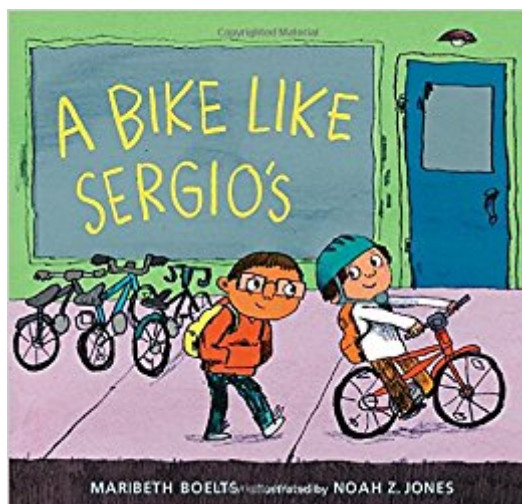


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# A Bike Like Sergio's (A Junior Library Guild Selection)



## Synopsis

Finders keepers, right? When Ruben picks up someone's lost money, he finds out how hard it can be to do the right thing. Ruben feels like he is the only kid without a bike. His friend Sergio reminds him that his birthday is coming, but Ruben knows that the kinds of birthday gifts he and Sergio receive are not the same. After all, when Ruben's mom sends him to Sonny's corner store for groceries, sometimes she doesn't have enough money for everything on the list. So when Ruben sees a dollar bill fall out of someone's purse, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. But when he gets home, he discovers it's not one dollar or even five or ten dollars, it's a hundred-dollar bill, more than enough for a new bike just like Sergio's! But what about the crossed-off groceries? And what about the woman who lost her money? Presenting a relatable story told with subtlety and heart, the creative team behind *Those Shoes* pairs up again for a satisfying new picture book.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (October 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763666491

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Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.3 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,998 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Money #4 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Money & Saving #8 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 • Ruben wants a bike like Sergio's and ones his other friends ride, but his family cannot afford one. Fate seems to help him find a way to pay for a bike when a lady inadvertently drops a \$100 bill while checking out at the grocery store. No one notices as Ruben stashes the bill in his backpack. The text is lively. "My hands are shaking. That money is enough for a bike like

Sergio's. Then I won't have to run; I'll be riding." Semirealistic cartoon illustrations have readers rooting for Ruben to do the right thing. At first, he is excited, envisioning spending the money on a new bike, but eventually he starts feeling guilty. Ruben's conscience eats at him, especially when he cannot find the \$100 bill. He searches everywhere before finally locating it in another pocket. Relieved, Ruben decides he will do the right thing and soon gets his chance to make things right. When doing an errand for his mom at the grocery store, he runs into the same woman who lost the bill. He returns it and goes home to tell his family what happened. The book ends as he basks in his parents' pride. This title hits on the issues of poverty, peer pressure, and self-control. VERDICT Parents of all economic backgrounds can use this selection to start a conversation about right and wrong, but kids might find the ending less than satisfying. —Robin Sofge, Alexandria Library, VA

2017 Charlotte Zolotow Highly Commended Title"Boelts lays out Ruben's ethical dilemma and emotional turmoil without preaching, and his struggle and journey toward the moral choice--which includes an interlude in which he believes he has lost the money--is both dramatic and genuine. Jones's mixed-media illustrations capture the scuffed-up feel of Ruben's urban neighborhood, as well as the sweet earnestness of the bespectacled hero and his multiracial family." —Starred Review: Publisher's Weekly This tale of temptation, ethics, guilt, and family love is firmly grounded in the economic realities of today, as was the earlier collaboration between Boelts and Jones, *Those Shoes* (rev. 11/07)...The resolution is realistic for a kid with a loving, supportive family, and it leaves plenty of room for talking about what is most important in life from an authentically childlike perspective. —Horn Book Continuing from their acclaimed *Those Shoes* (2007), Boelts and Jones entwine conversations on money, motives, and morality...Embedded in this heartwarming story of doing the right thing is a deft examination of the pressures of income inequality on children. —Kirkus Reviews Maribeth Boelts captures the agony of a moral dilemma in "A Bike Like Sergio" (Candlewick, 40 pages, \$15.99), a picture book for 5- to 8-year-olds. To Ruben, it seems that every other kid has a bicycle. "Ask your parents again," says his affluent friend Sergio. "Your birthday is coming. True, but, as Ruben says, Sergio forgets there's a difference between his birthday and mine. Later, when Ruben sees a dollar bill flutter from a woman's purse, he picks it up. "I don't chase her," he tells us; "it's just a dollar. Except that it isn't: It's a \$100 bill, and now Ruben can have the bike he wants. Or can he? And should he? In this rewarding tale, Noah Z. Jones

expressive, naïve illustrations reinforce the sincerity of a boy's valiant struggle with temptation. -The Wall Street Journal

Great story about a boy who learns empathy and responsibility. May be a little on the moralistic side, which doesn't always appeal to children, but is very well written and most children can relate to wanting something that a friend has but not having the money to get it themselves. In this story the boy does not steal the money...at first. He finds it. Might be a good close read text for a younger audience. (k-1)

Great book for teaching social skills

The wonderfully expressive characters in this story ARE childhood. The longing for a bike. The unbelievable good luck that poses a moral dilemma. "I am happy and mixed up, full and empty, with what's right and what's gone." Ruben is all of us. A delightful, worthwhile read with textural illustrations.

LOVE THIS BOOK.

A great lesson. Cute illustrations. We have "Those Shoes" too. A great book for my 5 year old!

Ruben would love to have a bike like his friend Sergio has. Even though his birthday is coming, Ruben knows that he doesn't get presents like bicycles. His family is large and there's not enough money even for all of the groceries they need some weeks. One day when he is at the store for his mother, a lady in front of him drops a dollar bill. Ruben picks it up and puts it in his pocket, but when he looks at it later he discovers it's actually a one-hundred dollar bill! That's enough for him to get the bike he's always wanted. Now Sergio has a dilemma, does he give the money to his family for groceries? Does he give it back to the woman? Or does he buy the bike of his dreams? Boelts has created a story that is much more than a lesson in morals. This story is about ethical choices yes, but also about economic disparity and families living on the edge. It is a story told with real subtlety and offering an understanding of what would drive a child who is good at heart to steal what they thought was a dollar. It's a book about the stories we tell ourselves to make our decisions "right" and the way that doing the

right thing may not always be easy or clear. The illustrations by Jones are modern and rather quirky. They fill the page with the vividness of the urban setting. The love and caring of Ruben's family are also celebrated in the illustrations. Subtle and smart, this book about decisions and doing the right thing asks all the right questions. Appropriate for ages 5-7.

This is picture book about doing the right thing no matter how hard it may be when temptation teases you. I was in a similar situation as a child so I greatly appreciated this book and the dilemma Ruben faces as he finds a 100 dollar bill on the floor of a grocery store that he saw fall out of a woman's purse. He feels it was meant to be that she lost it and he found it but having that money eats away at him. Written by Maribeth Boelts, illustrated by Noah Z Jones and published by Candlewick Press. #PB #conscience #rightandwrong

Ruben is the only kid in his class who doesn't have a bike. His best friend Sergio has one and literally races circles around Ruben as they walk to and from school and Ruben really, really wants A BIKE LIKE SERGIO. Sergio's birthday is coming up, but his family doesn't have much money and he knows he will not be getting a bike. One day while at the grocery store to pick up an item for his mom, Ruben finds what he believes is a dollar dropped by a woman in a blue coat. However, later that night after he gets home he discovers it's not a one-dollar bill, but a hundred-dollar bill! Ruben is ecstatic because now he has enough money to get a bike. However, he soon learns an important lesson and discovers that money isn't always the most valuable thing in the world. A BIKE LIKE SERGIO isn't the typical children's book. The story is more realistic to something children might actually experience and I really enjoyed the ending, which doesn't end you might think it would. Overall, I really enjoyed A BIKE LIKE SERGIO and highly recommend it.

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