

## *Katharine the Almost Great Uses Her Common Cents*



Written by Lisa Mullarkey  
Illustrated by Phyllis Harris

**Story Summary:** Third grader Katharine Carmichael thinks coming up with the winning idea for the school-wide service project will be easy-breezy. But her tattoo idea earns her a trip to the principal and her cookie business crumbles. Katharine's worried that her classmate, Vanessa, AKA Miss Priss-A-Poo, will have the best idea for the second year in a row. Can help from her cousin Crockett and a little common cents convince everyone that their latest idea is a winner?

**About the Author:** Lisa Mullarkey is a former first and second grade teacher and school librarian. She lives in NJ with her husband and two children. Being a librarian and working with kids made her want to become an author. Her first book, *Splashing by the Shore*, is a fun activity book that has beachy science experiments, crafts, jokes, party ideas, and recipes. She also has six chapter books in the Katharine the *Almost Great* series. She's working on writing her first nonfiction books about cheerleading. They won't be published until 2010 so she's practicing being *very* patient! Some of her favorite authors are Andrew Clements, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Kimberly Willis Holt, Dan Gutman, Lisa Wheeler, and Patricia Reilly Giff. She loves visiting schools to talk to young authors about writing and reading. Visit her website at [www.lisamullarkey.com](http://www.lisamullarkey.com).

**About the Illustrator:** Phyllis Harris should have known she was destined to illustrate books when she won a poster contest in grade school. Her family didn't have many children's books except for those that came free in family size boxes of laundry detergent. However, the few she did have, she poured over for hours on end, looking at every picture with great admiration and dreamed of making pictures as wonderful as these one day. She has illustrated over 30 books for children including all of the Katharine the *Almost Great* series. Her favorite illustrators are Beatrix Potter, Chris Van Allsburg, Tricia Tusa, Helen Oxenbury, Holly Hobbie and Christopher Denise. Visit her website at [www.phyllisharris.com](http://www.phyllisharris.com).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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by Lisa Mullarkey



In this book, Katharine often hopes something will happen but then the opposite occurs...most of the time. Sometimes it's a good thing, sometimes a bad thing. Read each scenario below. Tell what Katharine hopes will happen and then what actually happened. Be creative!

1. Katharine sees Miss-Priss-A-Poo in the grocery store.  
Hopes will happen...

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What really happens...

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2. Katharine notices a box of candy on Mrs. Bingsley's desk.  
Hopes will happen...

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What really happens...

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3. Crockett has a dollar bill in his hand.  
Hopes will happen...

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What really happens...

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4. Katharine runs down the hallway and bumps right into Ammer the Hammer!  
Hopes will happen...

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What really happens...

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5. Katharine sees her mother peeking through her classroom door.  
Hopes will happen...

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What really happens...

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6. Katharine gets a phone call from her idol, Penelope Parks!  
Hopes will happen...

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What really happens...

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NAME\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Crockett loves his Wacky Holiday Calendar that lists crazy holidays like *Talk Like a Pirate Day* and *Take Your Houseplant for a Walk Day*. Can you fill in the calendar above with funny holidays you'd like to celebrate? Work with a partner. (Write month, dates, and the holidays!)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## The Tattoo Queen



Katharine's idea of drawing tattoos to raise money for the character education program didn't go over well with Mrs. Bingsley! Use the space below to design reading tattoos that Mrs. Bingsley would approve of. DON'T USE PERMANENT MARKERS! 😊



Katharine's mom didn't understand her RENT-A-KID plan. She told Katharine and Crockett that they should have used their common sense. Can you think of a time when you thought you had a great idea but someone didn't agree? Tell us what happened and how you felt.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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### Tally Results for Crockett and Katharine:

Tally Results for Vanessa:

The winner(s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ?? BRAINSTORM!!! ??



Fundraisers can earn mucho mega moola for your school or community. It shows that you care! Make a jot list of super-duper, fab-u-lo-so ideas for a classroom or school-wide community service project. Maybe your teacher will pick your idea one day!

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_





Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

## RESEARCH PENNY FACTS AND TRIVIA



Katharine loves to share cool facts with her friends and family. In honor of her winning service project idea, can you find some super cool penny facts? Use books from your library and check out Internet sites bookmarked by your teacher! Here are a few to get you started.

1. The U.S. Mint makes more than 13 BILLION pennies each year. That's approximately 30 million pennies a day!
2. The U.S. Mint believes that there are over \$140 BILLION pennies in circulation today. Guess where most of them are? Under cushions, in jars on top of your dressers, in piggy banks, and on the floors in cars.
3. Lincoln faces to the right on the penny. Every other portrait on coins face to the left.

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

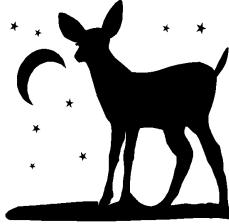
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ~HOMOPHONES~



Dough, Doe, Play-Doh

Homophones are words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings. Can you find a word in the title **USES HER COMMON CENTS** that has a homophone?

Try to think up as many homophones as you can and list them below.