

Books to Keep Math Skills Sharp All Year Round

Many kids are math-adverse, equating these essential skills with dreaded worksheets. Other kids are bored with the mathematics they are learning in school. But mathematics can be fun -- and the library can be a place to discover just how interesting math can be. There are lots of picture books and even a few novels that tie mathematics into story and, in the process, give students of all ages a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts along with a rollicking good read! You can also make a delightful mathematic problem part of your everyday routine (and learn lots of great trivia) at www.bedtimemath.org.

SOMERSET COUNTY

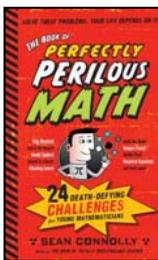


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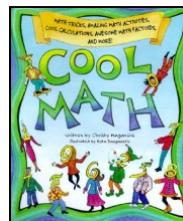
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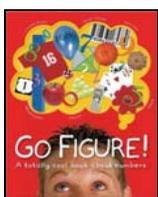


Both math-adverse and math-lovers might enjoy **The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math: 24 Death-Defying Challenges for Young Mathematicians** (J510 CON), **The Everything Kids' Math Puzzles Book: Brain Teasers, Games, and Activities for Hours of Fun** (J510 CLE), **Math Wizardry for Kids** (J793.74 KEN), and **I Wish I Knew That Math: Cool Stuff You Need to Know** (J510 GOL).



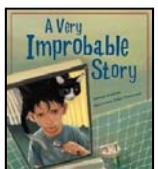
Cool Math: Math Tricks, Amazing Math Activities, Cool Calculations, Awesome Math Facts, and More (J510 MAG), **Real-World Math for Hands-On Fun!** (J510 LIT), **The I Hate Mathematics Book!** (J510 BUR), **Math for Smarty Pants** (J513 BUR) and **Mathamusements** (J793.74 BLU) also have numerous fun

activities and puzzles to help kids develop skills in arithmetic, geometry, number sense, logical thinking, and creative out-of-the-box problem-solving.

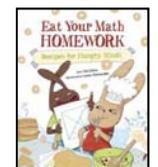


Go figure!: a Totally Cool Book About Numbers (510.76 BAL) and **Why Pi?: How Math Applies to Everyday Life** (J530.8 BAL) are both mind-bending romps for number and puzzle lovers with number theory, Pi, chance, logic, fractals and more.

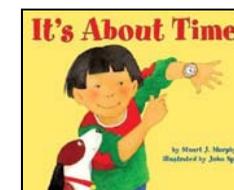
Algebra & Geometry: Anything but Square! (Basher Science) (J512 GRE) uses cartoons to explain these subjects while **Math Curse** (Picture Book SCIESZKA) provides a wacky look at a math-filled day (also on the DVD: **Math is Everywhere**).



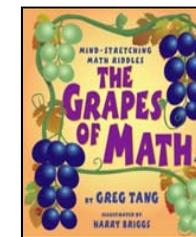
Students who are bored with arithmetic and looking for more challenging mathematical concepts will enjoy **A Very Improbable Story : a Math Adventure** (Picture book EINHORN) which introduces the idea of probability when a boy wakes up with a talking cat on the top of his head.



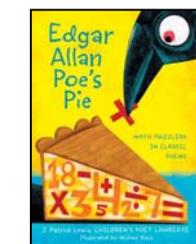
Kids can combine math with tasty recipes in **Eat Your Math Homework: Recipes for Hungry Minds** (J641.5 MCC) and, of course, make use of math skills with any of our other cookbooks!



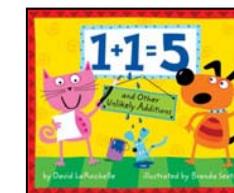
For a storybook approach to mathematics for preschool and elementary-school children, check out Stuart J. Murphy's **Mathstart Series** (all Picture Book MURPHY). He has written dozens of titles, each of which shows kids how they use math everyday by incorporating a mathematical concept into a funny and entertaining story. The books are arranged in three levels and they cover basic counting up through money, fractions, division, and probability. Also check out the new **Mouse Math** Series (Picture Book SKINNER, Picture Book MAY).



Greg Tang has written a series of books that use cleverly illustrated riddles to introduce strategies for solving a variety of elementary math problems including **The Grapes of Math: Mind Stretching Math Riddles**, and **The Best of Times: Math Strategies that Multiply** (Picture Book TANG).



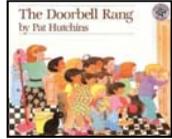
Kids can play with additional mathematical riddles in **Arithme-Tickle: an Even Number of Odd Riddle-Rhymes** (J513 LEW) and **Edgar Allan Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems** (J811.54 LEW) **Math Riddles** (J793.735 ZIE), and **Easy Math Puzzles** (J793.735 ADL). If word problems are a challenge for your kids, take a look at the playful alliterative queries and intriguing photo collages in **How High Can a Dinosaur Count?** (Picture book FISHER) and **You Can, Toucan, Math: Word Problem-Solving Fun** (J510.76 ADL).



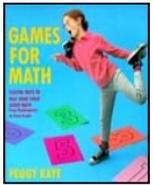
Addition and subtraction get a workout in **Mission -- Addition** (J513 LEE), **Subtraction Action** (J513.212 LEE) and **The Wing Wing Brothers Math Spectacular!** (J513 LON). More fun practice can be found in **Adding it Up** and **How Many? How Much?** (both Picture Book WELLS) and in **Twenty is Too Many** (Picture Book DUKE) and **Animal Word Problems Starring Addition and Subtraction** (J513.21 WIN). Get children thinking about numbers in new ways (e.g. 1 ant + 1 spider = 14 legs!) in the very clever **1 + 1 = 5 : and Other Unlikely Additions** (Picture book LAROCHELLE).



2 x 2 = Boo! A Set of Spooky Multiplication Stories (J513 LEE) provides a fun look at the multiplication facts from 0 through 5. The old Saturday morning TV cartoon **Schoolhouse Rock!: Multiplication Rock** (DVD, also available on YouTube) gives a rollicking review of the times tables.

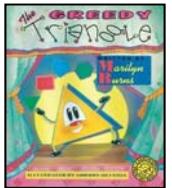


For an intuitive look at division, check out the delightful **The Doorbell Rang** (Picture book HUTCHINS) and **A Remainder of One** (Picture Book PINCZES).



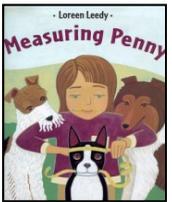
All of these concepts get additional reinforcement in **Games for Math: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Learn Math from Kindergarten to Third Grade** (510.7 KAY) as well as the many math game and activity books by Lynette Long. **Play and Find Out About Math: Easy Activities for Young**

Children (J510 VAN) provides “hands on” activities to give preschool and primary students an intuitive understanding of concepts like fractions and volume.

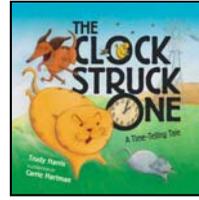


There is more to mathematics than arithmetic. Basic geometry shapes and concepts are introduced with a smile in **The Greedy Triangle** (Picture Book BURNS). Perimeter gets a workout in **Spaghetti and Meatballs for All! : a Mathematical Story** (Picture Book BURNS). Radius, diameter, and pi are

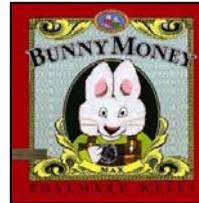
presented with a medieval twist in the **Sir Cumference** series (Picture Book NEUSCHWANDER) while **Grandfather Tang's Story** (Picture Book TOMPERT) introduces Tangrams.



Measurement gets a workout in the mathematical fairy-tale **The Royal Treasure Measure** (Picture Book HARRIS) and **Measuring Penny** (J530.8 LEE) as Lisa measures her dog in pounds, inches, dog biscuits, and cotton swabs!



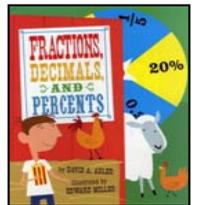
Time and money are also important concepts for kids to master. **Bats Around the Clock** (Picture Book APPELT) and **The Clock Struck One: a Time-Telling Tale** (Picture Book HARRIS) introduce the hours on an analog clock. Pigs deal with a day of delays in **Pigs on a Blanket: Fun with Math and Time** (Picture Book AXELROD).



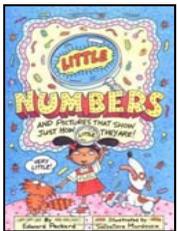
Bunny Money (Picture Book WELLS), **You Can't Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime** (J513.2 ZIE), **Math Fun with Money Puzzlers** (J513 WYL), **26 letters and 99 cents** (Picture book HOBAN), and **Money Madness** (J332.4 ADL) provide fun and funny practice with dollars and cents.



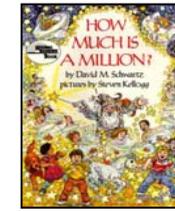
Fractions, decimals, and percents are a frequent source of difficulty for students. **Rabbit and Hare Divide an Apple** (Early Reader ZIEFERT), **The Lion's Share** (Picture book MCELLIGOTT), **The Wishing Club : a Story about Fractions** (Picture Book NAPOLI), **Fraction Fun** (J513.26 ADL), and **Fraction Action** (J513.26 LEE) will help.



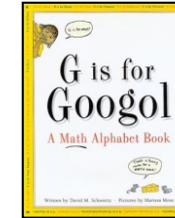
Fractions, Decimals and Percents (513.26 ADL) and **Piece=Part=Portion: Fractions=Decimals=Percents** (J513.26 GIF) are particularly good for explaining how fractions, decimals and percents are three different ways to describe the same things.



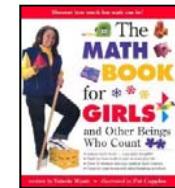
For a mind-expanding look at very tiny fractions, see **Little Numbers: and Pictures that Show Just How Little They Are** (J513.26 PAC), **Fabulous Fractions: Games and Activities that Make Math Easy and Fun** (J513.2 LON) and **Delightful Decimals and Perfect Percents: Games and Activities that Make Math Easy and Fun** (J510 LON) provide additional practice.



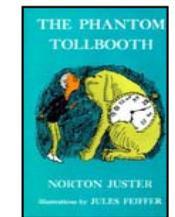
On the other extreme, kids (and grownups) are fascinated with big numbers. **How Much is a Million?** (J513.2 SCH) helps them conceptualize a million, a billion, and a trillion. (Also on the DVD : **Chicka Chicka 1,2,3 and More Stories About Counting.**) **One Grain of Rice: a Mathematical Folktale** (J398.20954 DEM) shows the power of exponential growth when a reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into cartloads in this tale of a selfish Rajah who is outwitted by a clever village girl.



Speaking of large numbers, do you know what a googol is? Your kids will after they read **Can You Count to a Googol?** (J513.55 WEL). Follow that with **G is for Googol: a Math Alphabet Book** (J510 SCH) which explains math terms from abacus and binary to x, y-axis, and zillion!



Many girls think that they can't do math as well as boys. **The Math Book for Girls: and Other Beings Who Count** (J510 WYA) profiles women who use math in their careers, demonstrates how math is part of everyday life, and shows girls how much fun math can be.



Elementary and middle grade students will also appreciate **The Phantom Tollbooth** (Juvenile Fiction JUSTER), a wonderful novel in which a very bored boy ends up on an adventure filled with unforgettable characters, witty wordplay, and quite a good helping of mathematics. **Lunch Money** (Juvenile Fiction CLEMENT) and **Chasing Vermeer** (Juvenile Fiction BALLIETT) are both fun stories with mathematical elements. Finally, **The Number Devil: a Mathematical Adventure** (JYA ENZENSBERGER) continues the fun with giant furry calculators, endlessly scrolling paper, and a decidedly strange Number Devil who introduces basic concepts of numeracy – from sequences to exponents to matrices. Older students who love mathematics should also check out Martin Gardner's many books of mathematical puzzles and recreations.

So kick back and relax with a good book – and, if it has a dab of mathematics, we won't tell!