

Starting with a Story: Picture Books as Pathways into K-5 Learning

2026 Extra Learning Opportunities Conference

Harrisburg, PA

Feb. 25, 2026

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How might teaching through investigations deepen students' math understanding as well as their curiosity, confidence, identity, and math joy?

Highlighted Stories

Title	Author	Possible Math Topic
Ten Gulab Jamuns: Counting with an Indian Sweet Treat	Sandhya Acharya	Intro to subtraction
Jalapeno Bagels	Natasha Wing	Multiplying a fraction by a whole number
Born and Bred in the Great Depression	Jonah Winter	Dividing a unit fraction by a whole number
Grandma's Purse	Vanessa Brantley-Newton	Counting concepts
Miss Nelson is Missing	Harry Allard	Adding a single-digit number to a two-digit number
Too Many Toys	David Shannon	Subtracting two-digit numbers
Dragons Love Tacos	Adam Rubin	Multiplying by a multiple of ten
Wangari's Trees of Peace	Jeanette Winter	Multi-digit multiplication
Harlem Grown	Tony Hillery	Exploring the concept of <i>perimeter</i>
Are We There Yet?	Dan Santat	Elapsed time
Night at the Fair	Donald Crews	Money and problem solving
A Gift for Amma	Meera Sriram	Money and problem solving
Thanking the Moon	Grace Lin	Adding 10
Math for All Seasons	Greg Tang	Number sense
The Ugly Vegetables	Grace Lin	Gathering data

Resources

For more math/literature investigations by grade level from K-5:

www.MathinPractice.com

www.MathbytheBook.com – download a list of 120 literature and related math topics from K-5 at this site

Follow Sue on Blue Sky @sueoconnellmath.bsky.social

Join Sue's Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MathinPractice>

Explore Sue's resources, along with links to additional math tools and resources on her website:

<https://www.qualityteacherdevelopment.com/>

New from hand2Mind: Navigating Numeracy K-5 Center Kits - <https://www.hand2mind.com/supplemental-curriculum/math/navigating-numeracy-learning-progression-centers>

Check out these padlets for more literature to launch math lessons:

Padlet of K-2 Children's Literature Related to Math Skills/Concepts

<https://padlet.com/sueoc46/j3uevoy154m1fuhb>

Padlet of Grades 3-5 Children's Literature Related to Math Skills/Concepts

<https://padlet.com/sueoc46/who7w8089bm6r6k2>

Padlet of K-5 Culturally Diverse Children's Literature with Math Connections

<https://padlet.com/georginarivera123/2ygfo12jusaomm7s>

Download a list of 120 children's books and associated math topics at:

www.MathbytheBook.com