



**Grade:** 2nd

**Subject:** Math

**Expectation(s):** Can add and subtract with money (up to \$1.00)

**Materials needed:** “Smart” by Shel Silverstein (copy attached below), coins (at least 2 quarters, 3 dimes, 4 nickels, 5 pennies), hundreds chart (attached)

**Lesson Description:** Smart?

Read the poem “Smart” by Shel Silverstein with your student. Talk about the various transactions made by the boy in the poem. Were they good deals – why or why not?

Compare the amounts involved in each of the trades by physically modeling them with coins. If your student struggles to understand the amount each coin is worth, use the attached hundreds chart to show visually what the coins are worth (e.g. to represent the value of three dimes, you would put one dime on the 10 space, the second dime on the 20 space and the third dime on the 30 space; make sure to explain that with this method of counting coins, the last coin shows the overall value).

**Teaching and learning tips/strategies:**

- Have students represent other amounts on the hundreds chart to increase their familiarity with coin counting
- To extend the activity, ask your student how to quantify how much the boy in the poem lost in every transaction. At this stage, it isn't necessary for students to understand the decimals involved in adding and subtracting money (i.e. a nickel can be worth “5” and a dollar worth “100”)
- Don't forget to praise your student's effort!



# Smart



My dad gave me one dollar bill  
'Cause I'm **his** smartest son,  
And I swapped it for two shiny  
quarters  
'Cause two is more **than** one!



And then I took the quarters  
And traded them to Lou  
For three dimes -- I guess he don't  
know  
That **three** is more than two!



Just then, along came old blind Bates  
And just 'cause he can't see  
He gave me four nickels for my three  
dimes,  
And **four** is more than three!



And I took the nickels to Hiram  
Coombs  
Down at the seed-feed store,  
And the fool gave me five pennies for  
them,  
And **five** is more than four!



And then I went and showed **my** dad,  
And he got red in the cheeks  
And closed **his** eyes and shook his  
head--  
Too proud of me to speak!

- **Shel Silverstein**

100 Chart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100