

Introduction

This book is the latest in our Math Solutions series for teaching mathematics using children’s literature, and I’m pleased to present the complete series:

- Math and Literature, Grades K–1*
- Math and Literature, Grades 2–3*
- Math and Literature, Grades 4–6, Second Edition*
- Math and Literature, Grades 6–8*
- Math and Nonfiction, Grades K–2*
- Math and Nonfiction, Grades 3–5*
- Math and Nonfiction, Grades 6–8*

More than fifteen years ago we published my book *Math and Literature (K–3)*. My premise for that book was that children’s books can be effective vehicles for motivating children to think and reason mathematically. I searched for books that I knew would stimulate children’s imaginations and that also could be used to teach important math concepts and skills.

After that first book’s publication, my colleague Stephanie Sheffield began sending me the titles of children’s books she had discovered and descriptions of the lessons she had taught based on them. Three years later, we published Stephanie’s *Math and Literature (K–3), Book Two*. And the following year we published Rusty Bresser’s *Math and Literature (Grades 4–6)*, a companion to the existing books.

Over the years, some of the children’s books we initially included in our resources have, sadly, gone out of print. However, other wonderful titles have emerged. For this new series, we did a thorough review of our three original resources. Stephanie and I collaborated on substantially revising our two K–3 books and reorganizing them into two different books, one for grades K–1 and the other for grades 2–3. Rusty produced a second edition of his book for grades 4–6.

In response to the feedback we received from teachers, we became interested in creating a book that would offer lessons based on children's books for middle school students, and we were fortunate enough to find two wonderful teachers, Jennifer M. Bay-Williams and Sherri L. Martinie, to collaborate on *Math and Literature, Grades 6–8*, bringing the series to four books.

Also in response to teachers, we again increased the series with three additional books that focus on using children's nonfiction books as springboards for lessons. Jamee Petersen created *Math and Nonfiction, Grades K–2*; Stephanie Sheffield built on her experience with the Math and Literature books to team with her colleague Kathleen Gallagher to write *Math and Nonfiction, Grades 3–5*; and Jennifer Bay-Williams and Sherri Martinie created another wonderful resource for middle school teachers, *Math and Nonfiction, Grades 6–8*. We learned that using nonfiction books in math lessons differed from using fiction. Hearing nonfiction books read aloud to them requires children to listen in a different way. Students listen to the facts presented and assimilate that information into what they already know about that particular subject. We learned that rather than read from cover to cover as with fiction, it sometimes makes more sense to read only a portion of a nonfiction book and investigate the subject matter presented in that portion. The authors of our Math and Nonfiction books are sensitive to the demands of nonfiction and how to present new information in order to make it accessible to children.

We're still fond of the lessons that were based on children's books that are now out of print, and we know that through libraries, the Internet, and used bookstores, teachers have access to some of those books. Therefore, we've made all of the older lessons that are not included in the new series of books available online at www.mathsolutions.com. Please visit our website for those lessons and for additional support for teaching math.

I'm pleased and proud to present these books. It was a joy to work on them, and I'm convinced that you and your students will benefit from the lessons we offer.

MARILYN BURNS
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