

One day, when Elizabeth was on her way home, she realized she had left her backpack in her classroom. She groaned and started running back to school. Hopefully, her teacher would still be there. When Elizabeth reached her classroom, the door was open. That was strange; her teacher never left the door unlocked. He was probably talking to a teacher in another classroom. Elizabeth knew she shouldn't be alone in the classroom, but she needed her backpack.

She walked to her chair and grabbed her backpack. Just as Elizabeth started to leave, she noticed something green lying by the bookshelf. When she looked more closely, she realized it was a twenty-dollar bill! Elizabeth's heart began to race as she contemplated her options. She knew she should give it to her teacher; that would be the right thing to do. Then again, no one had seen her enter the classroom, so she could probably keep it without getting into trouble. She would finally be able to afford the new CD she had been wanting. Or maybe, she could use it to buy a birthday present for her friend, Rick.

Should she take the money or should she give it to her teacher? Elizabeth struggled to make a decision. She knew she should decide fast because her teacher would be returning soon. Although Elizabeth was tempted to keep the money, she knew it belonged to someone. She would want her money returned if she lost it. She wondered if the person who had lost the money had noticed yet. They were probably upset. Elizabeth picked up the money. She placed it on her teacher's desk, and left the classroom. She smiled to herself as she walked home. She realized that a clean conscience was more valuable than twenty dollars.