From Models to Meaning: Cultivating a Deep Understanding of Fractions

Sue O'Connell Oct. 17, 2025

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Children's Literature Mentioned in the Session:

Full House by Dayle Ann Dodds – explore fraction notation by placing square tiles on a model of the inn Pizza Mouse by Michael Garland – consider what fraction of the whole pizza the mouse took home Sweet Potato Pie by Kathleen Lindsey – compare fractions thinking about which flour sack held more or which child got more milk

Picture Pie by Ed Emberley – add fractions with unlike denominators by exploring art made of fraction pieces

Resources:

Visit Sue's website at: https://www.gualityteacherdevelopment.com/

Math by the Book site (free download of a K-5 math/lit list, free sample

lessons): https://www.heinemann.com/mathbythebook/

Follow Sue on social media:

Math in Practice/Sue O'Connell Facebook group (shares lots of math lit

ideas): https://www.facebook.com/groups/MathinPractice

Bluesky: @sueoconnellmath.bsky.social

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/sue-o-connell-6b072a18

Twitter (X): @SueOConnellMath

More Resources:

Navigating Numeracy Learning Progression Centers (Hand2Mind, www.hand2mind.com/navigating-numeracy)

These K-5 kits focus on centers that reinforce priority number and operations standards. Each grade-specific kit contains centers for 15 math topics, with 3 tiered centers for each topic to allow students to begin where they are and work toward mastery. The kits include a teacher's guide, game boards, direction cards, and all materials needed, as well as online access to print materials in Spanish and English. To see more, go to: www.hand2mind.com/navigating-numeracy

Math by the Book (Heinemann, www.mathbythebook.com)

This k-5 series shows ways to teach mathematics through the context of children's literature. It is filled with lessons that show the power of teaching mathematics through models and math talk. It includes games to practice the math skills, word problems, and lots of talk/writing prompts, along with online resources and video coaching. To learn more, or to download a list of children's literature, visit the website at www.mathbythebook.com.

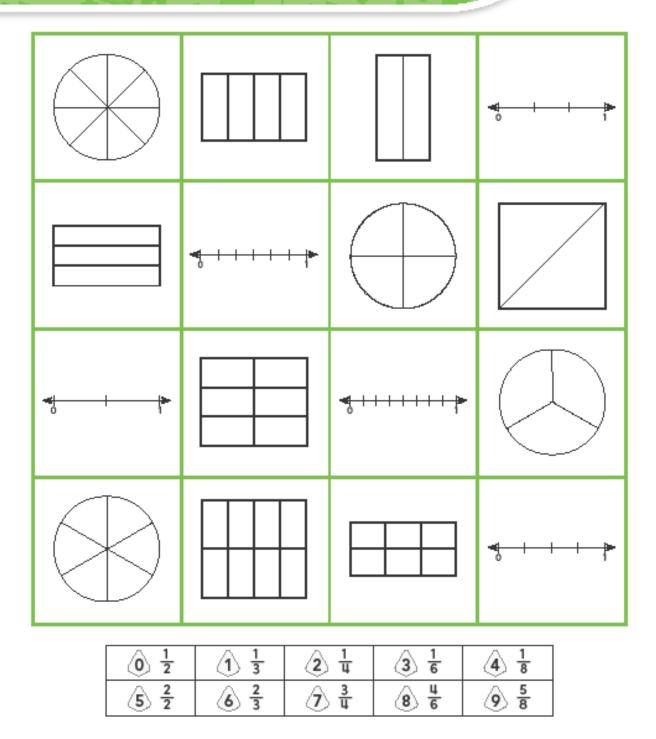
Math in Practice (www.mathinpractice.com)

This series is filled with lesson ideas, instructional strategies, practice tasks, and many online printable resources to make teaching K-5 math more meaningful and more fun. There is a book for each grade level K-5 that contains a wealth of grade-specific activities, as well as a *Guide for Teachers* filled with instructional strategies to support greater understanding of math concepts. A *Guide for Administrators* offers tips and strategies for math coaches/administrators. Visit the website at www.mathinpractice.com to view samplers, see videos, and learn more about the series.

Filling the Inn

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Fraction Four in a Row



Navigating Numeracy, Developed by Sue O'Connell: Fraction Four in a Row Game Board

hand2mind.com