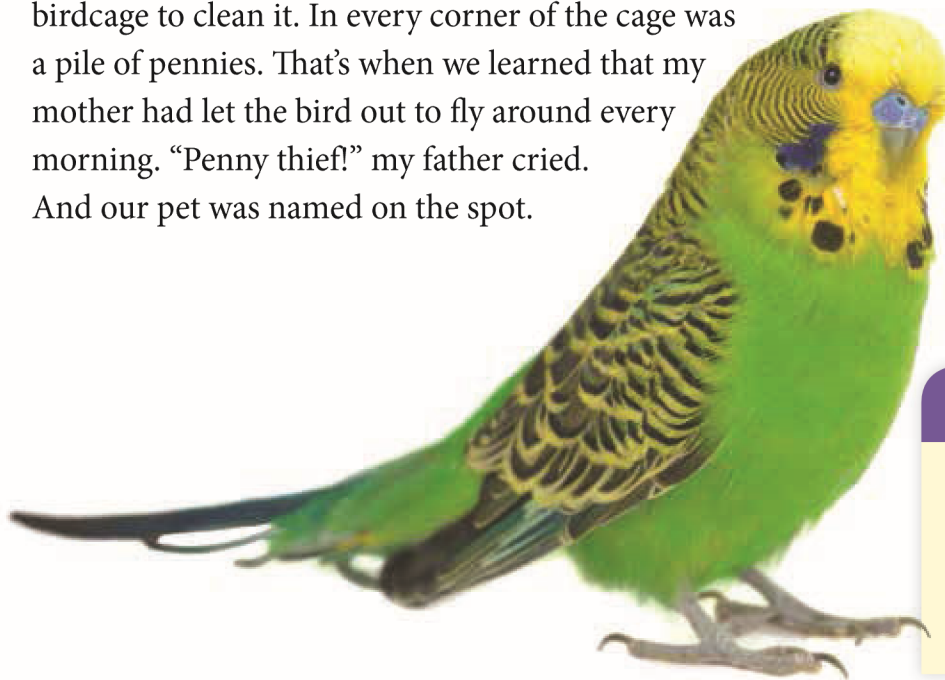


The

Penny Thief

by
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- 1 My family got a parakeet on the very day that we moved into our new apartment. On our first night in the new place, we tried to name our new pet. I wanted to call it Tweetie, but no one else liked that name. We couldn't find a name that everyone agreed on, so we agreed to think about it for a while.
- 2 My father always emptied his pocket change into a large glass bowl in the hallway. When we wanted money for this or that, he would count it out for us from the bowl. The very next night, as he tossed his change into the bowl, he mumbled, "Funny! I'm sure there were mostly pennies on top." None of us knew where the pennies had gone.
- 3 Every day that week, my father complained that someone was taking pennies from his bowl. We all pleaded ignorance. And every day that week, we discussed a new name for our pet.
- 4 At the end of the week, we took everything out of the birdcage to clean it. In every corner of the cage was a pile of pennies. That's when we learned that my mother had let the bird out to fly around every morning. "Penny thief!" my father cried. And our pet was named on the spot.



Close Reader Habits

As you read, **underline** the details the characters used as clues to figure out what happened to the pennies.

Explore

What details in the mystery help you make inferences about story events in “The Penny Thief”?



Think about your inferences. Is each one based on text details? Does it make sense?

Think

- 1 Complete the Inference Chart below. It will help you understand the inferences the main character made.

What the Text Says (Evidence)	What I Know (Experience)	My Inference
		<i>The family wants to find out what is happening.</i>
	<i>Some birds are attracted to shiny objects.</i>	

Talk

- 2 As you read the story, what inferences did you make about the missing pennies? What text details supported your inferences?

 **Write**

- 3 **Short Response** Explain what inferences you made about the parakeet. Include at least **two** pieces of text evidence to support your answer. Use the space provided on page 182 to write your response.

HINT To explain your inferences, give story clues that tell about what the parakeet does.

