

Save Well

Characters

- Teenager #1
- Teenager #2: James (preferably a guy)

Props

- Two pieces of paper, each about the size of a \$20 bill

Time

About 3½ minutes

Teenager #1: (Teenager shows one piece of paper about the size of a \$20 bill.) At first, saving seems easy. You set some money aside and you stick it... (Teenager looks around and finds something that looks like a good place to hide the pretend money and sticks it in there.) You stick it somewhere. A chest of drawers. Under your mattress. In a book. Anywhere. And at first that works.

Teenager #1: Until you need money right now. Then what happens? (Teenager runs over to where he or she stuck the pretend \$20. The teenager pulls it out, holds it for everyone to see, and smiles.) Now I can go shopping.

Teenager #2 (James): Weeks later, you remember what you've been saving for. Maybe it was a new pair of shoes or a really cool jacket, and then you remember how you started saving. You stuck \$20 over there, right? Then you remember. Shoot! You already spent it.

Teenager #2 (James): So sticking the money in a certain place didn't work. It was too easy for you to get the money when you wanted to buy something. So you try something else.

Teenager #1: (Looks around and pulls out a pretend bank.) You get a bank! That will work right? It's a bank after all. A bank means you're saving money.

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- Teenager #1: I'm saving. As I sit here, I know I'm saving. This time, I am not going to touch that money until I have saved enough for a new pair of shoes. I learned my lesson. I am not going to be dipping into my savings. I now know that it's important to save.
- Teenager #2 (James): (Sneaks over to the pretend bank, opens it, and takes out the pretend \$20 and sneaks away smiling.)
- Teenager #1: In fact, I've been doing odd jobs to earn money. Last week, I helped my neighbor rake the leaves in her yard. She gave me \$20. (Teenager holds up the second pretend \$20.) Now, I'm really saving! (Teenager walks over to the pretend bank and puts the \$20 inside.) In my head, I'm keeping track. Twenty dollars plus \$20 is \$40.
- Teenager #2 (James): (Sneaks into the pretend bank, opens it, takes out the pretend \$20, shows it to the group while grinning, stuffs the money in his or her pocket, and then sneaks away.)
- Teenager #1: (Teenager walks back to the pretend bank.) You probably are surprised that I can actually save \$40 aren't you? I'll show you. (Teenager opens the pretend bank and discovers it's empty.) Hey! Who took my money? (Teenager #2 giggles off stage.) Did you hear that? Is someone taking my money? (Teenager #1 pauses and then thinks.) It's James, isn't it? That rascal! He's always taking my stuff. I should have known. You can't save money if you live with people who are always looking for cash lying around. What am I going to do? (Teenager #1 shakes his or her head while pacing the floor.)
- Teenager #1: You know, my grandmother said that the safest place to save money is a bank. She used to take me to the bank when I was a child, but I'm kind of scared of that place.

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I mean, there are all these people walking around all dressed up and talking about stuff that I don't get. (Make the sound of a phone ringing.)

Teenager #1: (Pretend to answer a phone.) Hello? (Pause.) Grandma? I was just thinking about you. Hey, do you still think it's a good idea for me to go to the bank and find a way to save my money there? (Pause.) You do? You know what, I'm kind of scared of that place. Will you go with me? (Pause.) You will? Great. Because I really want to start saving for those new shoes. Great. Thanks, Grandma. Bye. (Pause.) Wait, you called to talk to James?

Teenager #1: James! (Teenager #2 comes running and grabs the phone but stays far from Teenager #1.)

Teenager #2 (James): Hey, Grammie. What up? (Pause.) You're checking up on me? You think I've been up to no good? Why would you think that? (James starts inching farther away from Teenager #1.) You know I don't borrow people's stuff without asking them first. (James throws the pretend \$20 bill at Teenager #1.) You've heard that I do sometimes? (James throws the other pretend \$20 bill at Teenager #1.) No way. You heard wrong. I'm a good kid. (Pause.) Yeah. Yeah. I'll come over and help you. But will you pay me? (He smiles and pauses.) Okay then. I'm on my way. See you, Grammie. (He hangs up and runs out of the scene fast to avoid Teenager #1.)

Teenager #1: You know, I think once I open this bank account, I'll be able to save better. And you know, I think once Grammie gets a hold of James, he'll be doing better too. (Smiles.)