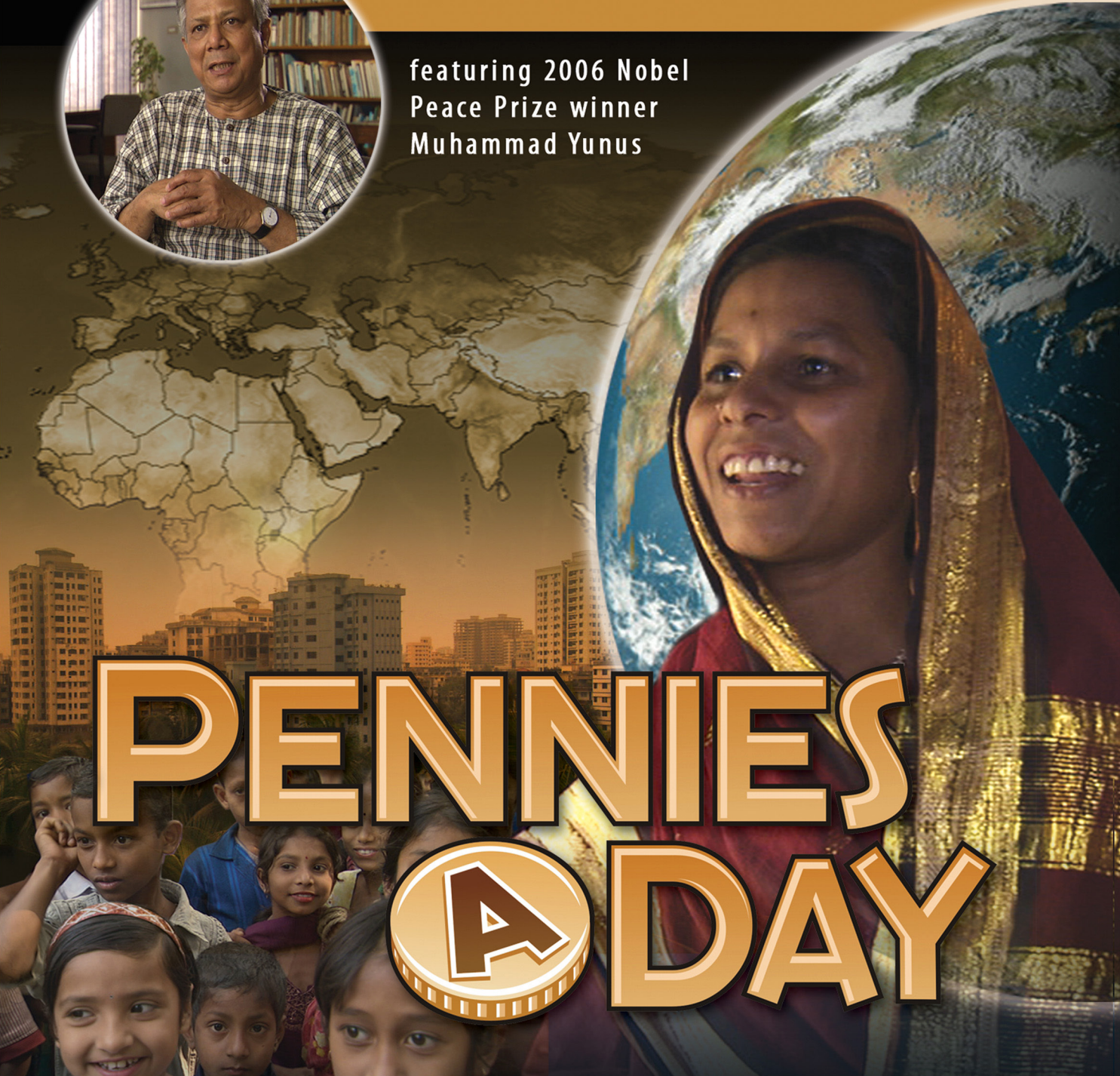


THE *Ultimate Resource*



featuring 2006 Nobel  
Peace Prize winner  
Muhammad Yunus



**PENNIES  
A DAY**



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Video Page



# *Pennies a Day* **Teacher's Guide**

*This Teacher's Guide includes the following:*

- Suggested Lesson Plan
- Preview Questions
- Key Terms
- Viewing Guide
- Comprehension Questions
- Discussion Questions
- Quiz
- Activity: Who Chooses?
- Enrichment Activities
- Answer Key

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## **Suggested Lesson Plan**

*These materials may be used in a variety of ways. For maximum benefit, we suggest the following lesson plan:*

- Introduce the lesson by playing the music video *Hear Me Now*, by the Green Children, included on the DVD. Encourage students to give their reactions to the music video.
- As a class, discuss the Preview Questions and Key Terms.
- Distribute copies of the Viewing Guide for students to use as a note-taking tool during the video.
- Play the video, pausing if needed to facilitate understanding and note-taking.
- Review and discuss answers to the Viewing Guide using the answer Key as a guide.
- In small groups, answer the Comprehension Questions.
- Review and discuss answers to the Comprehension Questions using the Answer Key as a guide.
- Use the Discussion Questions to spark class discussion, or assign these questions as homework.
- Replay the video as preparation for the Quiz.
- Administer and grade the Quiz, using the Answer Key as a guide.
- As a class or in small groups, complete the Who Chooses Activity.
- Optional: Assign one or more Enrichment Activities as homework.

# *Pennies a Day*

## **Preview Questions**

(These are meant to be read aloud by the teacher.)

1. Locate Bangladesh on a map.
2. What do you know about Bangladesh?
3. What do you think it's like to live in Bangladesh?
4. What do you do that teenagers there cannot do?
5. Why do we have so many more choices than people in Bangladesh?
6. What do you think can be done to help people out of poverty?

## **Key Terms and Definitions**

**Collateral** – Property or other assets that a borrower offers a lender to secure a loan. If the borrower stops making the promised loan payments, the lender can seize the collateral to recoup its losses.

**Economics** – The social science that analyzes and describes the consequences of choices made concerning scarce productive resources. Economics is the study of how individuals and societies choose to employ those resources.

**Installment** – A sum of money due as one of several equal payments for something, spread over an agreed period of time.

**Moneylenders** – A person or group who offers small personal loans at high rates of interest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Pennies a Day* **Viewing Guide, page 1**

1. Half of Bangladesh's 140 million citizens are under the age of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. When Bangladesh won independence in 1971 more than 70% of its people lived on less than \_\_\_\_\_ a day.
  
3. "Poverty is a kind of a \_\_\_\_\_ around you."
  
4. Muhammad Yunus, then an \_\_\_\_\_ professor, left the city to do research in local villages.
  
5. The only way the villagers could buy supplies to create small businesses was with high interest loans from unscrupulous \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. Muhammad Yunus found that he could provide life-changing loans to 42 people costing a total of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
7. Grameen means \_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. Muhammad Yunus and the \_\_\_\_\_ were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Pennies a Day* Viewing Guide, page 2

9. Microcredit is making small loans to poor people enabling them to create \_\_\_\_\_ of their own.
10. A loan requires no collateral, no legal contract and 96% of the loans in this mostly Muslim country are made to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Money that went to the family through women brought so much benefit to the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Dinislam taught Minara to \_\_\_\_\_ and they began to create Jamdanis – handcrafted, traditional saris.
13. Each week the Grameen borrowers gather in a “Center Meeting” to pay their \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Initial loans are always for income-producing projects so there will be \_\_\_\_\_ for repayment.
15. “The 16 \_\_\_\_\_”... include cleanliness, balanced meals, family planning and working hard.
16. Women having access to finance, access to money changes everything, because now she has the \_\_\_\_\_ of money.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Pennies a Day* **Comprehension Questions**

1. Of 140 million Bangladeshis, how many are under the age of 20?
2. 70% of the people of Bangladesh lived on less than \_\_\_\_\_ a day.
3. To what does Muhammad Yunus compare poverty? Why?
4. What were some problems with borrowing from traditional moneylenders?
5. What does Grameen mean?
6. What prestigious prize was awarded to Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen project in 2006?
7. What is microcredit?
8. What did Minara and Dinislam buy with their Grameen loan?
9. Who receives 96% of Grameen loans in this mostly Muslim country?
10. What is the payback rate on Grameen loans?
11. List three examples of the 16 Decisions that are recited at each center meeting.
12. How are the Grameen loans used? Give three examples.

## *Pennies a Day*

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is this video called Pennies a Day?
2. What does this video tell us about people's potential to solve problems?
3. What is microcredit? How does microcredit offer Bangladeshi women economic and personal choices they didn't have before? What was missing?
4. Why was there resistance to giving loans to women?
5. According to Muhammad Yunus, women have a longer vision. Explain.
6. How did financial success change the role of women in families? How were the villages affected?
7. In the music video, the Green Children singer uses the lyrics "the power of choice." What does she mean?
8. Why are initial Grameen loans always for income-producing projects?
9. How does the Grameen system manage such a high payback rate on its loans in spite of requiring no collateral and no legal contract?
10. Key elements of the Grameen system are peer pressure and individual pride. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Explain.
11. What did Muhammad Yunus mean when he said it is creativity, not the loan, that matters?
12. What obstacles made it hard for the villagers to escape poverty before Grameen Bank? What were their options?
13. Would microcredit work in America? Is it needed in America? Why/why not?
14. Why do people in the U.S. (even poor people) seem to have a greater range of choices than people in Bangladesh?
15. Why do you think Professor Yunus concludes it is better to give women loans instead of aid (money)?
16. In Bangladesh, most women have choices made for them by their fathers, their husbands and their governments. Does it make a difference whether you can make choices for yourself, or someone else makes them? Why?
17. Minara said "In our village, poverty is gone." Does this statement surprise you? What is poverty? Is it relative? Explain.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Pennies a Day* Quiz, page 1

1. In its first 30 years, 70% of the people of Bangladesh lived on less than \_\_\_\_\_ a day.
  - A) \$100
  - B) \$10
  - C) \$1
  - D) 10 cents
2. Grameen means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) urban
  - B) poverty
  - C) rural
  - D) peace
3. Muhammad Yunus won the \_\_\_\_\_ in 2006.
  - A) Nobel Peace Prize
  - B) lottery
  - C) Parliamentary election
  - D) Pulitzer Prize
4. The 16 Decisions recited at each center meeting include:
  - A) cleanliness
  - B) balanced meals
  - C) working hard
  - D) all of the above
5. Which of the following is not an example of a Grameen loan project?
  - A) livestock
  - B) grocery store
  - C) cell phone
  - D) TV



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Pennies a Day* Quiz, page 2

6. With their Grameen loan, Minara and Dinislam bought a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) loom
  - B) grocery store
  - C) cow
  - D) car
7. Before Grameen Bank, poor villagers in rural Bangladesh could only borrow money from \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) unscrupulous moneylenders
  - B) large commercial banks
  - C) credit card companies
  - D) the government
8. Most Grameen loans go to \_\_\_\_\_ because they have a longer vision.
- A) men
  - B) women
  - C) non-Muslims
  - D) children
9. Despite the fact that Grameen loans require no contract and no collateral, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ payback rate.
- A) 100%
  - B) 99%
  - C) 75%
  - D) 50%
10. Minara Begum said, "In our village, \_\_\_\_\_ is gone."
- A) Grameen Bank
  - B) poverty
  - C) Muslim tradition
  - D) business

## *Pennies a Day* **Activity:**

### **Who chooses? Who benefits? Who pays? What's fair?**

[These four questions can be a useful tool for evaluating any policy or system. Posing the questions is a great way to stimulate critical thinking.]

As a class, or in small groups, discuss the following:

(For each question, think broadly about all the possible people or groups of people who may be affected.)

#### **Before Grameen Bank, when Bangladeshi villagers borrowed from moneylenders—**

- Who benefited from the transactions? How did they benefit?
- Who made choices about the businesses?
- Who benefited from those decisions?

#### **When Bangladeshi villagers borrow from Grameen Bank—**

- Who benefits from the transactions? How do they benefit?
- What are some choices involved, and who makes them?
- Who benefits from these decisions?

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Who pays to start a business, and in what way?

Is one system of borrowing more fair than the other? Explain.

## *Pennies a Day*

# **Enrichment Activities**

- I. Report: Research and report on one of the following topics:
  - a) The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize
  - b) The growth and impact of microcredit around the world
  - c) The role of women in Muslim societies
  
- II. Presentation: If you could get a microloan, what type of business would you start? Formulate a plan for an income-producing project you could undertake with a microloan. Create and deliver a presentation explaining and promoting your plan.
  
- III. Project: Carry out a class microlending project or social venture to help empower poor people.
  
- IV. Debate/Essay: Grameen Bank has received criticism as well as praise for its impact on the lives of poor people. Conduct research to find out what critics have said and what the evidence is for their opposition to microcredit programs. Evaluate these arguments and evidence and weigh them against the positive impacts noted in this film. Then, do one of the following:
  - a) Write an essay taking a position either in favor of or against microcredit. Support your views with reasoning and evidence.
  
  - b) Conduct a class debate about microcredit. Divide the class into three groups for the debate: one team arguing for microcredit, another team arguing against microcredit, and the third group acting as judges in the debate.

## *Pennies a Day*

### **Viewing Guide Answer Key**

1. 20
2. \$1
3. darkness
4. economics
5. moneylenders
6. \$27
7. rural
8. Grameen Bank
9. businesses
10. women
11. families
12. weave
13. installments
14. money
15. Decisions
16. power

### **Comprehension Questions Answer Key**

1. half, or 70 million
2. \$1
3. darkness; answers will vary
4. high interest rates, requirement that borrowers sell to moneylender at prices dictated by moneylender
5. rural
6. Nobel Peace Prize
7. Microcredit is making small loans to poor people enabling them to create businesses of their own.
8. a loom
9. women
10. 99%
11. cleanliness, balanced meals, family planning, working hard
12. loom, livestock, poultry, agriculture, grocery stores, cell phones

## *Pennies a Day* **Quiz Answer Key**

1. C) \$1
2. C) rural
3. A) Nobel Peace Prize
4. D) all of the above
5. D) TV
6. A) loom
7. A) unscrupulous moneylenders
8. B) women
9. B) 99%
10. B) poverty

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