

MATH FOR SMARTY PANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE INCLUDING MOMS

A MENTOR MOM © CLASS

by Melissa Orton

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"Small minds discuss persons. Average minds discuss events. Great minds discuss ideas. Really great minds discuss mathematics."
- Anonymous

"God has put a secret art into the forces of Nature so as to enable it to fashion itself out of chaos into a perfect world system."
-Immanuel Kant

There are two types of math books:

- 1.
- 2.

Four ways to incorporate math reading into your already full schedule:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Below are some books to get you started. The appropriateness of the following books will depend less on the age of the child and more on their math skills. I have not read all of these books so please use your judgment.

Beginning Books

A Remainder of One by Pinczes
Family Math by Stenmark and Thompsen
Family Math for Young Children by Coates and Stenmark
Spaghetti and Meatballs for All by Burns
The Greedy Triangle by Burns
Grandma's Button Box by Aber
Sorting by Pluckrose
Pattern by Pluckrose
Tally O'Mally by Murphy
More or Less by Murphy
How Big Is A Foot? By Myller
One Hundred Hungry Ants by Pinczes

Beginning Books that Use Food to Teach a Concept

Hershey's Kisses – Subtraction by Pallotta
Hershey's Kisses – Addition by Pallotta
Hershey's Kisses – Multiply/Divide by Pallotta
Cheerios Counting Book by McGrath
Twizzlers – Percentages by Pallota
M&M Counting Book by McGrath
Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bar Fractions by Pallotta
Each Orange has 8 Slices by Giganti
Apple Fractions by Pallotta

Middle Age Books

Riddle-Iculous Math by Holub
Archimedes and the Door of Science by Bendick
Carry On Mr. Bowditch by Latham
I Hate Mathematics by Burns
Math for Smarty Pants by Burns
A Piece of the Mountain: The Story of Blaise Pascal by McPherson
String, Straightedge, & Shadow: The Story of Geometry by Diggins
The Librarian Who Measured the Earth by Lasky
The Math Curse by Scieszka.

The Number Devil by Enzensberger

The Ocean of Truth: Sir Isaac Newton by McPherson
One Grain of Rice by Demi
The Phantom Toll Both by Juster
What's Your Angle Pythagoras? By Ellis
The Man Who Counted by Tahan
Greg Tang books: *Math-tepieces*, *Math for All Seasons*,
Grapes of Math, *Math Potatoes*, *Math Appeal*, *The Best of Times*, *Math Fables*, *Math Strategies*
Sir Cumference Series by Neuschwander: our favorites include - *Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Angleland*, *Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi*, *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table*, *Sir Cumference and the Sword in the Cone*

Middle to Older Books

Fantasia Mathematica by Fadiman
Beginners Guide to Constructing the Universe by Schneider
Flatland by Abbot
Enigma by Robert Harris
The Story of Science Series by Hakim
Mathematicians are People, Too (Vol. 1 & Vol. 2) by Reimer and Reimer
The following books are text books and consequently are more expensive:
The Heart of Mathamatics by Burger
Elementary Algebra by Harold Jacobs. (Harold Jacobs actually writes math texts that are fun to read.)
Mathematics: A Human Endeavor by Jacobs
Geometry: Seeing, Doing, Understanding by Jacobs
How Much is a Million by Schwartz
G is for Googol by Schwartz

Older Books

Fermat's Enigma by Singh
Euclid's Window by Leonard Mlodi
Men of Mathematics now by Bell *A couple steps up from Mathematicians are People Too. The stories are more in depth and include problems, algorithms etc.*
Of Men and Numbers: Story of Great Mathematicians by Muir
Women and Numbers by Perl
Women in Mathematics by Rosen
How to Ace Calculus: The Streetwise Guide by Adams
How to Ace the Rest of Calculus: The Streetwise Guide, Including Multi-Variable Calculus by Adams
Five Equations that Changed the World by Michael Guillen
A great introduction to mathematicians and how their discoveries have influenced the world. Very readable. You may think you have met these men before, but think again!

God's Equation by Amir D. Aczel A truly fascinating look at Einstein, his theory of relativity and the universe. I particularly like this one, because it doesn't leave God "out of the equation."

The Golden Ratio by Mario Livio Why should "pi" get all the glory? "Phi" (pronounced "fee") has its own history. You'll be amazed at how often you can see evidence of phi in art, science and nature.

The Illustrated "On the Shoulders of Giants" by Stephen Hawking A collection of five of the most influential writings in physics and science, with an introduction to the scientist and the work written by Stephen Hawking, one of the most noted scientists of our day. The illustrations and diagrams are fabulous, and added to my comprehension.

Videos

The Story of 1 There is a clip of a topless native tribal women making tortillas that last about 5 seconds.

Recommended websites:

This website has book lists based on subject matter:
<http://www.livingmath.net/ReadersbyConcept/tabid/268/Default.aspx>

This website has more math book lists:
<http://www.pennygardner.com/mathclassics.html>

Melissa and her husband Matt have been homeschooling their 3 daughters for 9 years. She is a great resource for all things homeschooling and resides in Northern VA.