

Reading in Math

Through books, learners see mathematics as a “common human activity,” which can be used in various contexts.

Chapter books for young adults:

Sticks by Joan Bauer—This young adult novel makes geometry and mathematical predictions come alive for students. Bauer uses a pool competition as the springboard for teaching about angles and vectors.

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster and Jules Feiffer—Traveling in a mysterious and magical tollbooth, Milo visits the island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time, and embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason.

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions by Edwin A. Abbott—This masterpiece of science and mathematical fiction is a delightfully unique and highly entertaining satire that has charmed readers for more than 100 years. It describes the journeys of A. Square, a mathematician and resident of the two-dimensional Flatland, where women--thin, straight lines—are the lowliest of shapes, and where men may have any number of sides, depending on their social status.

Return of the Flatland by Edwin A. Abbott – the sequel

Sphereland by Abbott, Burger, and Asimov

Nature’s Numbers by Ian Stewart—Non-fiction--A wonderful venture into the world of thinking mathematically—seeing patterns in the universe and using them to solve puzzles.

The Number Devil – chapter book

The Arithmetic of Life and Death – two and three page essays

The Mathematical Tourist

The Man Who Loved Only Numbers by Paul Hoffman—this is an adult book

The Ascent of Man by Jacob Bronowski

What Counts by Brian Butterworth

The Mathematical Experience by Philip Davis and Reuben Hersh

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

How the Mind Works by Steven Pinker

Pictures Books:

The Greedy Triangle by Burns and Silveria - polygons

The Grapes of Math by Tang and Briggs

Math Curse by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Anno's Hat Tricks by Akihiro Nozaki and Mitsumasa Anno – logic and reasoning

Anno's Magic Jar by Akihiro Nozaki and Mitsumasa Anno – logic and reasoning

Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar - multiplication

Socrates and the Three Little Pigs by Mitsumasa Anno – logic and reasoning

Many Tomales by Gary Soto

Running the Road to ABC by Denize Lanture

The Z Was Zapped by Chris Van Allsburg—an excellent alphabet book than can be used to model the Mathematical Alphabet project.

Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi by Cindy Neuschwander - geometry

Sir Cumference and the First Round Table by Cindy Neuschwander - geometry

Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Angleland by Cindy Neuschwander - geometry

How Much is a Million? - numbers

One Grain of Rice by Demi - numbers

How Tall, How Short, How Far Away? by David Adler – distance and measurement

Pigs in the Pantry: Fun with Math and Cooking by Amy Axelrod – units of measurement

Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs - application of coordinates and Pythagorean theorem

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown – properties of two and three-dimensional figures and coordinate planes.

Spaghetti and Meatballs for All by Marilyn Burns – area and perimeter, units of length and distance

A Cloak for the Dreamer by Aileen Friedman – geometry

The Fly on the Ceiling: A Math Myth by Julie Glass – Descartes and his system of coordinates

Jack and the Beanstalk by Steven Kellogg – application of coordinates and Pythagorean theorem

The Librarian Who Measured the Earth by Kathryn Lasky – distance and measurement

How We Learned the Earth Is Round by Patricia Lauber – distance and measurement

The Silly Story of Goldie Locks and the Three Squares by Grace MacCarone - geometry

The Adventures of Penrose the Mathematical Cat by Theoni Pappas

The Warlords' Puzzle by Virginia Walton Pilegard

G Is for Googol by David Schwartz – polygons, units of measurement, and mathematical terms

Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert - tangrams