

The Evidence Auction

Supporting Your Claims with Reasoning

Teaching Kids to Argue Their Claims with Evidence A Game by Language in Motion

A

Most kids will happily state an opinion and rest their case. This game teaches them that claims need proof, and that some proof is worth more than the rest, by making them spend a budget on it.

How it Works:

1. Pick a claim.
2. Use the matching pre-filled evidence cards, or brainstorm your own onto the blank cards.
3. Print the bills double-sided. Cut the bills apart and give each child the same budget in auction money.
4. Auction the evidence one card at a time. Highest bidder keeps the card.
5. The argument: each child argues the claim using only the evidence they bought. Weak purchases become instantly, hilariously apparent.

Learning Objective:

Students learn to tell strong evidence from weak, and to argue a claim using only the evidence they've chosen.

CCCSS:

W.3.1 / W.4.1 / W.5.1 / W.6.1
RL.3.1 / RL.4.1 / RL.6.1 / RL.6.1
SL.3.1 / SL.4.1 / SL.5.1 / SL.6.1
SL.4.4 / SL.5.4 / SL.6.4



Claim

Goldilocks should be charged with breaking and entering.

Evidence #1

She was a young girl walking alone in the woods.

Evidence #2

She ate food that did not belong to her, finishing Baby Bear's porridge completely.

Evidence #3

She broke Baby Bear's chair and left without offering to repair it.

Evidence #4

She fled the scene through a window the moment the residents returned.

Evidence #5

The bears' door was unlocked.

Evidence #6

Her hair was golden.



Claim

The big bad wolf is actually the real victim of the three little pigs.

Evidence #1

Straw was on sale that week.

Evidence #2

Two of the houses were built so poorly that a sneeze-level wind destroyed them.

Evidence #3

Nobody ever interviewed the wolf before publishing the pigs' version.

Evidence #4

The wolf has very good manners when he isn't hungry.

Evidence #5

The third pig taunted the wolf from inside the brick house.

Evidence #6

The wolf ended up in a pot of boiling water, which is a serious injury.



Claim

Jack from Jack and the Beanstalk
is a thief, not a hero.

Evidence #1

The giant had allegedly
eaten people.

Evidence #2

Jack entered the giant's
home without
permission, three
separate times.

Evidence #3

The beans were
actually magic.

Evidence #4

Giants are very large.

Evidence #5

Jack took a bag of gold
coins he did not earn.

Evidence #6

He went back for the
hen and then the harp
after he was already
rich.



Claim

Cinderella's stepsisters deserve a little sympathy.

Evidence #1

They ordered Cinderella to do their hair and their chores.

Evidence #2

The narrator calls them ugly, which mostly tells us whose side the narrator is on.

Evidence #3

Every adult in their home modeled cruelty, so nobody ever taught them kindness.

Evidence #4

They were raised by the same demanding mother, under the same roof and the same rules.

Evidence #5

They ordered Cinderella to do their hair and their chores.

Evidence #6

Ballgowns are expensive.



Claim

Little Red Riding Hood ignored every warning sign she was given.

Evidence #1

She left the path to pick flowers.

Evidence #2

Most grandmothers do not have large teeth, which she had every opportunity to consider.

Evidence #3

Red is a very visible color.

Evidence #4

She told a stranger in the woods exactly where her sick grandmother lived.

Evidence #5

Her mother told her to go straight to Grandmother's house and never stray from the path.

Evidence #6

She was carrying a heavy basket



Claim

The Gingerbread Man brought it on himself.

Evidence #1

He taunted every single pursuer.

Evidence #2

He was made of gingerbread, which everyone likes.

Evidence #3

The old woman baked him intending to eat him.

Evidence #4

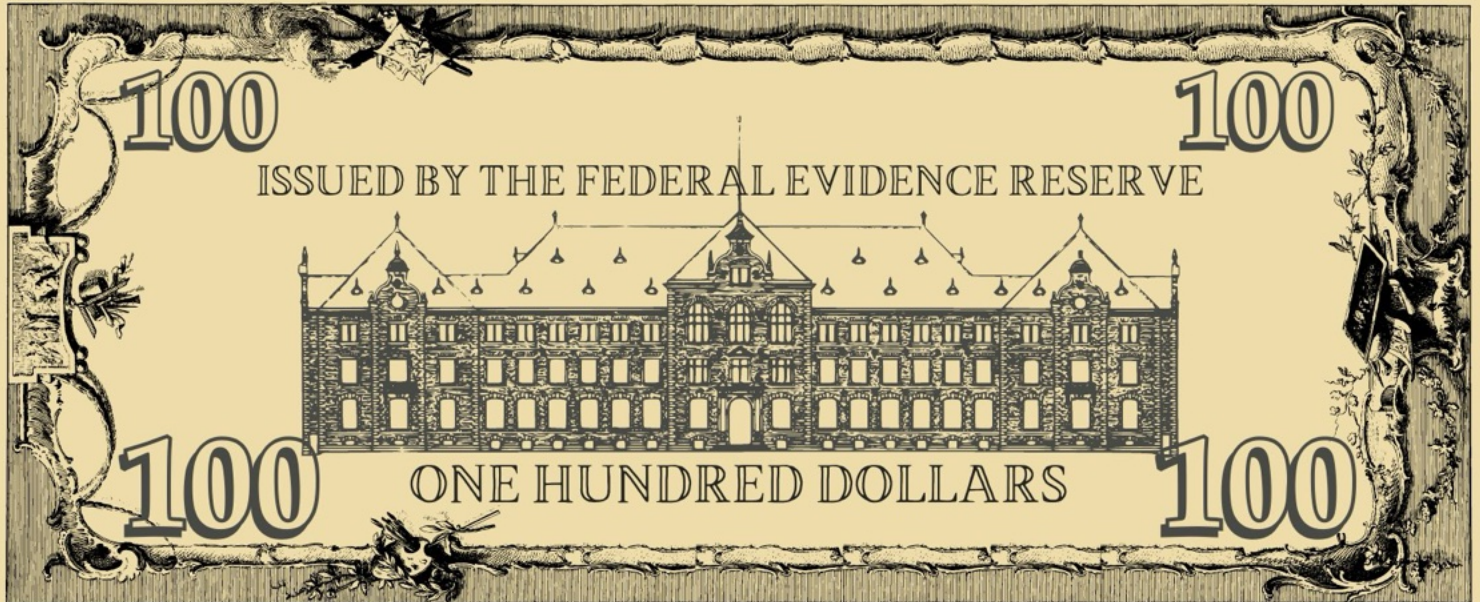
He could run remarkably fast.

Evidence #5

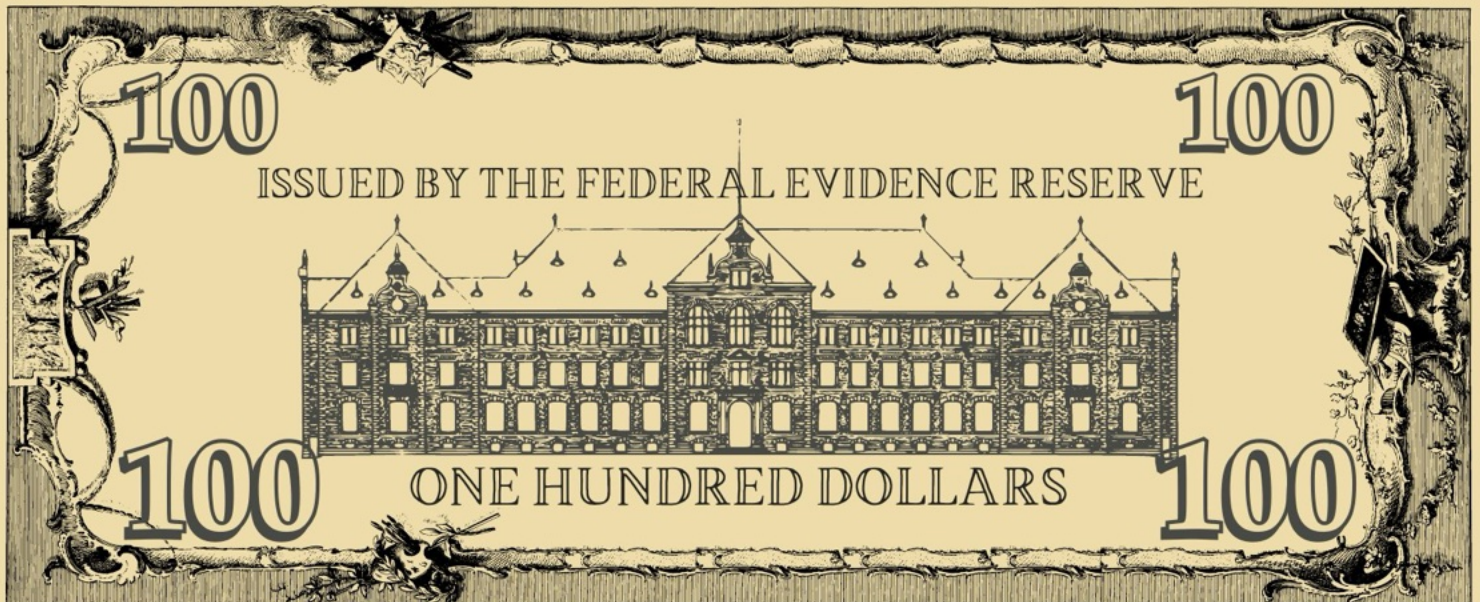
He accepted a river crossing from a fox, a known predator, and kept agreeing to move closer to its mouth.

Evidence #6

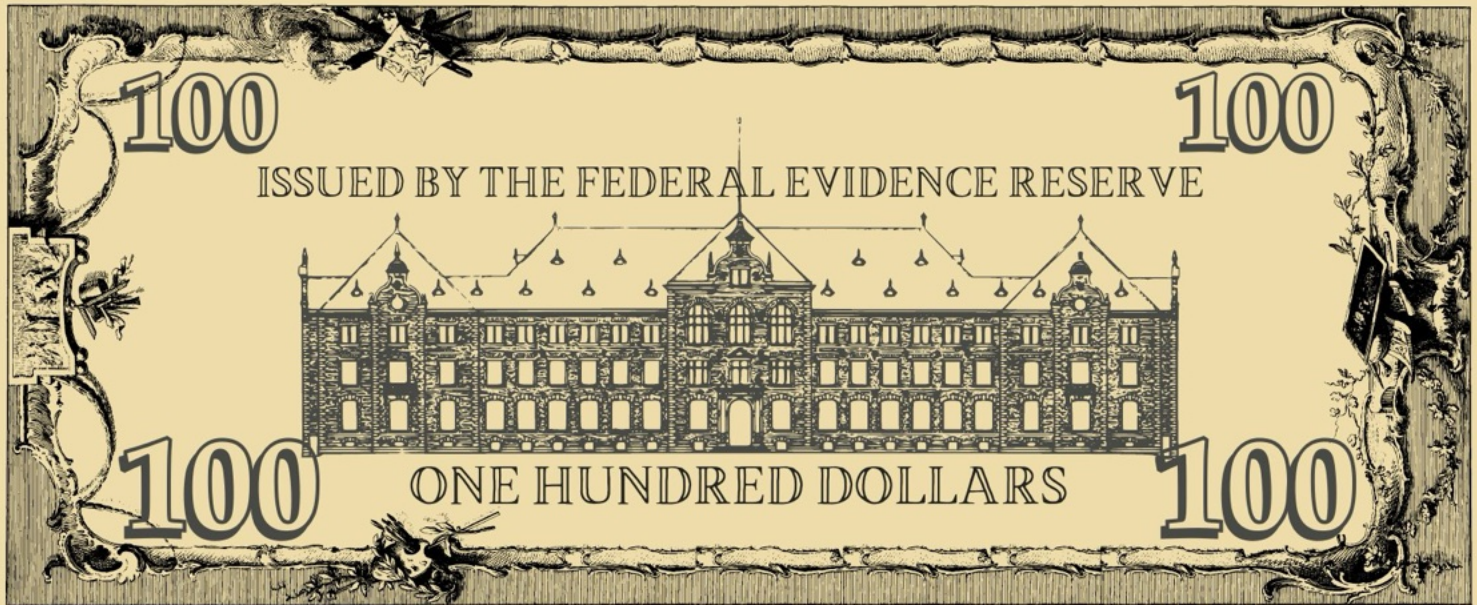
He ran from the old woman before she ever laid a hand on him.



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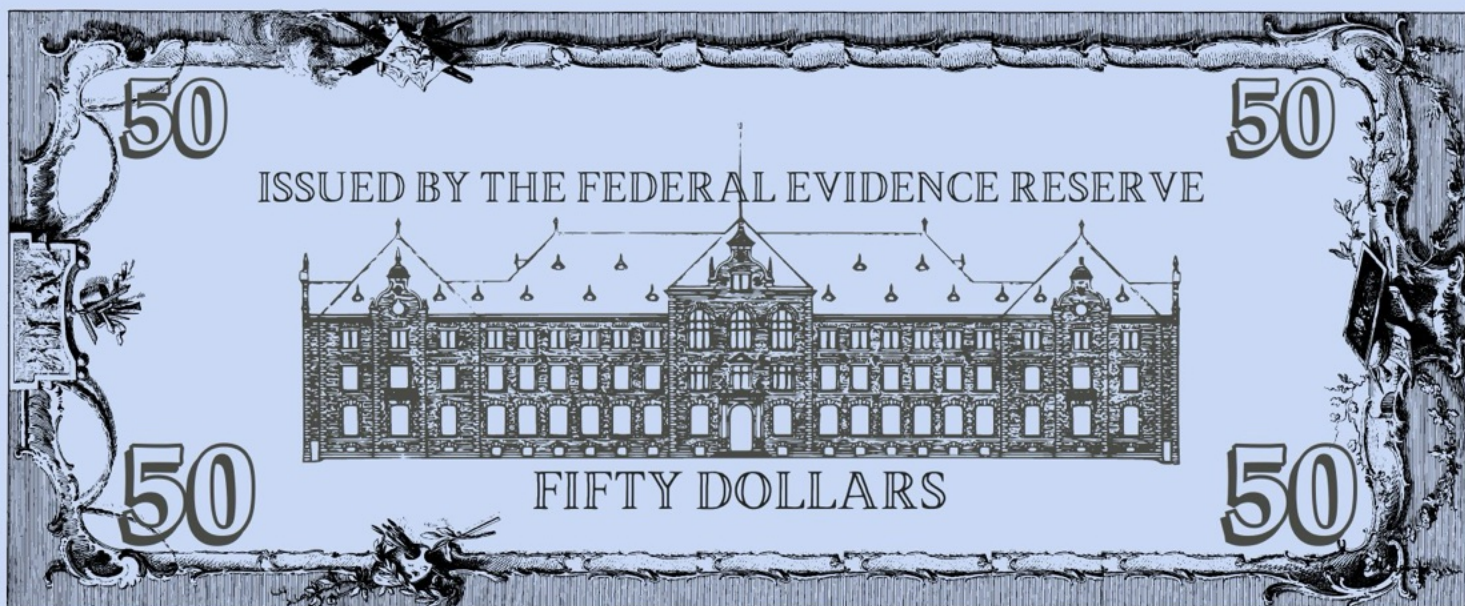


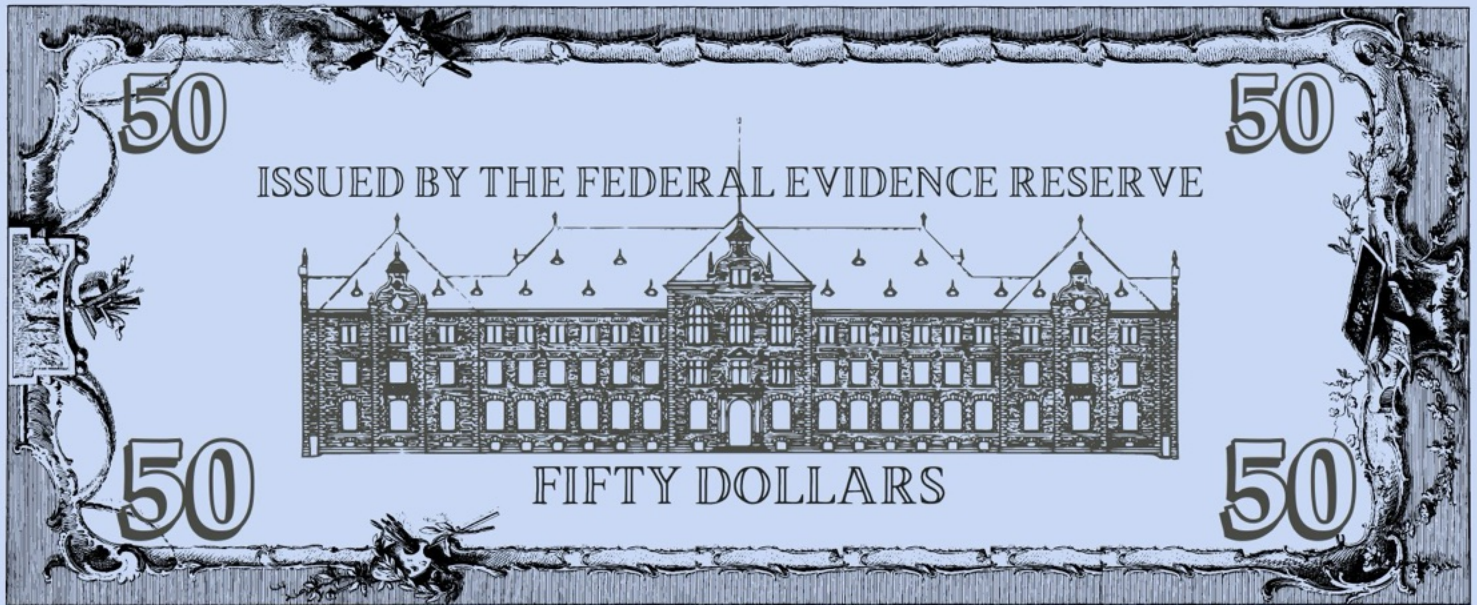
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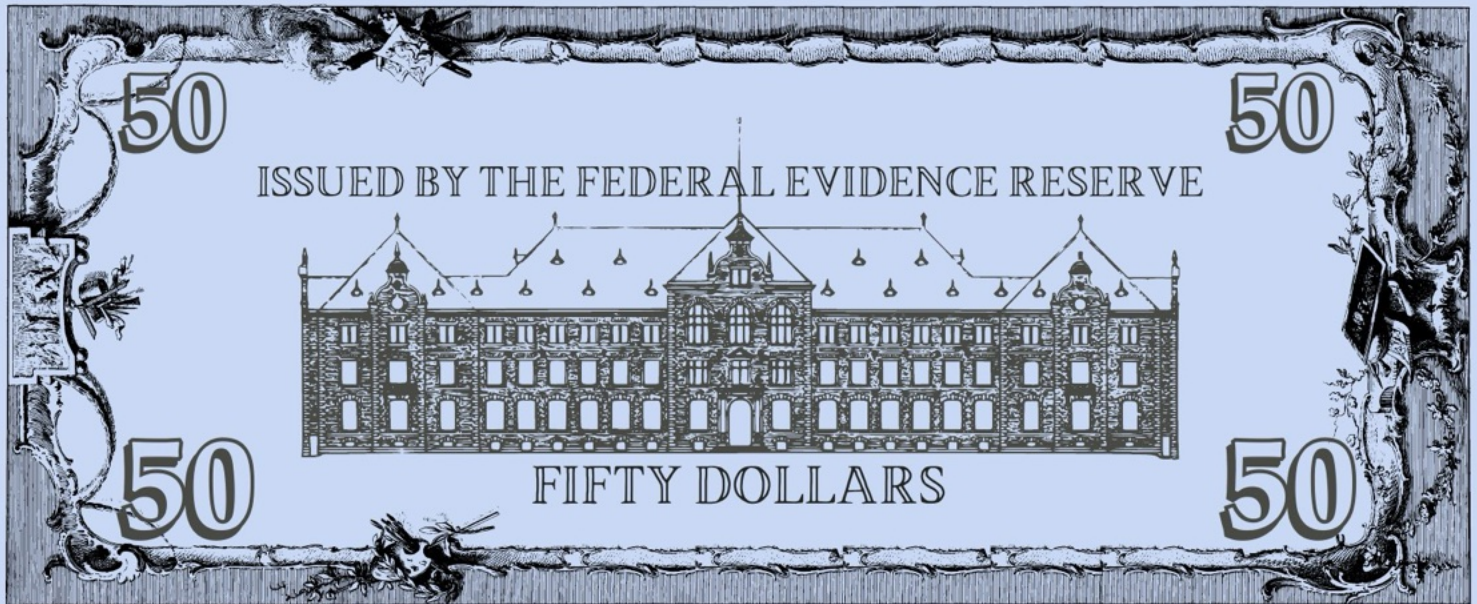
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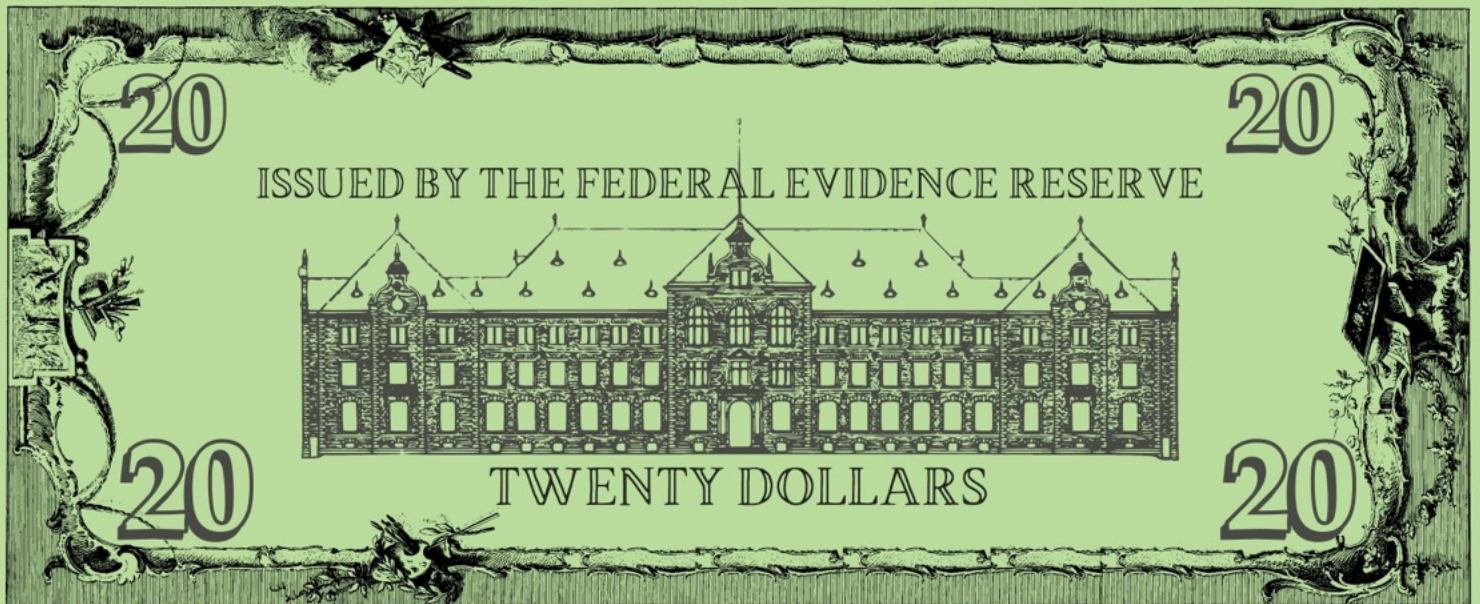
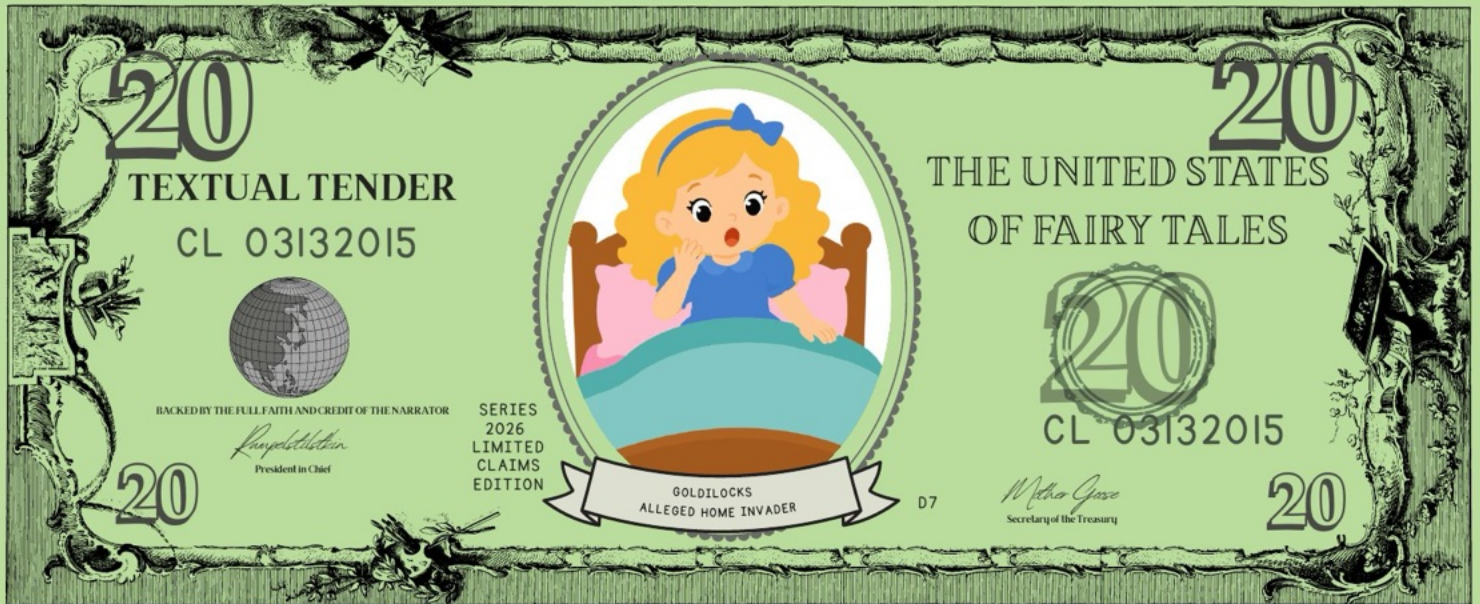
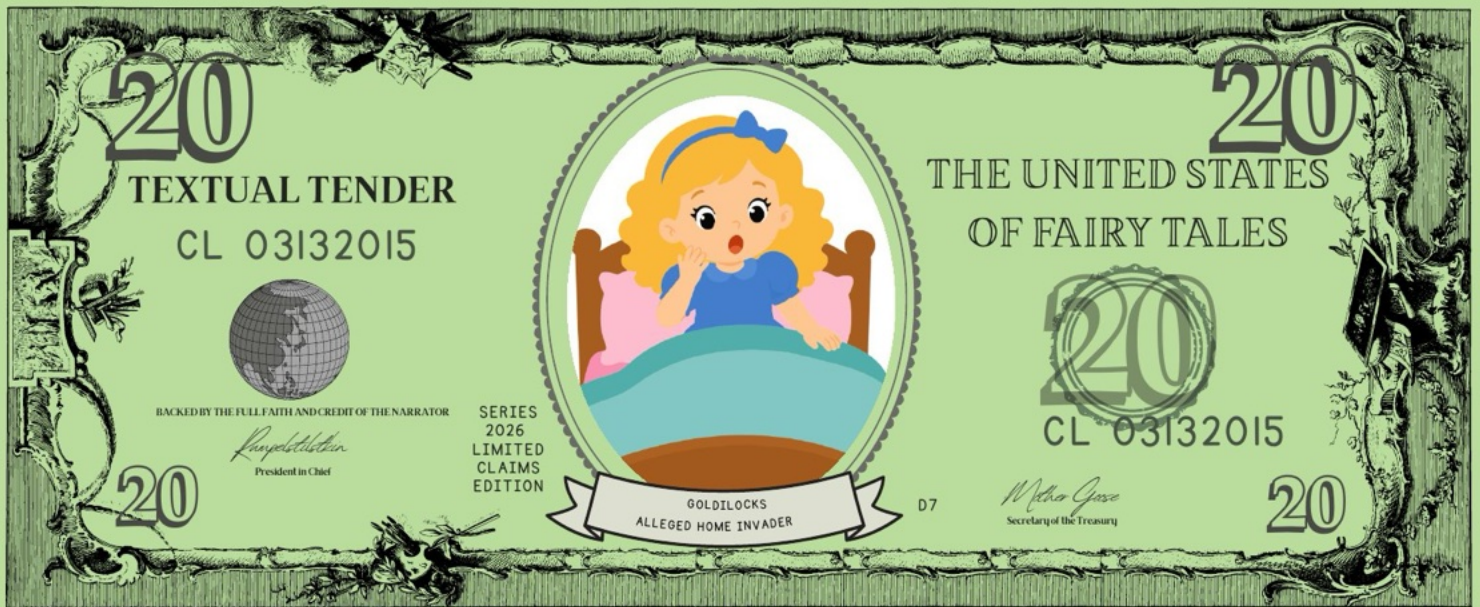


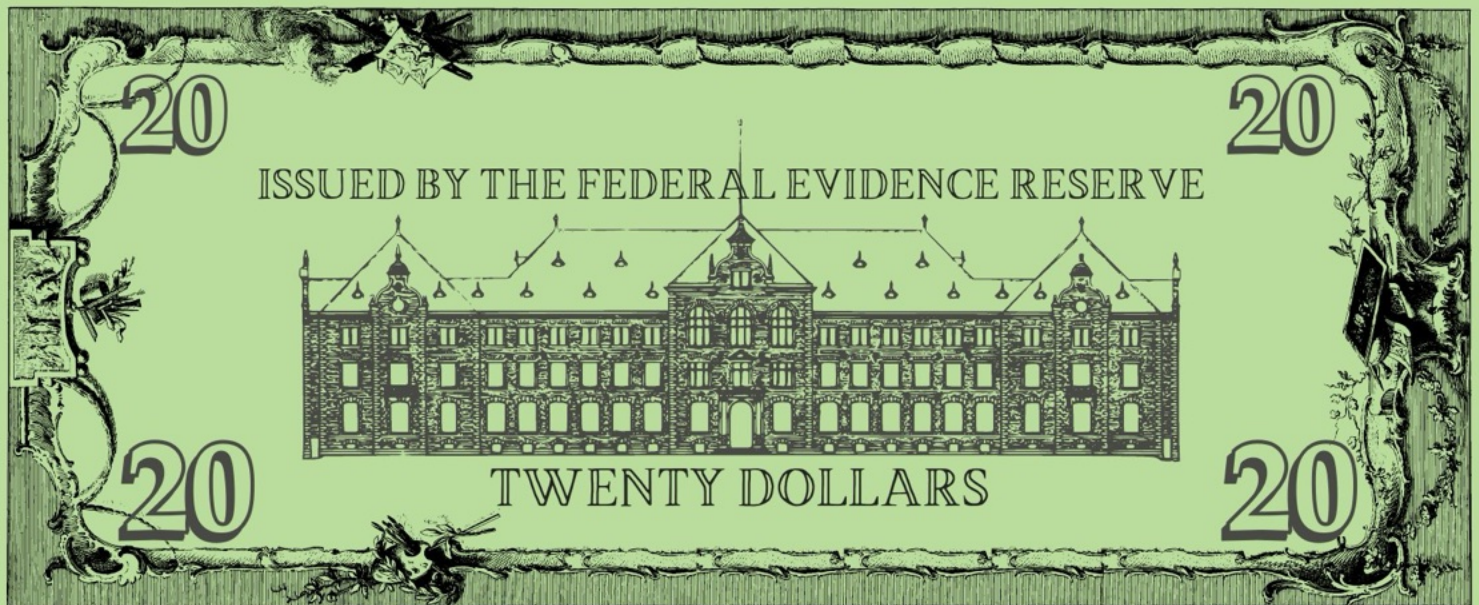
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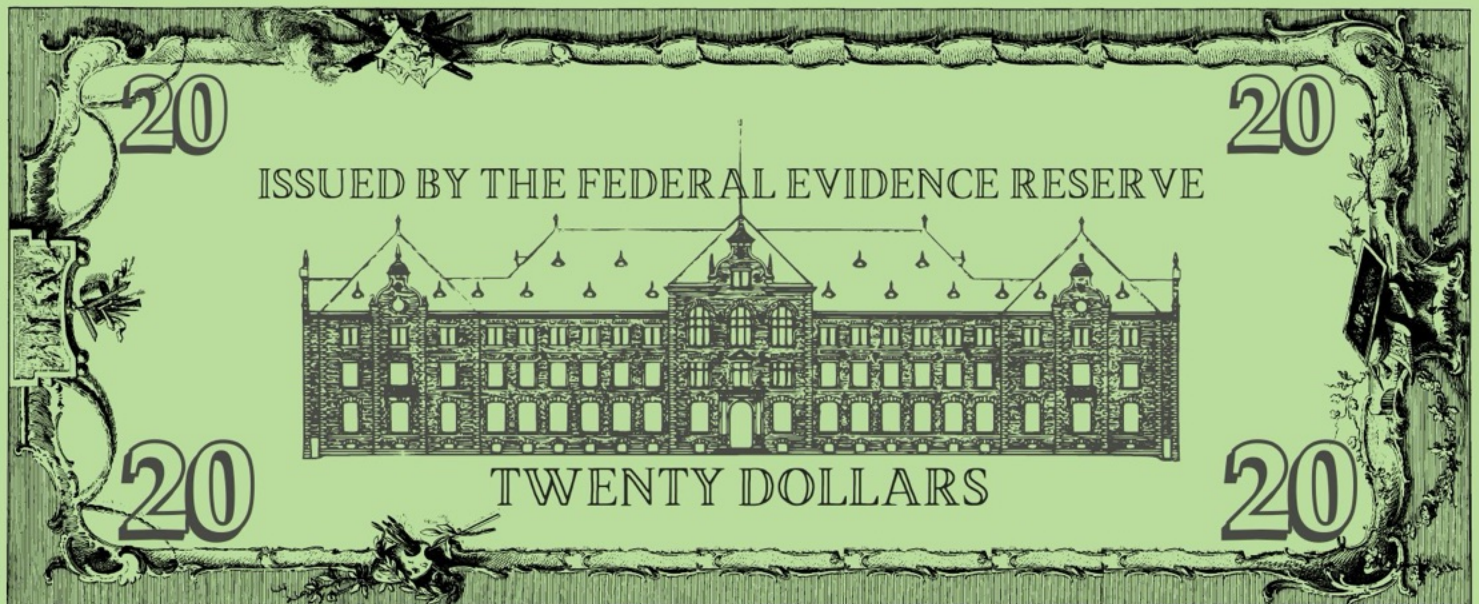
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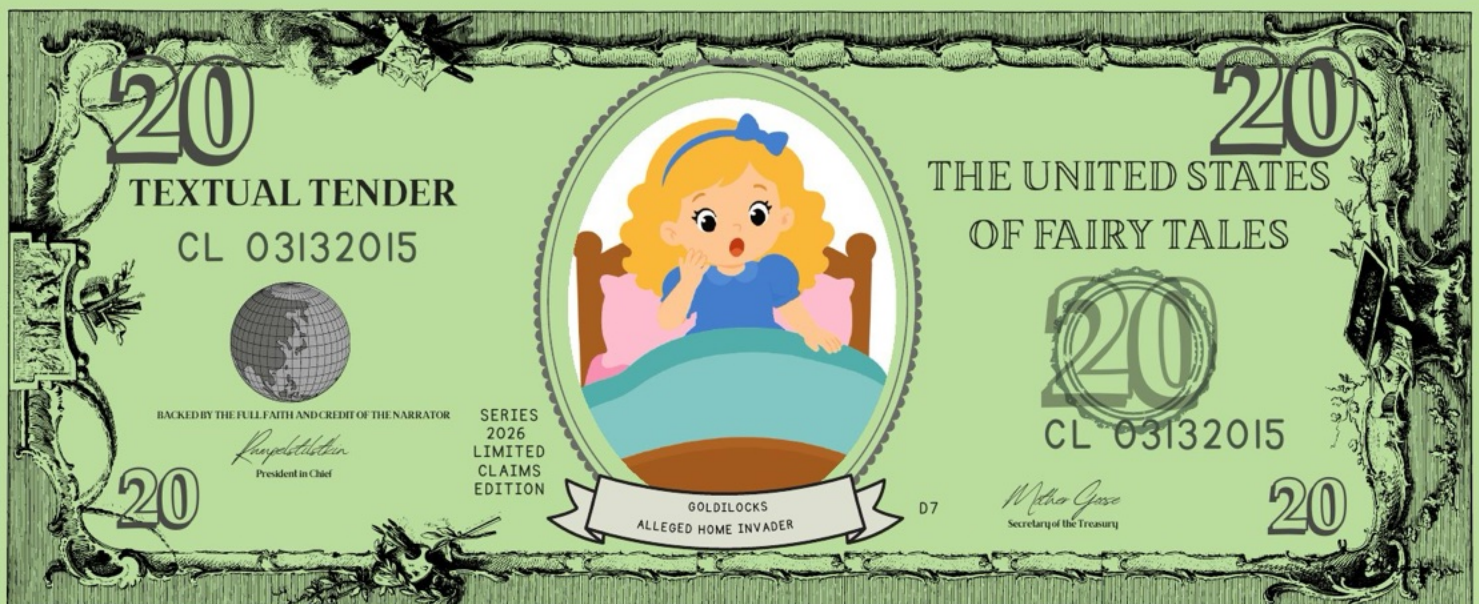


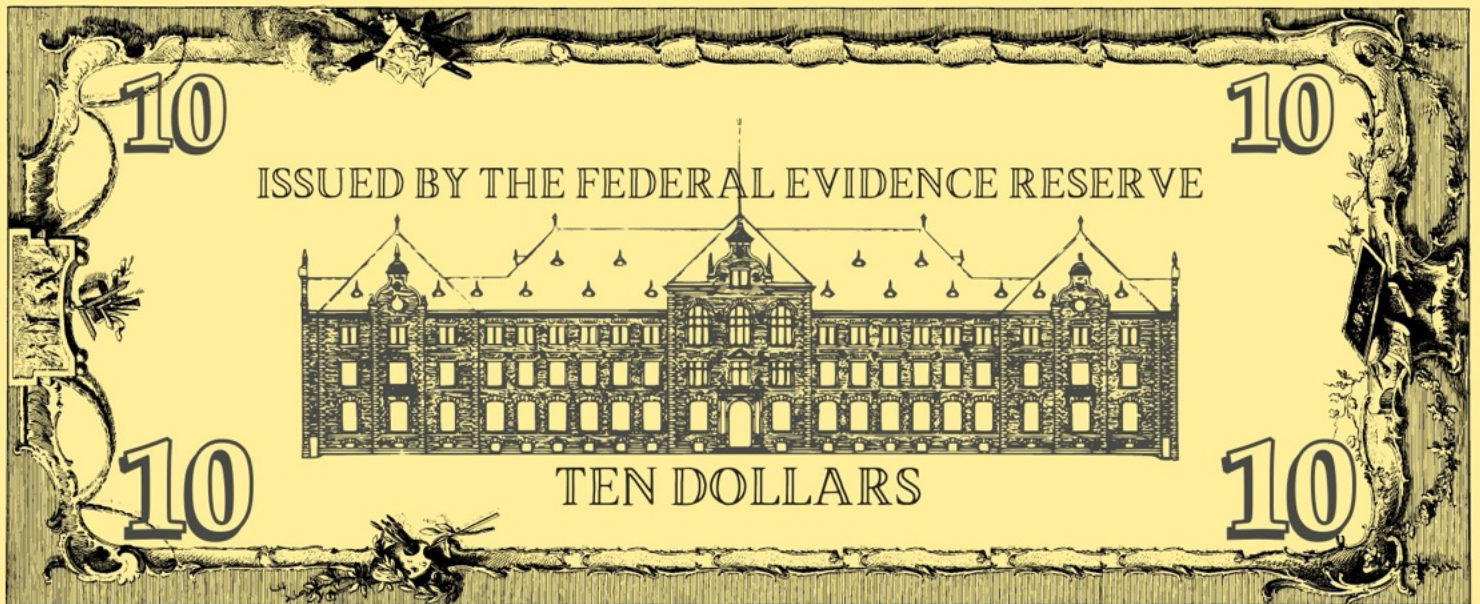


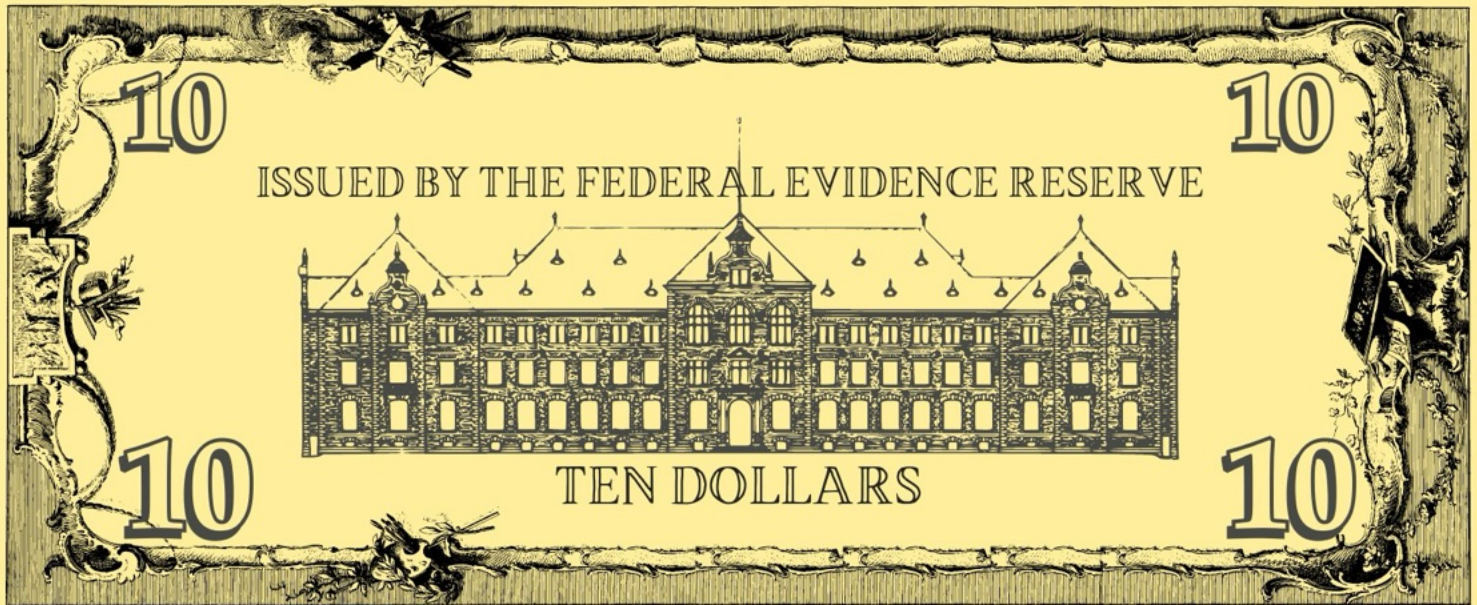
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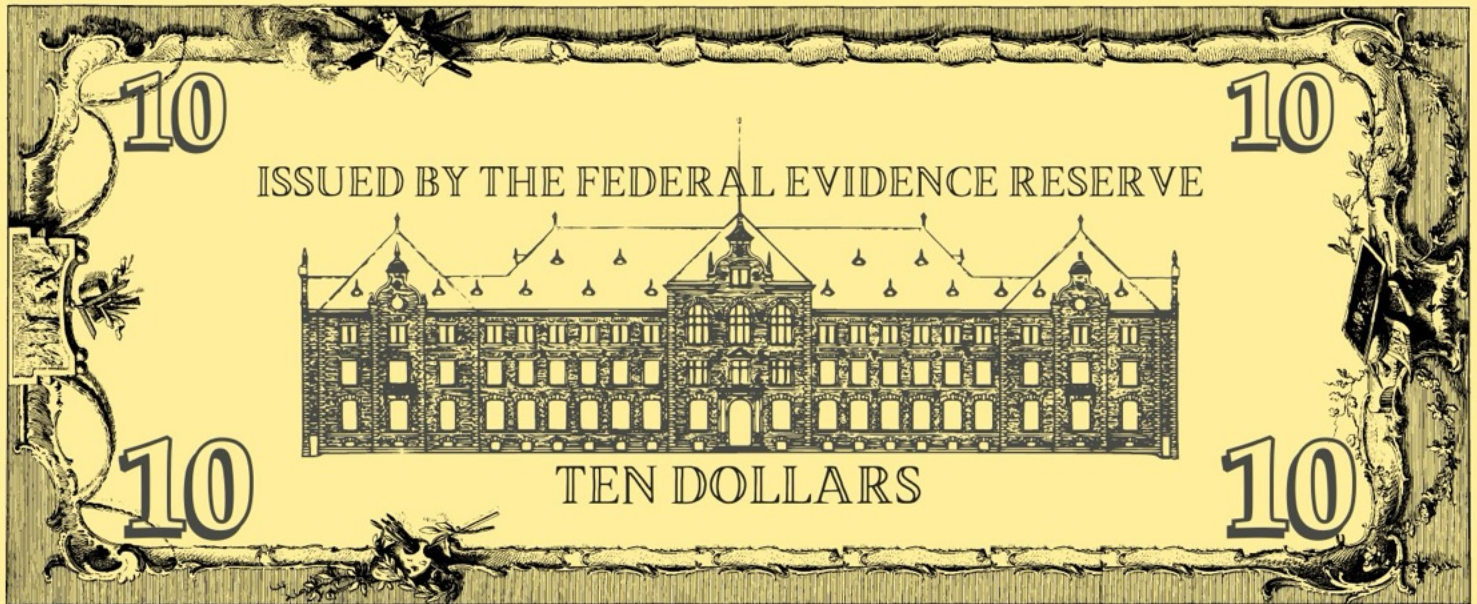
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BACKED BY THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE NARRATOR

Raymond K. Johnson
President in Chief

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THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF
UNRELIABLE WITNESS

D7

Melissa J. Goss
Secretary of the Treasury



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