**The Old Woman and Her Money**

1 There once was an old woman with a deep hole in her

garden. That is where she kept her money! Every day, she

dug the hole open. Every day, she counted her money. And

every day, she covered it back up with dirt. The old woman

never spent a dollar.

2 “She must love to garden very much,” said her neighbors.

But they were wrong.

3 One day, a thief watched the old woman. He saw what

she pulled out of the ground. He watched her count each

dollar. He watched her bury the dollars again. He came

back that night and dug in the old woman’s garden. He

stole all her money.

4 The old woman saw the deep hole in the morning. It was

empty! She cried and cried.

5 A neighbor came to ask what had happened. “My

money!” the old woman cried. “All my money is gone!”

6 “You kept your money in the garden?” asked the

neighbor. “How could you use it to buy food? How could

you use it to buy clothing?”

7 The old woman was confused. She did not buy food.

She grew what she needed in her garden. She did not

buy clothing. She mended the holes in her rags. “I would

never spend money,” the old woman said.

8 “Then why keep it?” asked the neighbor. She placed

a rock into the empty hole. Then she put in more rocks.

“You can bury those if you like,” said the neighbor. “They

will be worth as much as the money was.”

9 The old woman knew that the rocks were not worth

anything. “Why do you say that?” she asked.

10 “Because if you never spend the money, it has

no value,” said the neighbor. “Money is only worth

something if you use it.”

11 The next time the old woman earned some money,

she spent it right away. She bought some new thread to

mend her clothes, and she made herself a wallet to carry

her money to the store. She never saved as much money

again, but she found many small ways to spend money,

which made her life a little easier than it was before.

1. **What does the word confused in paragraph 7 most likely mean?**

A organized

B puzzled

C lost

D untidy

1. **The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.**

**Part A**

What does the old woman learn in this story?

A to save more money than she spent

B to always be kind to her neighbors

C to work hard in order to be happy

D to use things for what they are intended

**Part B**

**Which sentence from the story best supports the answer to Part A?**

A The old woman saw the deep hole in the morning. (paragraph 4)

B “I would never spend money,” the old woman said. (paragraph 7)

C “Money is only worth something if you use it.” (paragraph 10)

D The old woman knew that the rocks were not worth anything. (paragraph 9)

**Answer Key**

1. B

2a. D

2b. C