

HELPING  
YOUR CHILDREN  
LEARN AND ENJOY  
MATHEMATICS

## CONNECTING MATH AND READING

All parents understand the importance of reading, but have you ever combined math and reading at the same time? It's possible to put math and reading together in a meaningful way and have fun doing it. Reading books with math themes will enhance your children's enjoyment and pique their interest of both subjects simultaneously.

Reading a math-focused children's book is especially effective when you take the time to encourage your child to think about the math in the story. This means you may need to modify your approach to reading together when you choose a book with a math theme.

For example, *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins is a delightful story about sharing cookies. You and your child will enjoy reading it from cover to cover, but you can also use it as an opportunity to do mathematics together in a comfortable, relaxed setting. Take advantage of the math situations embedded in the story by following these suggestions.

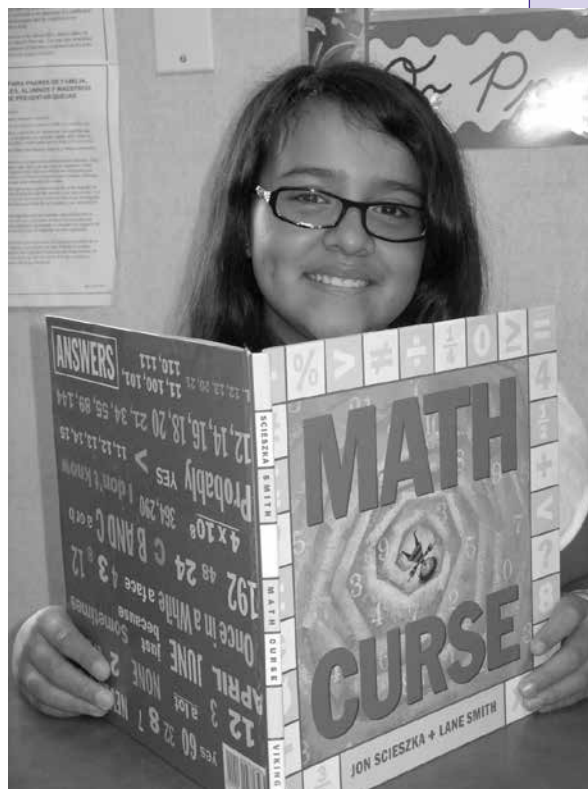
- Before beginning the book, it might be fun to bake some cookies or have a plate of store-bought cookies nearby to help your child visualize the math problems you'll be reading about—just don't eat them until the end of the story!
- Read a few pages, then pause when you come to the first math situation in the book. Ask a math-related question that anticipates what happens next. For example, "How many children have to share the cookies now?"
- Once your child solves the problem, continue reading. Stop and ask other math-related questions as long as your child stays interested. (Don't stop too often or your child may lose the story line.)
- Sometimes it's wise to skip over information that's in the book. For instance, the first math situation in *The Doorbell Rang* occurs when two children must share 12 cookies. The book reads, "That's six each ...." Instead of immediately reading this line, you might say, "If there are 12 cookies to begin with, how many cookies will each child get?"
- Let your child do the math (or sort the cookies you have on hand) and answer the question. Be patient and allow time to solve the problem before continuing to read. "You're right! That's six each ...."

This is just one example of how to combine math and reading. Children's books with math themes will give you many opportunities to stop and do math.

## CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WITH MATH THEMES

When children's books have math themes, reading becomes an opportunity to enjoy a good story and think about math at the same time. Take the opportunity to explore math concepts while reading together at home! The books listed here artfully combine reading and math. They are appropriate for kindergarten through fourth or fifth-grade readers.

*12 Ways to Get to 11*, by Eve Merriam  
*17 Kings and 42 Elephants*, by Margaret Mahy  
*Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday*, by Judith Viorst  
*Amanda Bean's Amazing Dream*, by Cindy Neuschwander  
*Anno's Counting Book*, by Mitsumasa Anno  
*Anno's Magic Seeds*, by Mitsumasa Anno  
*Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar*, by Masaichiro and Mitsumasa Anno  
*The Button Box*, by Margarette S. Reid  
*A Cloak for the Dreamer*, by Aileen Friedman  
*Counting on Frank*, by Rod Clement  
*The Doorbell Rang*, by Pat Hutchins  
*Each Orange Had Eight Slices*, by Paul Giganti, Jr.  
*Frog and Toad are Friends*, by Arnold Lobel  
*G is for Googol*, by David M. Schwartz  
*A Grain of Rice*, by Helena Clare Pittman  
*Grandfather Tang's Story*, by Ann Tompert  
*The Greedy Triangle*, by Marilyn Burns  
*How Big is a Foot?*, by Rolf Myller  
*How Many Feet in the Bed?*, by Diane Johnston Hamm  
*How Many Snails?*, by Paul Giganti, Jr.  
*How Much is a Million?*, by David M. Schwartz  
*If You Made a Million*, by David M. Schwartz  
*Incredible Comparisons*, by Russell Ash  
*The King's Chessboard*, by David Birch  
*Math Curse*, by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith  
*One Grain of Rice, A Mathematical Folktale*, by Demi  
*One Hundred Hungry Ants*, by Elinor J. Pinczes  
*Only One*, by Marc Harshman  
*The Phantom Tollbooth*, by Norton Juster  
*A Remainder of One*, by Elinor J. Pinczes  
*Rooster's Off to See the World*, by Eric Carle  
*Round Trip*, by Ann Jonas  
*Sir Cumference and the First Round Table*, by Cindy Neuschwander  
*Ten Black Dots*, by Donald Crews  
*The Twenty-One Balloons*, by William Pene du Bois  
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle  
*What Comes in 2's, 3's & 4's?*, by Suzanne Aker



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