Arnie and the Stolen Markers  
by Nancy Carlson  

**Overview**  
Arnie has got to have the super-duper marker set he sees at Harvey’s Candy and Toy Shop, but all his allowance is gone. So, when Harvey goes into the back room… Arnie’s ensuing guilty feeling, the discovery of the stolen markers by his mother, and Harvey’s retribution, make a satisfying morality tale.

**Grade 6**

**LEARNING TARGETS**

- ✓ I can identify the crime that Arnie has committed.
- ✓ I can identify the victims of Arnie’s crime.
- ✓ I understand that rehabilitation is the goal of the juvenile justice system, and can relate that to Arnie’s story.
- ✓ I can explain how Arnie’s punishment is an example of restorative justice.

**STANDARDS**

**Grade 6 Civics**

6.1.4.7.6 Describe the goals, offenses, penalties, long-term consequences, and privacy concerns of Minnesota's juvenile justice system.
6.4.1.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

6.4.3.3 Describe how a particular story’s or drama’s plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

**GUIDE**

Use this picture book as an introduction to some of the concepts of Juvenile Justice. The simple story can stimulate discussion about the goals of the Juvenile Justice system, crimes and the consequences of crime, punishment and restorative justice.

Begin reading the book aloud to the class, stop at the point that Arnie says ‘Boy is she stingy.” In these first few pages we are seeing two different ways of dealing with money. Ask the students if they have ever saved money in order to buy something they wanted, like Louanne. Then ask if they have ever spent all their money quickly, and been unable to afford something more expensive. Is it frustrating to be unable to have what you want? Ask the students if they think adults ever have the problem of not being able to save the money needed for something they want – just like Arnie.

Civics Standard 6.1.4.7.6
Language Arts Standard 6.4.1.1

Read the next few pages, stopping when Arnie runs out the door with the markers. What crime has Arnie committed? (shoplifting) Tell the students that there are “degrees of crimes.” List the basic 4 – status offenses (behavior that is only a crime because of the offenders age, like curfew), misdemeanors, petty offenses and felony. What kind of crime do the students think Arnie has committed? (misdemeanor because the markers are very inexpensive)

Civics Standard 6.1.4.7.6
Language Arts Standard 6.4.1.1
Read the next few pages, stopping when Arnie hides the markers and goes outside. Is Arnie enjoying his markers? He wanted them so much! What has gone wrong? (he is guilty and frightened) Arnie has made a big mistake – why? He seems to know that stealing the markers was wrong, and yet he did it. Why? Does it matter to us that Arnie is a child? How would we feel about a teenager who stole the markers? How would we feel about an adult who stole the markers? What is the difference between a child and an adult in this case?

Civics Standard 6.1.4.7.6
Language Arts Standard 6.4.1.1

Read the next few pages, stopping when Arnie asks Harvey “Please don’t send me to jail!” Ask the class if they think that Arnie would go to jail if Harvey calls the police? Why or why not? Make a list of the factors that the students think are important. Examples could include: Arnie’s age, the value of the markers, Arnie’s past behavior, Arnie’s confession. What other possible consequences could there be for Arnie’s behavior? (Harvey could let Arnie’s parents deal with it. Arnie could be banned from Harvey’s store. Arnie could have to go to a class about stealing. Arnie could be put on probation.)

Civics Standard 6.1.4.7.6
Language Arts Standard 6.4.1.1

Read the rest of the book. Ask students what they think of Harvey’s punishment for Arnie. What goals did Harvey achieve through his actions? (Arnie learned that stealing was wrong. Arnie learned to work to earn money. Arnie learned to save. Harvey was reimbursed for the cost of the markers through the work Arnie did.) Tell students that the goal of Juvenile Justice is rehabilitation. Ask for a definition of this word. (returning the offender to a productive life) Did Harvey achieve the goal of rehabilitating Arnie?

Civics Standard 6.1.4.7.6
Language Arts Standard 6.4.1.1

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Harvey is the victim of Arnie’s crime. As the store owner, he lost the value of the markers because of Arnie’s theft. There are others who are victims of this crime, however. Have students make a list of other victims of this crime and why that person is a victim. Encourage them to think about everyone in the story
and how the crime impacted their lives. Did Harvey’s punishment of Arnie help all of the victims of the crime?

Harvey’s treatment of Arnie is an example of Restorative Justice. In Restorative Justice the focus is on repairing the harm done by the crime, rather than on punishing the wrong doer. The wrong doer needs to do something to help the victims of the crime, but also something that helps him feel “repaired,” as well. Have students write a paragraph explaining what harm Arnie did to himself through his crime, and how Harvey’s Restorative Justice helped him repair that harm.

NOTES