



# Beatrice's Goat



Use these questions with children 8 to 10 years old to discuss the following economic concepts in the book *Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier (ISBN-13: 978-0-689-86990-7): **income**, **saving**, and **savings goal**.

**1. What did Beatrice yearn to do?**

Beatrice yearned to go to school.

**2. What work did Beatrice do?**

Beatrice helped her mother hoe and plant in the fields, tend the chickens, watch the younger children, and grind cassava flour.

**3. Income is the money people earn for the work they do. How did Beatrice's family earn income?**

The family sold cassava flour at the market.

**4. Why couldn't Beatrice go to school?**

Beatrice's family didn't have the money to buy the uniform and books she needed to attend school.

**5. How did the goat, Mugisa, help Beatrice's family?**

The goat's milk provided the family with nutrition, so they were healthier, and the milk provided an income because the family sold the milk they didn't drink.

**6. What did Beatrice do with the coins that people paid her for the milk?**

Beatrice saved the coins in a small woven purse.

**7. What was Beatrice's savings goal?**

Beatrice wanted to save enough to buy a new shirt for Moses and a warm blanket for the bed she shared with Grace.

**8. What was Beatrice's mother's short-term savings goal?**

Beatrice's mother wanted to save enough money to pay for a uniform and books so that Beatrice could go to school.

**9. What was Beatrice's mother's long-term savings goal?**

Beatrice's mother wanted to build a house with a steel roof that didn't leak when it rained.

**10. Beatrice named the goat Mugisa because it means luck. Was this a good name for the goat? Why or why not?**

Yes, it was a good name because the goat brought good luck to the family. By selling the goat's milk, the family was able to save enough money to buy a uniform and books for Beatrice to go to school, and they could sell one of the baby goats for enough money to build a new house.