



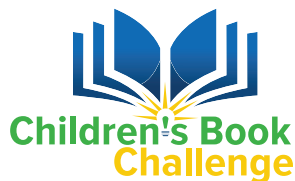
THE ELECTRIC TRAIL

BY KAIA BISHOP AND
SAWYER BLAKLEY COSTELLO

We dedicated this book to our computer teacher, Mrs. Kerr, Kaia's parents Jason and Sheri, and Sawyer's parents Michelle and Rob. Also, we dedicate this book to our teacher, Mrs. Holland and to Kaia's brother, Cole. We thank all of them for encouraging us to make this book, so we give huge thanks to them.



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The Electric Trail by Kaia Bishop and Sawyer Blakley Costello was selected as one of two winners of the 2023 Children's Book Challenge, sponsored by EnlightenSC—an educational initiative of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina.

The competition challenges fourth- and fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on how electricity has impacted their lives, communities and the history of our state.

South Carolina's electric cooperatives have been committed to powering rural communities since 1938. Since their founding, the Seven Cooperative Principles have included a commitment to education, concern for their communities, and attention to the future of young people. Those same ideals guide co-ops today. By inspiring students to learn about the history of electricity in our state, S.C.'s electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's energy leaders.

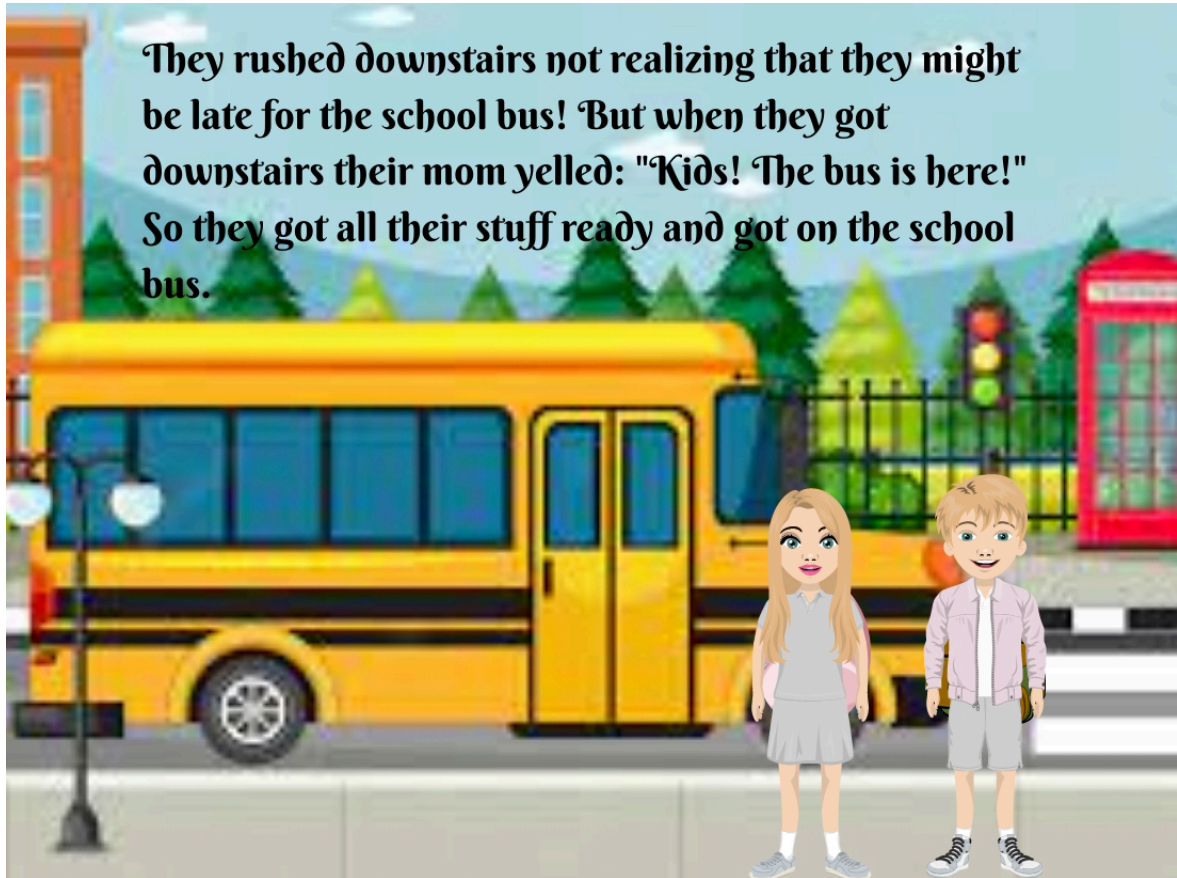


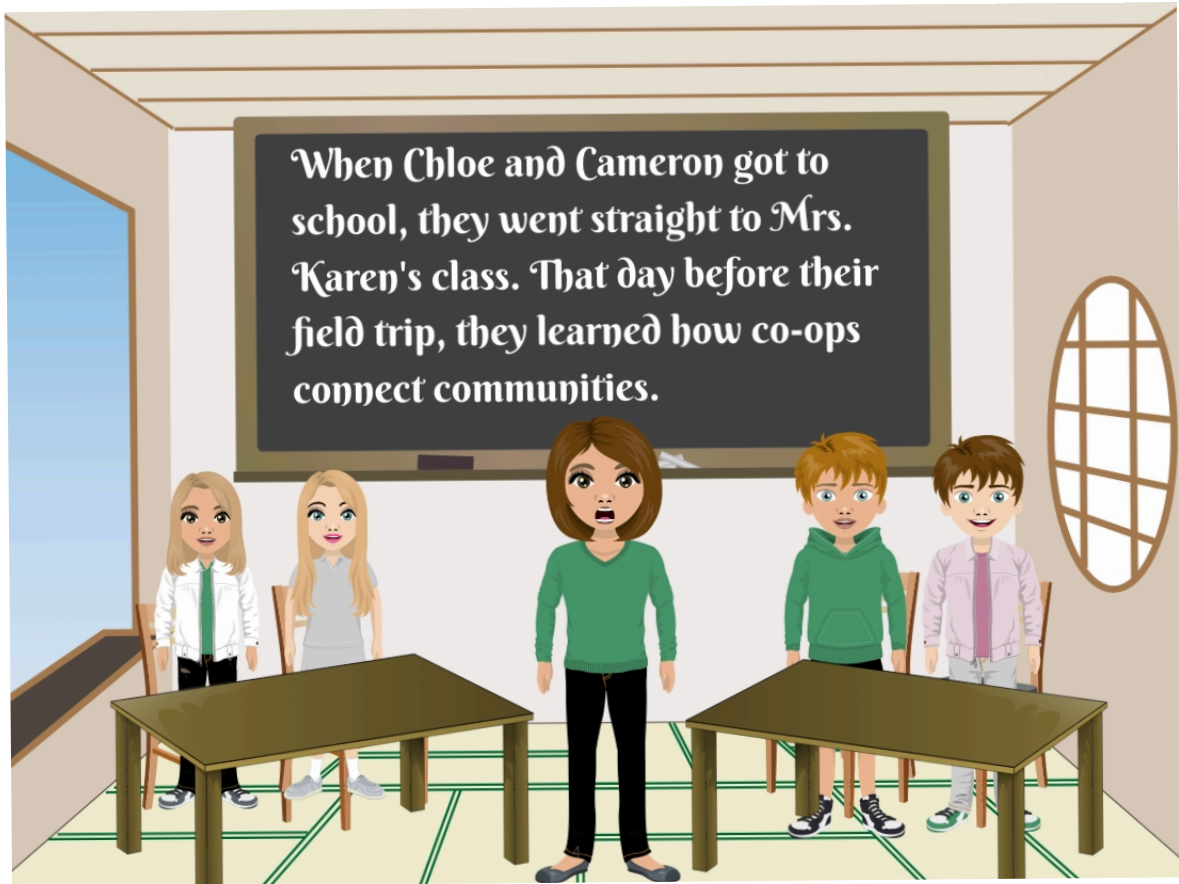
To learn more about the Children's Book Challenge, visit **enlightensc.org/book**.

"Get ready for the hike kids!" Chloe and Cameron's mother yelled. Chloe was packing her bag for school while Cameron was packing the bag for the hike.



They rushed downstairs not realizing that they might be late for the school bus! But when they got downstairs their mom yelled: "Kids! The bus is here!" So they got all their stuff ready and got on the school bus.





Then their teacher said, "Kids, get all your things. We are leaving in 5 minutes, and all the people who don't have lunch need to go down to the cafeteria to get bagged lunches. Walk, don't run!"



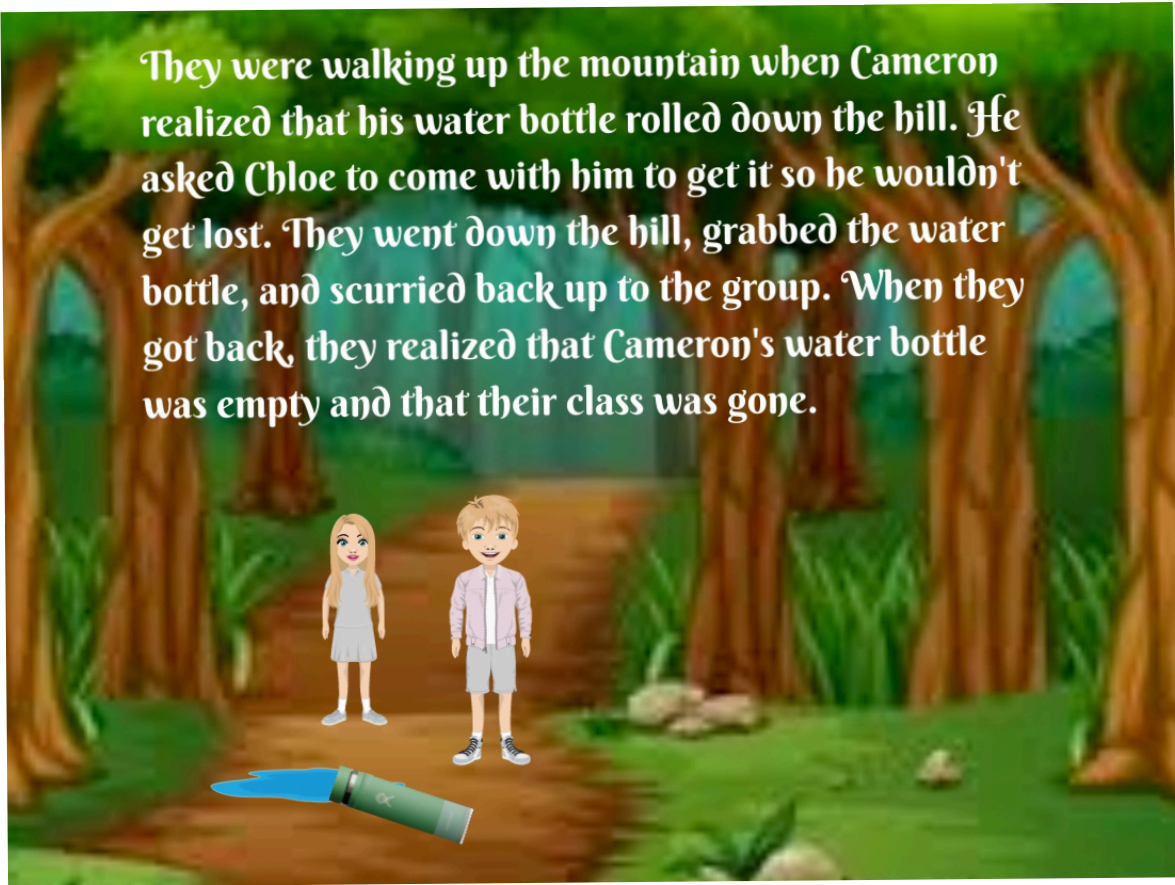
When everyone got their bagged lunch,
they set out on the bus to the trail at the
bottom of a mountain.



When they got to the trail, it looked dark and spooky. Their guide told them some rules and then they left on their hike to the top of the mountain.



They were walking up the mountain when Cameron realized that his water bottle rolled down the hill. He asked Chloe to come with him to get it so he wouldn't get lost. They went down the hill, grabbed the water bottle, and scurried back up to the group. When they got back, they realized that Cameron's water bottle was empty and that their class was gone.



While Cameron and Chloe were trying to find them, their class was almost up the mountain. So, before they got to the top, they took attendance.

"Ashley? HERE!
Jack? HERE! Nick?
HERE! Cameron.....?
CHLOE!?
WHERE ARE THEY?!
OH MY GOSH!

They are probably a little ahead. So no worries.

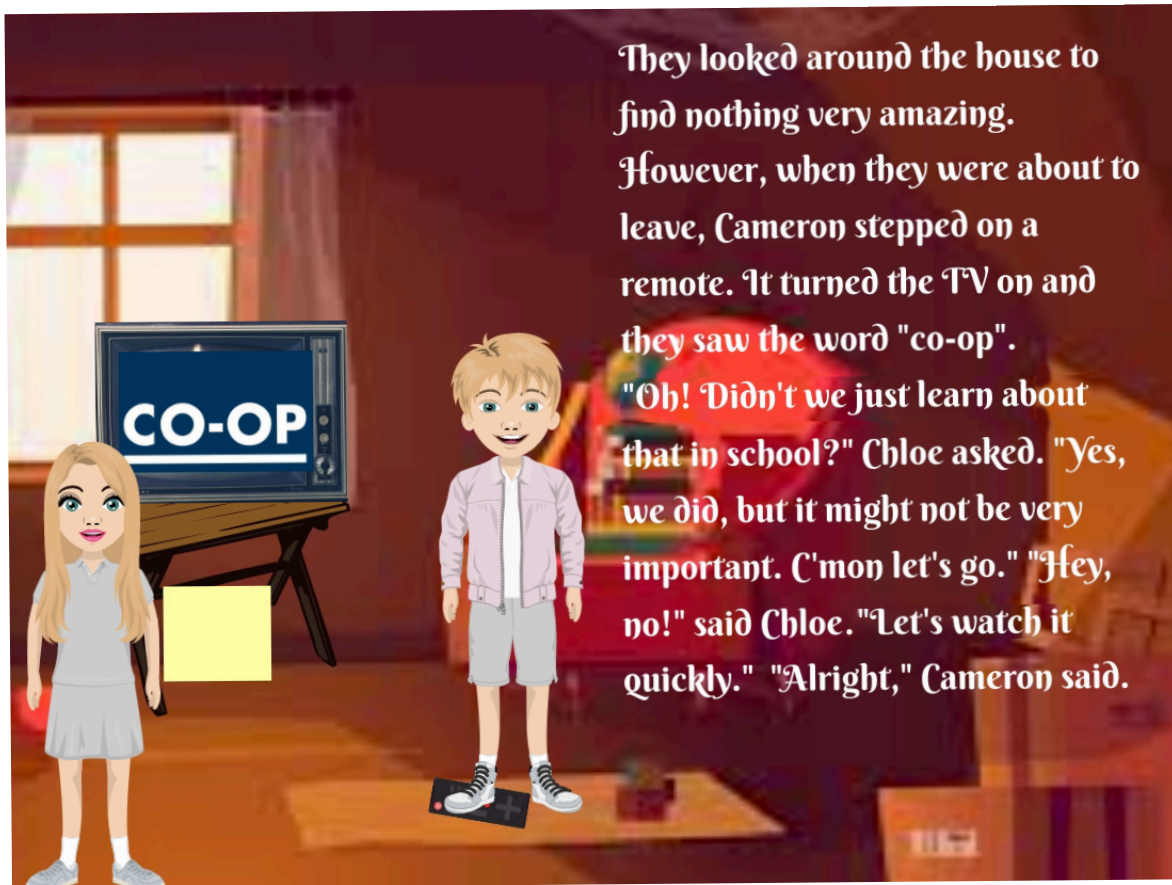


"Where are we"? Cameron asked. "Uhm...I don't know where we are. I tried to get service on my phone, but it's not working," Chloe said. "Wait! What's that in the distance?" Cameron said. "What?" said Chloe. "That over there! That shed. We should see if there is a map in there or WiFi." "Okay," said Chloe. "We can just see really quickly."

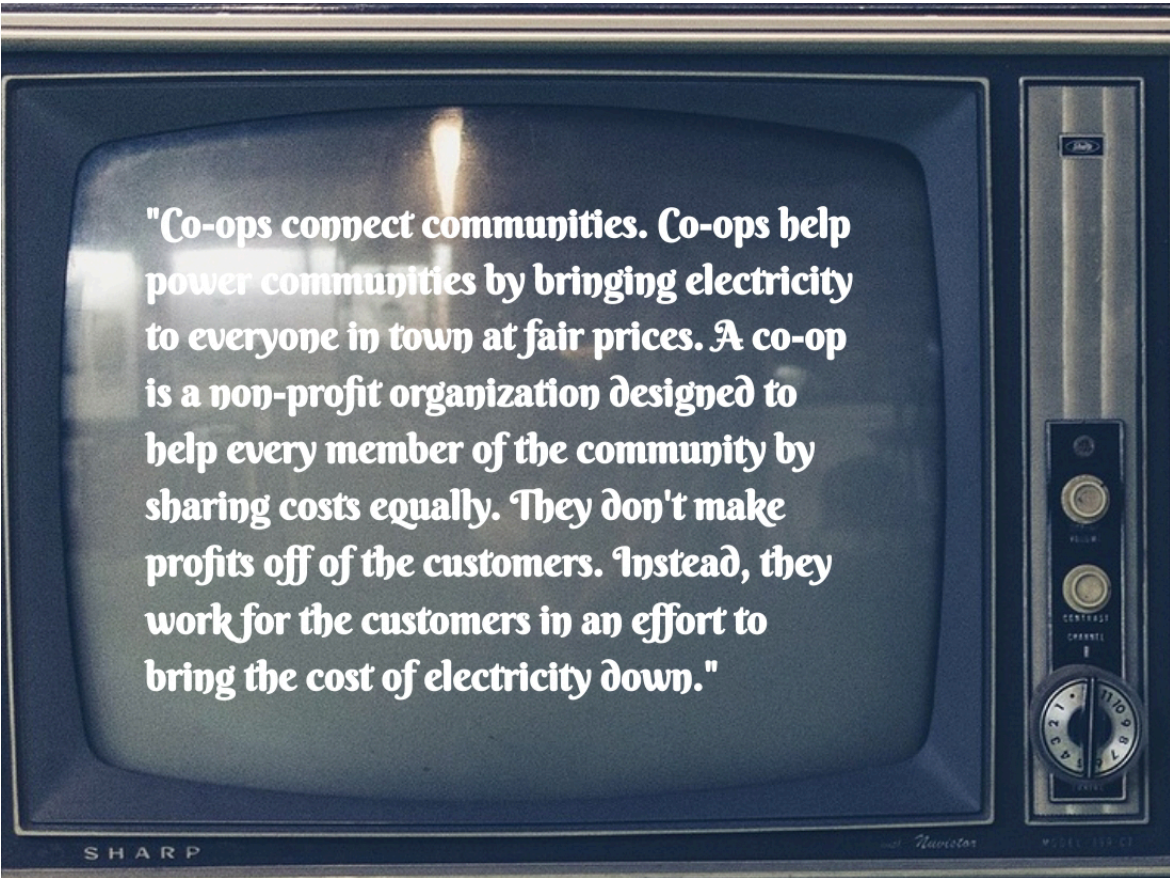


Cameron and Chloe were walking into the log cabin
when Cameron got up to the door and opened it to see
it was abandoned.





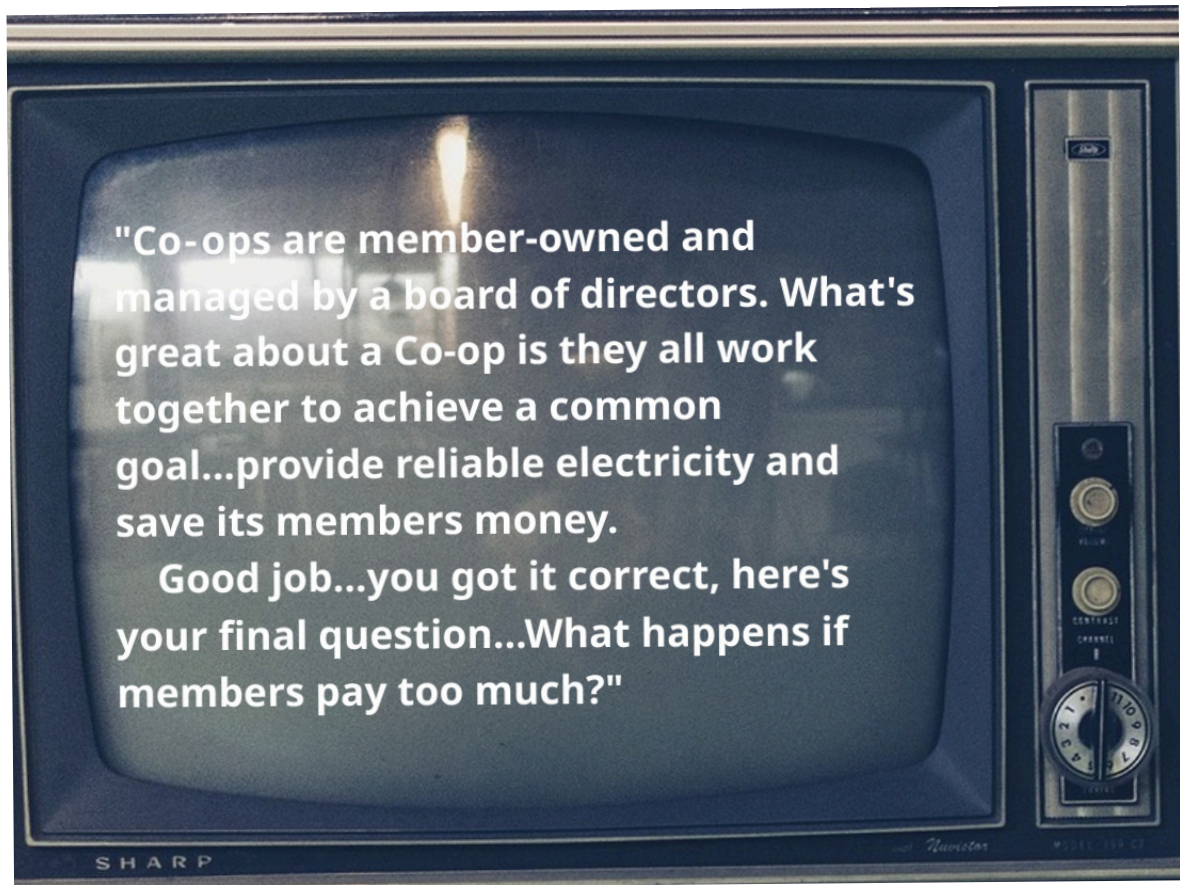
They looked around the house to find nothing very amazing. However, when they were about to leave, Cameron stepped on a remote. It turned the TV on and they saw the word "co-op". "Oh! Didn't we just learn about that in school?" Chloe asked. "Yes, we did, but it might not be very important. C'mon let's go." "Hey, no!" said Chloe. "Let's watch it quickly." "Alright," Cameron said.



"Co-ops connect communities. Co-ops help power communities by bringing electricity to everyone in town at fair prices. A co-op is a non-profit organization designed to help every member of the community by sharing costs equally. They don't make profits off of the customers. Instead, they work for the customers in an effort to bring the cost of electricity down."

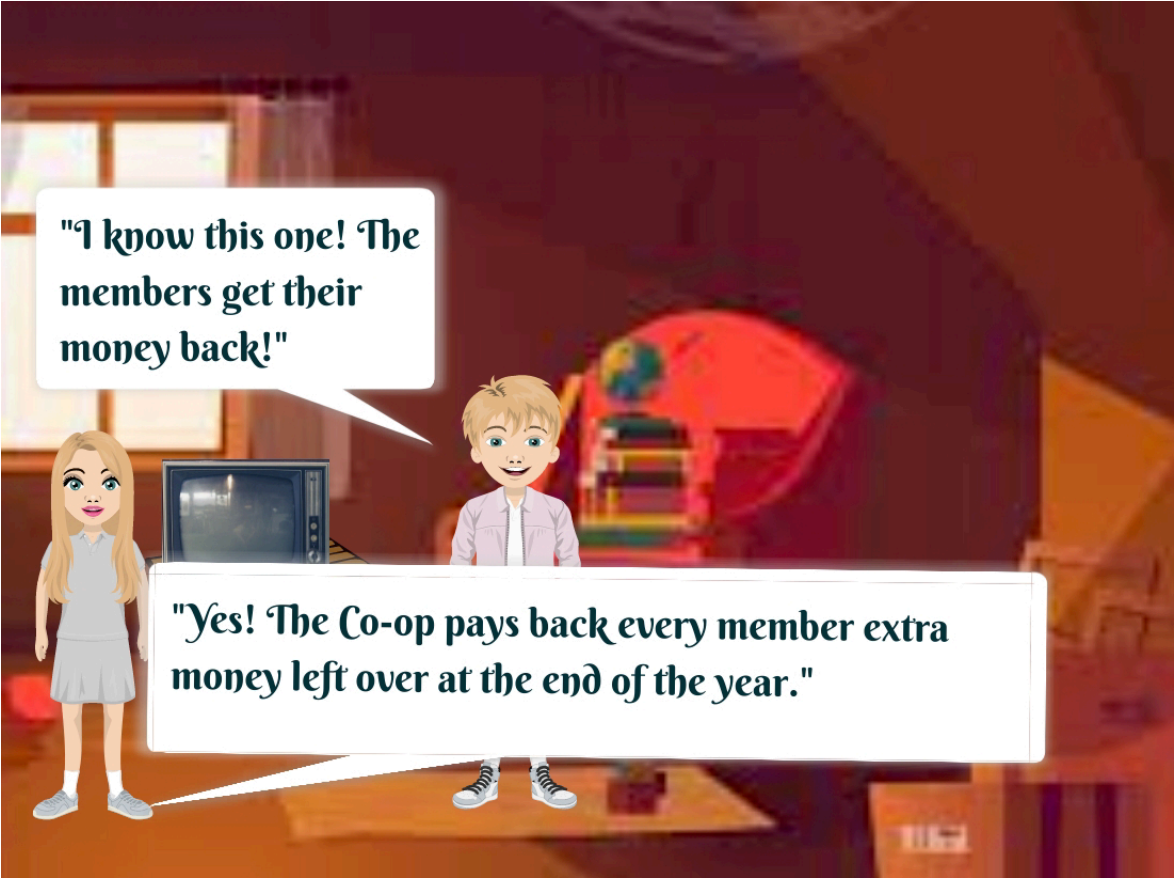






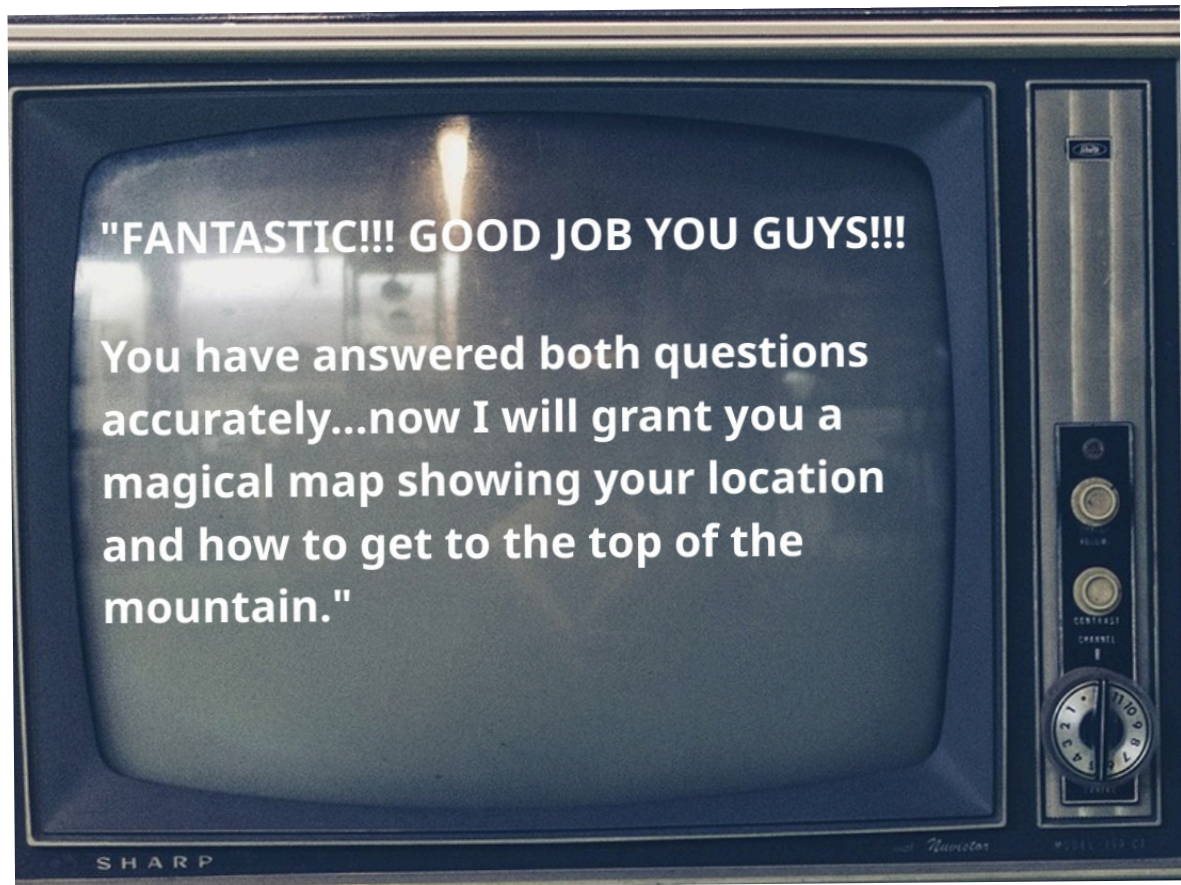
"Co-ops are member-owned and managed by a board of directors. What's great about a Co-op is they all work together to achieve a common goal...provide reliable electricity and save its members money.

Good job...you got it correct, here's your final question...What happens if members pay too much?"

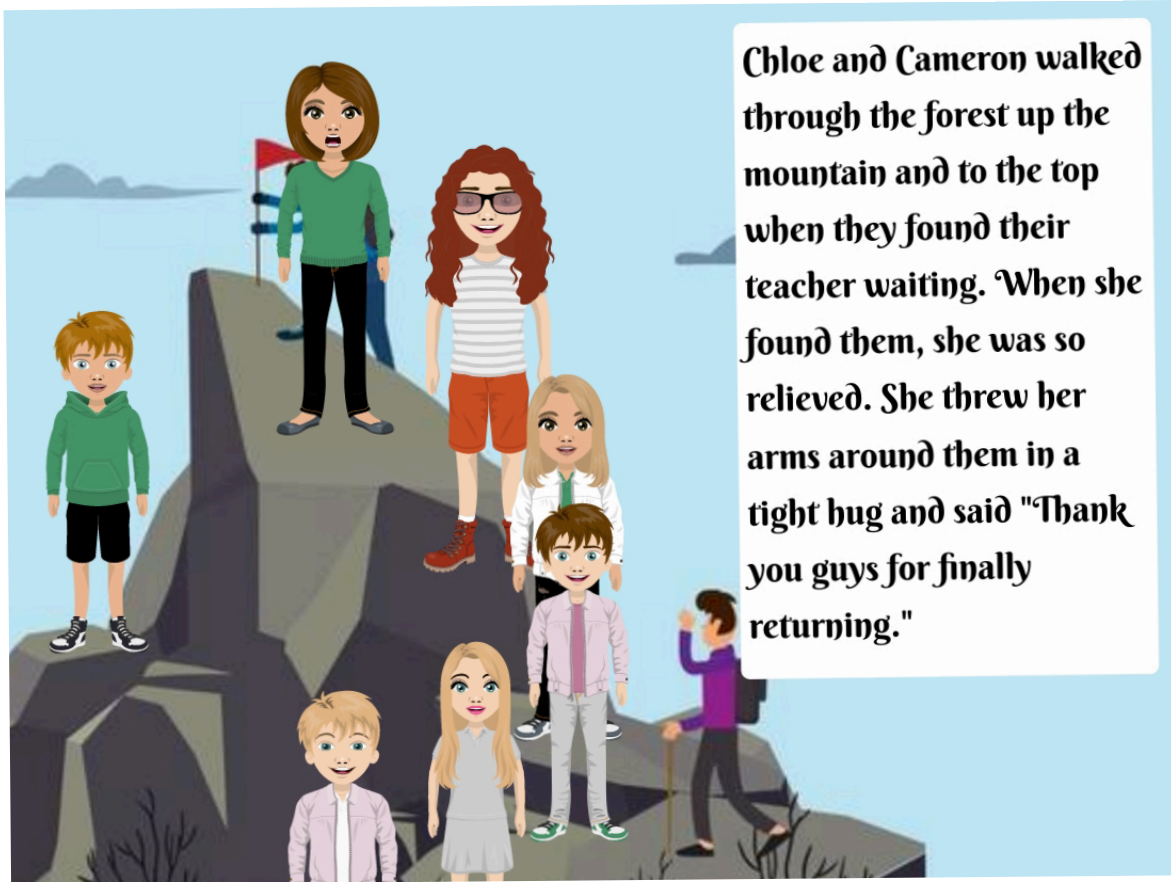


"I know this one! The members get their money back!"

"Yes! The Co-op pays back every member extra money left over at the end of the year."







Chloe and Cameron walked through the forest up the mountain and to the top when they found their teacher waiting. When she found them, she was so relieved. She threw her arms around them in a tight hug and said "Thank you guys for finally returning."

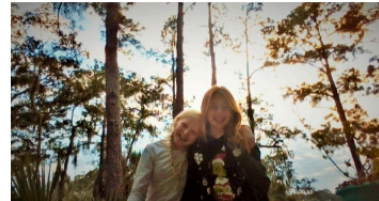
They ate their lunch and got
back on the bus to go and drop
them off at their houses.





About the Author

I am Kaia Bishop, and I am in 5th grade at Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts. I have lived in Hilton Head my whole life. My co-op contact was Missy Santorum with Palmetto Electric. I worked with my partner, Sawyer. The resources we used were Epic, Kid Rex, Kiddie, and the Co-op Wikipedia website. A little bit about me is that I enjoy playing basketball and piano. I like acting and singing also. I am currently doing a play at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina called A Christmas Story and I have done a lot of other plays as well.



About the Author

My name is Sawyer Blakley Costello. I am in the 5th grade at Hilton Head Island School for Creative Arts. I live on Hilton Head Island. My Co-op contact was Missy Santorum with Palmetto Electric. To learn more about how co-ops connect the community, I worked with my partner, Kaia. The sources we used were Epic, Kid Rex, Kiddie, and the Co-op website. A little about me is I play basketball, soccer, and lacrosse. My partner Kaia and her mom, Miss Sheri, is my basketball coach.





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