



Mr. Tanen's Tie Trouble

by Maryann Cocca-Leffler

Essential Question

When might a character need help solving a problem?

1 Mr. Tanen loves being the principal of the Lynnhurst School. He also loves ties. In fact, he has almost one thousand crazy ties!

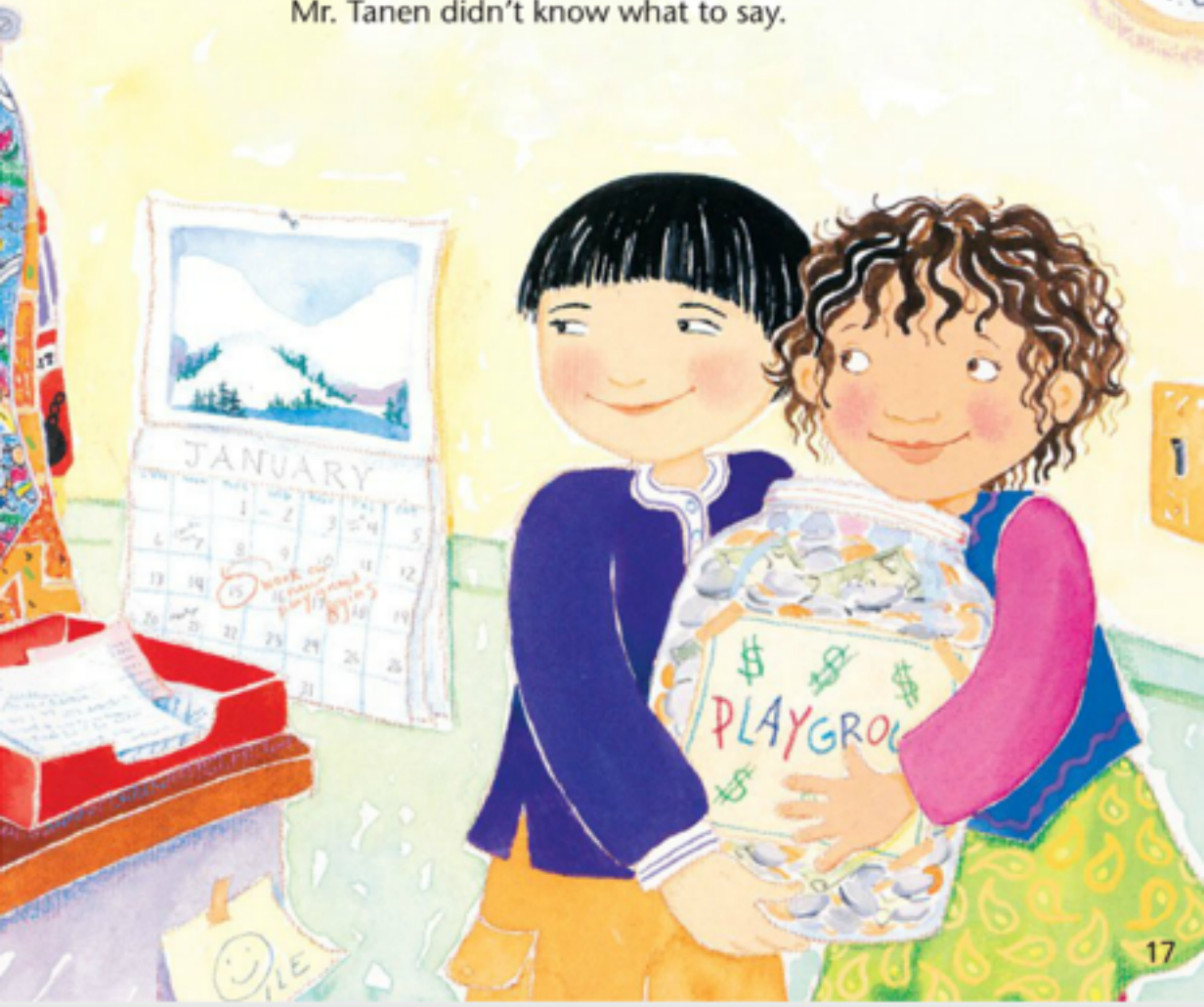
When Mr. Tanen returned from winter vacation, he **received** a call from Mr. Apple at the School Department. Mr. Apple told him that because many things at the school had to be fixed, there wasn't enough money left for a new playground.




Mr. Tanen sadly hung up the phone and gazed out at the broken-down playground. He heard a *clink-clank*. He looked up to see Kaylee and Alex lugging in a big jar filled with money.

"Here it is! \$148.29 for the playground **fund!**" said Kaylee proudly.

"New playground, here we come!" cheered Alex. Mr. Tanen didn't know what to say.




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- After school, Mr. Tanen sat in his office **staring** at the jar. He sighed. "Now I'm in a real pickle! This is not enough money for a playground. The kids will be so **disappointed**."
- Mr. Apple's words floated around in his head:

"The playground will have to wait."

"You'll think of something."

"I wish our **account was as full as your tie closet."**

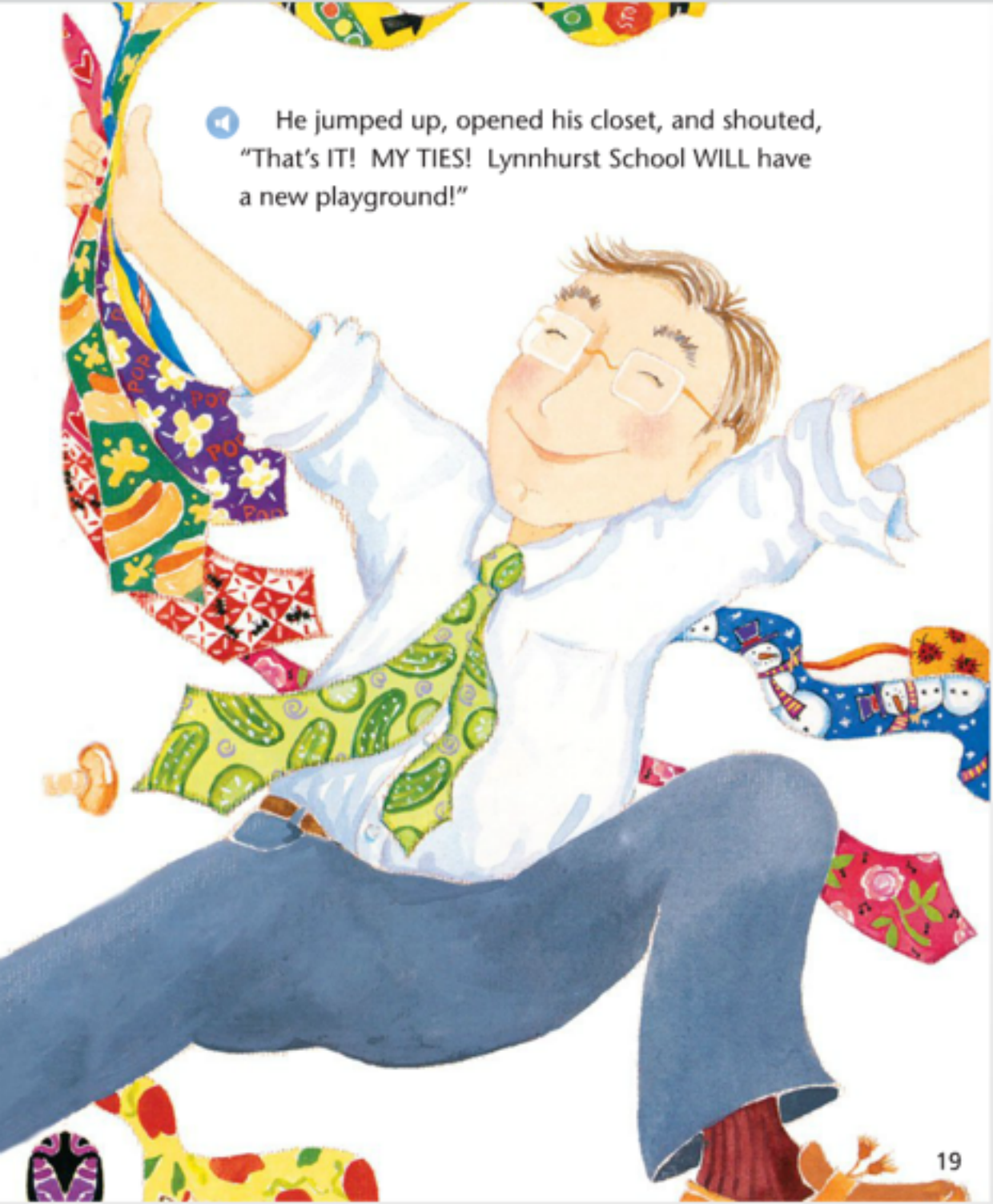
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- "Hmm . . . as full as my tie closet!" **repeated** Mr. Tanen.



STOP AND THINK

Author's Craft What does the author mean when she says that "words floated around in his head"?

TEKS 2.11, RC-2(C), **ELPS** 1K, 3C, 4F

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- ▶ He jumped up, opened his closet, and shouted, "That's IT! MY TIES! Lynnhurst School WILL have a new playground!"

- ◀ The next day, the entire town was plastered with signs.

VILLAGE MARKET

LIBRARY

SALE
CLOPPS

◀ **Mr. Tanen's
Tie Auction**
Saturday at 7pm
at the
Lynnhurst School
A Tie For Any Occasion!
All Ties
Must Go!



STOP AND THINK

Infer/Predict Will selling ties solve Mr. Tanen's problem? As you read, see if you are right.

TEKS 2.3A

Mrs. Sweet Apple noticed the sign on the grocery store window. She called her husband, Mr. Apple.

"Why is Mr. Tanen selling all his ties? Has he gone crazy?"



Mr. Apple told her about the school budget and the playground money. The town was buzzing all day . . .

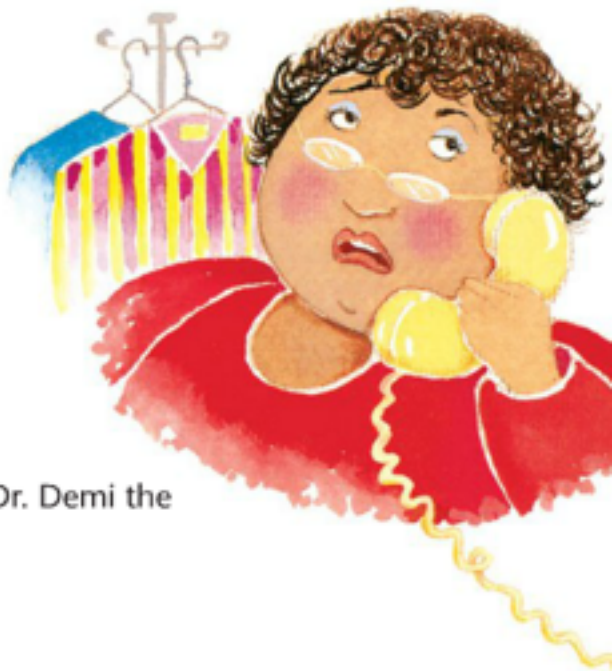


Mrs. Sweet Apple called Monsieur Bijou at the bakery,

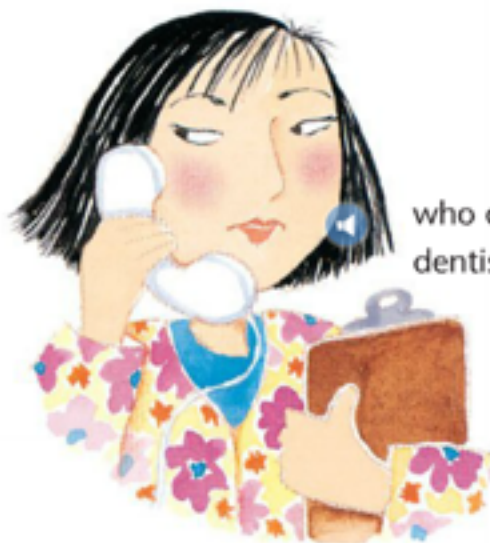




who called Cleo at the cleaners,



who called Dr. Demi the dentist . . .



It went on and on, until even Zack, the night watchman at the zoo, got the word:

"Mr. Tanen is selling his ties!"




- On Saturday, the whole town showed up for the auction. Monsieur Bijou started the bidding. "I'll give you \$50 for the Doughnut and Danish Tie!" Lolly the librarian bought the Book Tie. Dr. Demi was the proud owner of the Toothbrush Tie. Kaylee handed over her entire piggy bank for the Hot Dog Tie. Mrs. Sweet Apple just had to have the Wedding Bells Tie, and of course, Mr. Apple **chuckled** as he paid quite a bit of cash for the Crabapple Tie.





🔊 The auction was a huge success! Every tie was sold, except one. Mr. Tanen couldn't part with his beloved Blue Ribbon Tie. It was a present from Mr. Apple for being a great principal. He looked out at a sea of townspeople, all wearing his ties.



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- “Thank you all. I have always taught my students, ‘The more you give, the more you get.’ With this money, the Lynnhurst School will have a new playground!”

Mr. Tanen swallowed hard. “My ties now belong to the town. Wear them proudly.”



STOP AND THINK

Story Structure How does the auction solve Mr. Tanen's problem? What new problem might it create?

- And throughout the spring, that's just what everyone did.

- But sometimes Mr. Tanen would forget his closet was empty. He would open it to get a tie, and with a tinge of sadness, he would remember. He only had one tie—and he was wearing it. Then he'd look outside at the playground being built. "You have to give to get," he thought.



Soon it was Opening Day at the new playground. Mr. Tanen had invited the whole town to the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He tucked his speech in his pocket, grabbed his special scissors, and adjusted his tie. He wished he had on his official Ribbon-Cutting Tie.

The schoolyard was overflowing with people. Mr. Tanen made his way through the crowd.



Then he saw it!

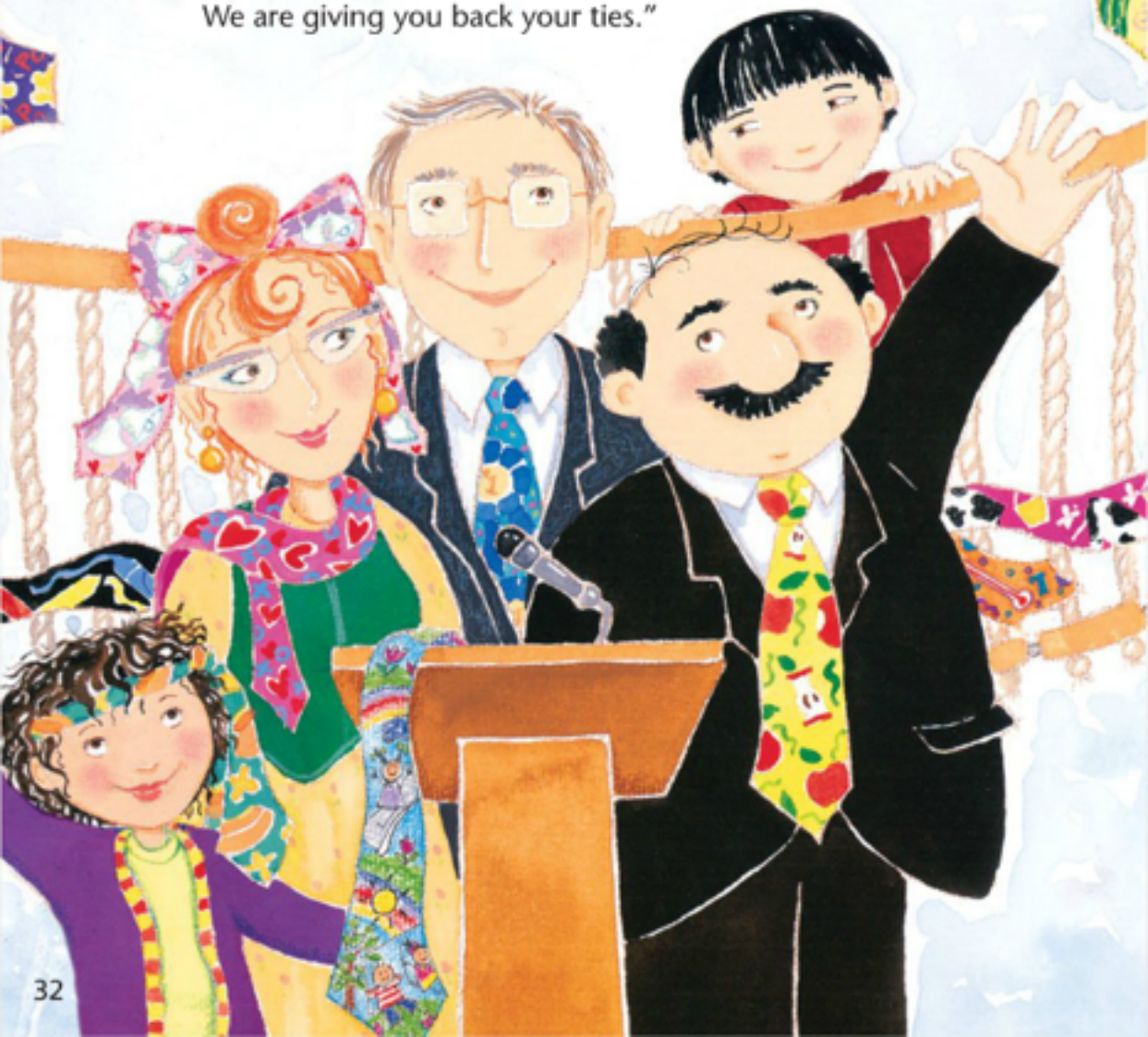


The playground was tied in a giant ribbon made from Mr. Tanen's ties!



Mrs. Sweet Apple and Mr. Apple were at the microphone.

"Mr. Tanen, you have taught us all, 'The more you give, the more you get,'" said Mrs. Sweet Apple. "You have given us a playground. We are giving you back your ties."





- With that, Mr. Apple untied the tie ribbon and announced:
"Mr. Tanen's Playground is

NOW OPEN!"



Mr. Tanen and his ties
were together again!
He slipped on his Swing
and Slide Tie and smiled.

