

Linking Literature and Mathematics in Meaningful Ways

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Criteria for Selecting Math-Related Books for Children

1. Choose books that reflect mathematical accuracy, functional use, and accessibility of ideas.
2. Choose books that reflect an aesthetic dimension. Books should awaken in us an appreciation of form, design, and beautiful language.
3. Choose books that invite varied responses. Books should hook the reader by the intrigue of the story, the open-ended nature of the illustrations, and/or the natural integration of mathematical ideas.

Strategies for Responding to Math-Related Literature

1. Pose questions that encourage children to count in different ways.
 - a. Where shall we start counting?
 - b. What is another way we can count?
 - c. Why did we get the same answer?
 - d. What groups of things do you see?
2. Share books that encourage children to look closely at their world.
3. Encourage children to question an author's intentions or challenge an author's information.
4. Invite children to use the pattern of a story to create a new story.
5. Select a pair of books to explore a mathematical concept or relationship.

Reference:

Whitin, David J. & Whitin, Phyllis. (in press). *New visions for linking literature and mathematics*. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English.