

***The Saturdays* by Elizabeth Enright (1941)**

Discussion Questions:

1. The Melendy children chose to pool their allowance so that one kid could splurge each Saturday. This means that each kid could splurge every 4 weeks. While this is a little different than each child saving up on his own Money and splurging every 4 weeks, it's essentially the same thing. What do you think: if you were a Melendy kid, would you rather pool your allowance together or save on your own? Explain your answer with good reasons.

2. Of course, \$1.60 wouldn't buy you much today. But with inflation, \$1.60 in 1941 would be about \$34.50 today! That means each kid got about \$8.63 per week for allowance. The obvious question is this: If you had \$34.50 to spend on whatever activity (outside the house) you wanted, what would it be?

3. Elizabeth Enright also wrote *Thimble Summer* in which the main character left her house for a distant town to enjoy a fair, much like Oliver left the house for the circus. Of course, I'm not asking "Would you ever run away from home?" but, if you could leave the house for a day without permission, where would you go and what would you see?

4. Some of these chapters ended up way worse than at first suspected---recall Mona getting her hair done or the dress on the lightbulb that caused a fire. I want you to design a "perfect day" out on your own that actually ends up quite terribly (no one dies, but still, it's bad). Describe the sequence of events that change your freedom and joy to something completely opposite.