

Way Back Then...



This is a picture of a green stamp. In the 1970s, when this book was written, shoppers would get green stamps whenever they bought groceries. The more money you spent in a store, the more stamps you would receive.

You could turn in your stamps for gifts, or prizes, from a catalog. With 1,200 stamps you might be able to get a teddy bear. With 2,400 stamps you might be able to get an alarm clock. With 12,000 stamps you might even be able to get a television!

People don't receive green stamps any more. Instead we have reward cards that shoppers can use at some stores.

In chapter 2 of *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, Fudge sticks all of his mother's green stamps on Mr. and Mrs. Yarby's suitcase. The Yarby's are upset because their suitcase is full of stamps. Fudge's mother was probably upset too, because she was probably saving the stamps for something special.

Discussion:

Green stamps were used from the 1930s through the 1970s. Are your parents old enough to remember them? Your grandparents?

Do you wish stores still gave out green stamps today? What would you want to buy with green stamps?

Do you think someone could have bought a laptop with green stamps? An iPad? A cell phone? Why or why not?

S&H Green Stamp

