

Making the Most of Children's Literature: A Context to Explore Math and Understand the World

NCTM 100

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Why literature?

Students are engaged by it.

- Children love stories!

Students connect to it.

- See themselves and their experiences (if we select thoughtfully)

Students are transported by it.

- Step out of their world into another world and different experiences

Students are challenged by it.

- Consider and reflect on new perspectives

Suggested Titles and Related Math Topics:

Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull (comparing decimals to hundredths with race times)

Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter (rectangle model for multiplication to find total trees planted)

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson (exploring powers of ten through acts of kindness)

Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina (multiplication arrays using meat pies on baking sheets)

Can I Be Your Dog? by Troy Cummings (perimeter of play areas for dogs)

Amelia's Road by Linda Jacobs Altman (coordinate grids to locate a buried treasure box)

George Crum and the Saratoga Chip by Gaylia Taylor (comparing 3-digit numbers to analyze snack foods)

Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy (exploring lines and angles in art)

Roberto Clemente by Jonah Winter (comparing decimals to thousandths in batting averages)

Jalapeno Bagels by Natasha Wing (multiplying a fraction by a whole number to expand recipes)

One Hen by Katie Smith Milway (solving math problems about loans)

The Have a Good Day Café by Frances Park and Ginger Park (multiplying by 6 to determine how much to cook)

City Green by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (area of rectangles in gardens)

The books we choose can...

...connect our students to real math.

...reflect our students' lives and experiences.

...transport them to different worlds.

...challenge them to consider new perspectives.

...inspire them to make change.

...be a springboard to discussions about social justice.

Why settle for less?

For more ideas or to stay in touch:

Twitter: @SueOConnellMath

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Join the *Math in Practice* Facebook group to join ongoing conversations about teaching math K-5.