Rocks in His Head
by Carol Otis Hurst

Some people collect stamps. Other people collect coins. Carol Otis Hurst's father collected rocks. Nobody ever thought his obsession would amount to anything. They said, "You've got rocks in your head" and "There's no money in rocks." But year after year he kept on collecting, trading, displaying, and labeling his rocks. The Great Depression forced the family to sell their gas station and their house, but his interest in rocks never wavered. In the end, the science museum he had visited so often realized that a person with rocks in his head was just what was needed. Anyone who has ever felt a little different from everyone else will identify with this true story of a man who followed his heart and his passion.
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PICTURES BY

JAMES STEVENSON
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Spelling
Prefixes pre-, mid-, over-, out-

- prepaid
- prefix
- pretest
- midnight
- Midwest
- midpoint
- overflow
- overgrown
- overtime
- overdue
- outdoors
- outline
- outgoing
- outside
- outfield
Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun is a pronoun that shows who or what owns something.

Possessive pronouns: my, mine, our, yours, his, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs

Example:
That is his favorite rock. (The rock belongs to the father.)
The gas station was ours. (The gas station belongs to the family.)
**Story Vocabulary**

**curator** - someone who knows all about the museum and can answer questions

**mineralogist** - a person who studies rocks

**minerals** - rocks

**filling station** - gas station

**lift** - a machine that picks up a car so people can work underneath it

**junkyards** - places where old cars and car parts are left

**quarries** - a hole dug in the earth to find a specific type of rock
Comprehension Strategy: Prior Knowledge

Readers use what they already know to help them understand what they read. This can help you make an opinion about the main character.
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