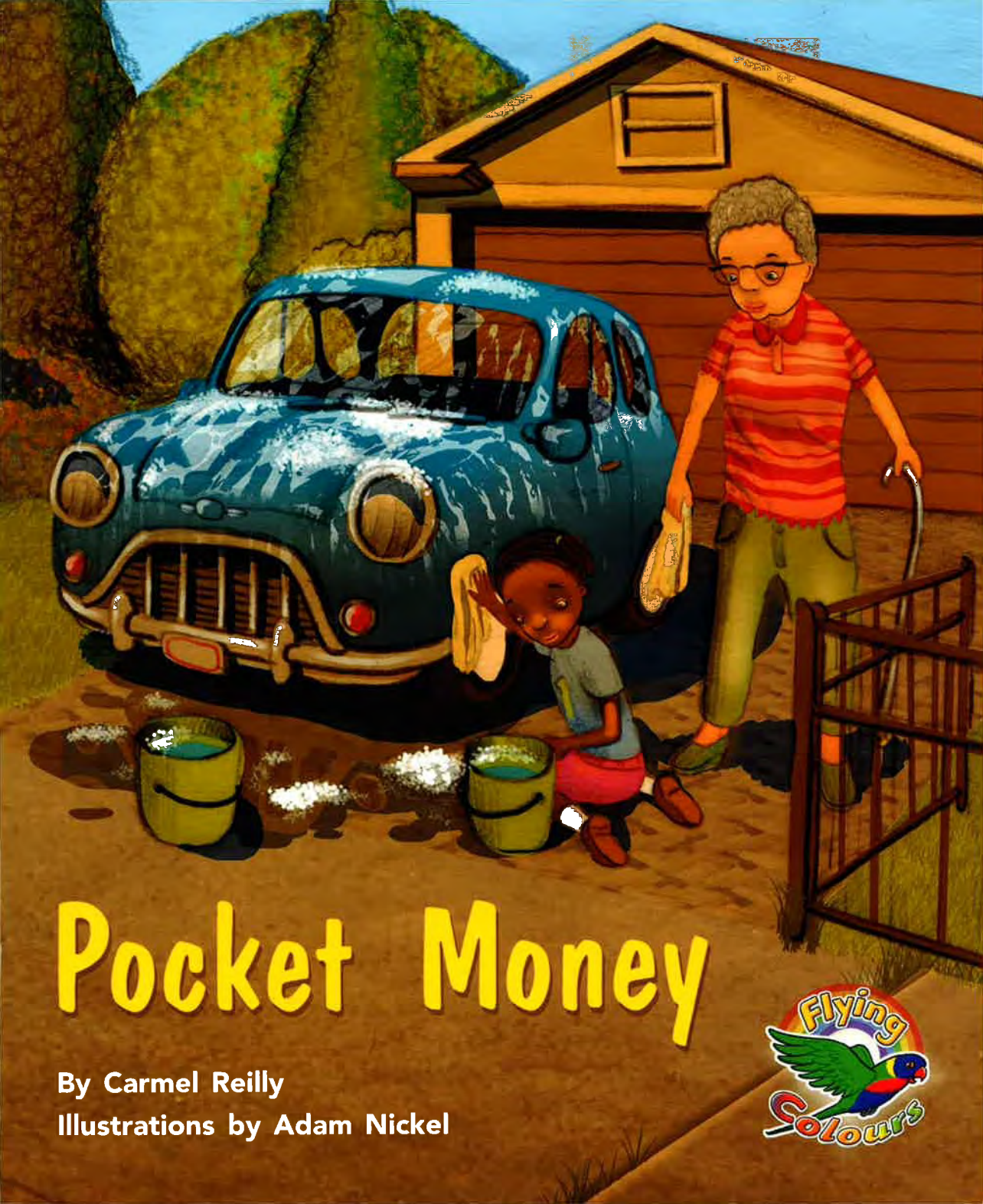


Pocket Money

By Carmel Reilly

Illustrations by Adam Nickel

Flying Colours



Title	*Pocket Money*
Levels	21–22/23
Running words	820

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Chapter 1

A New Game

While Mara's mum looked at the paper and disks in the computer shop, Mara looked at the games.

As she scanned the shelves, she recognised a game she wanted. She had played it before at her friend Kate's house and although she knew it was quite difficult, she also knew it wouldn't be too hard for her.

Mara picked up the game and walked over to where her mother was standing.

"Mum, can I get this?" she asked.

Her mum took the box from Mara and, turning it over, she looked at the price.

"Oh," she said, "it's quite expensive. I think you might have to wait until your birthday to get this."

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Mara was disappointed. "Mum, it's a long time until my birthday, and somebody else will probably buy it before then!" she said.

"What about the pocket money you've been saving?" asked Mum. "Perhaps you could use that."

"I don't think it'll be enough," answered Mara.



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"You could always do some extra jobs. In that way, you'd save more quickly," suggested Mum. "I can think of some things that need doing around home, and you could try the neighbours too. They might have some work for you."



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Chapter 2

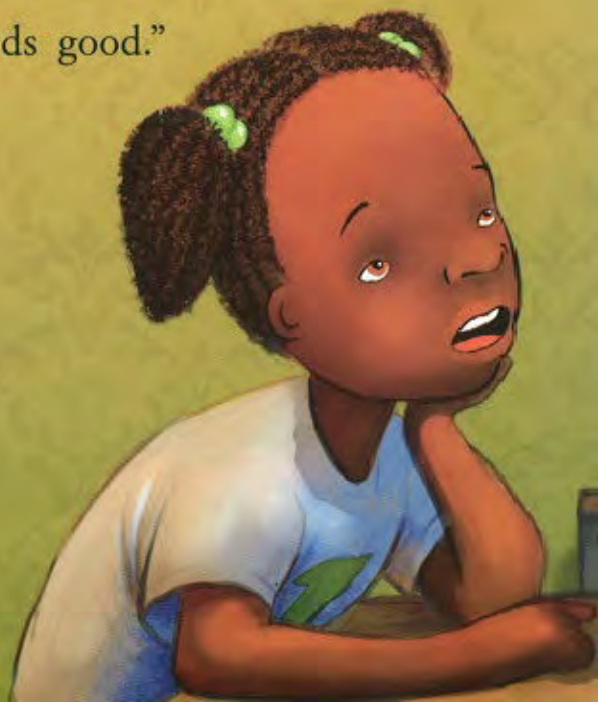
Helping Out

The following morning after breakfast Mara said, "Mum, have you organised any jobs for me to do?"

"Well," said Mum, "I spoke to Joyce last night, and she told me that she would love some help cleaning her car. Would you like to do that?"

Mara thought about Joyce, who lived by herself just down the street. Joyce was very friendly and she had a wonderful garden full of all kinds of trees, plants and colourful flowers.

"Yes," Mara replied. "That sounds good."



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