 1 edition (August 23, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395751861

ISBN-13: 978-0395751862

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #271,627 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Money](#) #107 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Money & Saving](#) #137 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: [Preschool - 3](#)

## Customer Reviews

The creators of Big Boy place this story of a resourceful and thoughtful boy in the 1960s Tanzania of Mollel's childhood. Saruni receives coins from his mother for helping her to cart goods to town each market day. His goal is to save enough money to buy a bicycle to transport these loads more efficiently and to run other errands for his parents. While his savings accumulate in his "secret money box," the child determinedly practices on his father's bike, first learning to ride without falling and then to balance a load of vegetables on the bike. One day Saruni feels he has collected enough money to buy a new bike, but his hopes are dashed by the scornful laughter of the bicycle vendor. Luckily, the boy's father announces that it is just the right amount of money to purchase his bicycle

(and then returns the money to his son). In an ending that makes this selfless hero an inspiration to readers, Saruni contemplates using his savings to buy a cart to pull behind his bike, to further lighten the loads his mother must carry. Lewis's engaging and lifelike paintings convincingly portray a range of images and emotions, including the verdant Tanzanian landscape and bustling marketplace, and, most affectingly, the strong bond between this boy and his loving parents. Ages 5-8. (Aug.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

PreSchool-Grade 3-A warm family story set in Tanzania in the 1960s. Saruni is a picture of determination as he learns to ride his father's big bicycle and saves his small earnings to buy one of his own in order to help his mother deliver her goods to market. After months of work, he takes his coins to the bicycle seller, who adds them up and responds with humiliating laughter. However, Saruni is rewarded when his father buys a motorbike and "sells" his old bicycle to his son. In the end, Saruni's parents refuse his payment, preferring to give him the bike as a reward for his help. At story's end, he is again saving his coins-this time to buy a cart to pull behind his bicycle and further lighten his mother's load. The first-person story contains several universal childhood experiences: the pride in persevering and gaining a new skill and in making an unselfish contribution to the family. Since the narrative focus is on the boy's own goals, the story is natural and never excessively moralistic. The fluid, light-splashed watercolor illustrations lend a sense of place and authenticity. Watching Saruni's savings mount visually is a nice touch. A short glossary gives the meaning and pronunciation of frequently used words. Deft and effective. Kate McClelland, Perrot Memorial Library, Greenwich, CT Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Teaches the patience of savings money over the long haul in order to meet a goal. Also teaches that saving money isn't always about getting nice things, it's also about savings money so you can do something nice for someone else. In this case, the boy was savings up for a bike so he can 1: have an awesome bike that he loves to ride but also 2. so he can help his mother take heavy loads to the market every week.

Fantastic book.

Perfect for our needs! Great shipper

I bought this book for my child and it was truly wonderful. We learned how to pronounce different

words, and it thought a wonderful lesson as well.

A boy helps his mother carry loads to market & saves his coins to buy a bike which could carry a load for him. He diligently saves for a long time and finally presents his "rows and piles of coins" to the man who sells bikes at the market, only to be laughed at because he didn't have enough money. He is heartbroken and when his mother asks, he explains it all to her. She was touched that he wanted to buy a bike to help carry loads to market; soon when his father buys a motorbike, the father offers to sell his old bicycle to the boy for the amount he has saved. The boy is grateful and eager, and is doubly-blessed when his parents return his money as a token of appreciation for his help. He proudly walks his load on his bike to market (he doesn't ride because his mother couldn't keep up) and thinks about saving his coins to purchase a cart so that his mother won't have to carry anything. A wonderful book that will build character & warms your heart. You won't forget this book long after you've read it. We borrowed it from our library and fell in love with it- I simply have to buy a copy, not many books are this good. Did I mention the illustrations are outstanding and the story is incredibly well written? Kept both my attention and that of my 5 year old.

This story, set in Tanzania in the 1960's, is about a boy who wants a bicycle to help his mother carry loads of produce to the market. The boy saves up his money to buy the bicycle, occasionally getting the money out of his secret box, putting it into neat piles, and counting it up. There are a couple of places in the book where the boy is laughed at as he tries to accomplish his goal. The reader feels for the boy as he goes to the market to buy the bike and is laughed at because he doesn't have enough money. The author helps the reader to understand that there may be obstacles that you have to overcome in order to be successful. A good picture book to use with 3rd and 4th graders to discuss character traits, cause and effect, sequential details, plot. Drawing conclusions- at the very end of the book it shows the boy counting up his money again- students can conclude that he will buy his mother a cart for her load. Themes in the book: patience, perseverance, helping others, determination.

I have been trying to get books that depict other places and cultures and this is one of my favorites. (I believe it was set in 1960's Tanzania) The pictures are detailed and realistic and you can talk a lot about them if your kids are the curious types. The story is really well-written and enjoyable for adults too and gives a picture of a loving family that looks out for one another. It brings up a lot of good themes to discuss with school age children such as saving money, practicing something hard until

you master it, making sacrifices for others, helping out and doing your part in the family, gratefulness, patience, planning, etc. I really liked it.

With so many schools adopting some form of character education, this book is a must for any teacher's collection. I have read this book with first and second graders and I've read it with seventh and eighth graders, too. With both groups the book holds their attention and forces them to think critically about how they view their own small worlds. Kids naturally place themselves at the center of their worlds. This book eloquently makes them take a step back and consider the feelings of others. The book has allowed me to engage kids of all ages in discussions about gratitude and what it means to do for others. Chris Bowen Author of, "Our Kids: Building Relationships in the Classroom"

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