



How can literature support mathematics?

Your child reads books every day. Did you know that stories can help support your child's understanding of mathematics? Stories present a common experience for you and your child to discuss the story and the mathematical ideas that are embedded within the story. When children are reading and discussing, they are developing communication skills that will support their development in both language arts and mathematics!

Reading stories can enhance your child's math learning by demonstrating that mathematics develops out of human experience. Literature presents settings that provide real meaning for children to connect the abstract ideas, language, and symbols of mathematics to their own personal experiences. Children who are confident readers can extend their confidence to mathematics when given opportunities to discuss the math found in books.



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As you read a story with your child, consider how you might address the mathematics that is in the story, pictures or setting:

- *Discuss the patterns you can find in the story (repetition, predictability) or in the illustrations (colour, shape, design, etc.).*
- *Talk about shapes and sizes in the illustrations or timelines of events in the story.*
- *Discuss the problem presented in the story. Brainstorm or predict possible solutions.*



How might I support my child with math using books?

- *Select good literature to read with your child. Avoid picking a book just because it explicitly talks about math.*
- *Consult your child’s teacher about possible books to read.*
- *Visit the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) website at <http://www.nctm.org> and search “math and literature.”*

Start with some of the suggested books below:

- *Two Ways to Count to Ten: A Liberian Folktale by Ruby Dee*
- *The Napping House by Audrey Wood*
- *Rooster’s Off to See the World by Eric Carle*
- *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolf Became the World’s Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull*
- *Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews*
- *The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns*
- *The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure by Hans Magnus Enzensberger*
- *A Million Fish... More or Less by Patricia C. McKissack*
- *The King’s Chessboard by David Birch*
- *Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst*
- *The Mitten by Jan Brett*

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