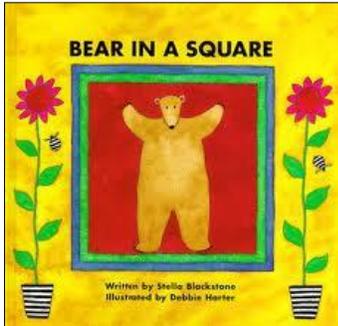


In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More
Math
Book Recommendations

This list of book recommendations was created by specialists in literature for young people to supplement *In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More*, a professional development day presented by The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, in conjunction with the Perry Ohio School District. We invite you to print and share this list as needed. Books are listed by age range. This document is formatted so you can print it double sided on 3-hole punch paper and store in a binder. Lists of book recommendations for many other categories are available at: thencbla.org



Bear in a Square

Written by Stella Blackstone, illustrated by Debbie Harter.

Published by Barefoot Books.

For ages 3-5.

Informational Picture Book: Share the adventures of Bear as he wanders through all sorts of familiar environments, discovering different shapes along his way. And if you look closely, you'll find squares, circles, triangles, zig-zags, and stars hidden in each scene!

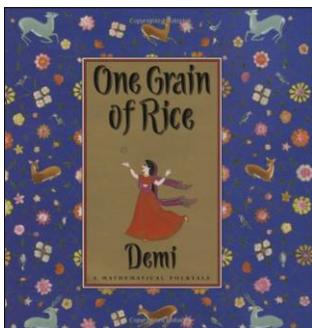
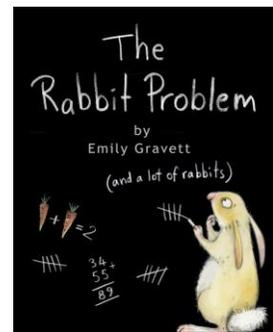
The Rabbit Problem

Written and illustrated by Emily Gravett.

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

For ages 4 and up.

Informational Picture Book: How does $1+1 = 288$? A family of rabbits soon supplies the answer in this funny story! Hop along to Fibonacci's Field and follow Lonely and Chalk Rabbit through a year as they try to cope with their fast expanding brood and handle a different seasonal challenge each month, from the cold of February to the wet of April and the heat of July. This extraordinary picture book is packed with gorgeous details and novelty elements including a baby rabbit record book, a carrot recipe book, and a surprise pop-up ending.



One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale

Written by Demi.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 4-8.

Folktale: Long ago in India, there lived a raja who believed that he was wise and fair. But every year he kept nearly all the people's rice for himself. Then a village girl named Rani devises a clever plan, using the surprising power of doubling to win more than one billion grains of rice from the raja.

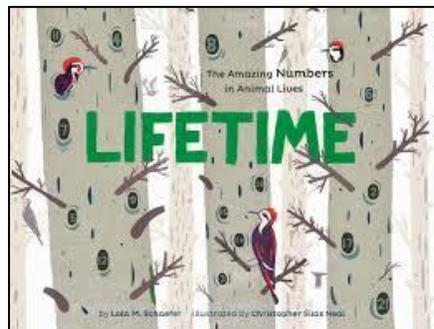
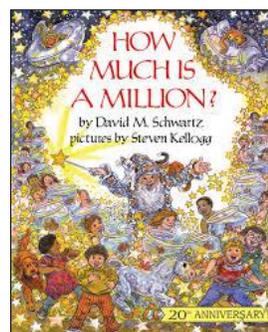
How Much Is a Million?

Written by David M. Schwartz, illustrated by Steven Kellogg.

Published by Reading Rainbow Books.

For ages 4-10.

Informational Picture Book: *How Much Is a Million?* knocks complex numbers down to size in a fun, humorous way, helping children conceptualize a difficult mathematical concept—an ALA Notable Book, a *Reading Rainbow* selection, and a *Boston Globe/Horn Book* Honor Book for Illustration.



Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives

Written by Lola M. Schaefer,
illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal.

Published by Chronicle.

For ages 4-10.

Nonfiction: Showcases animal information not available anywhere else—a book about picturing numbers and considering the endlessly fascinating lives all around us, sure

to delight young nature lovers.

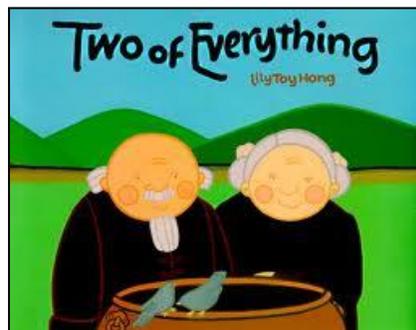
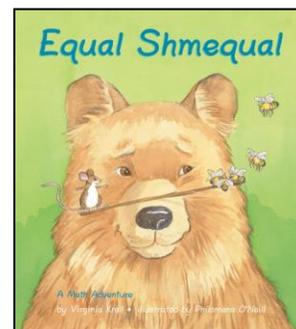
Equal Schmequal

Written by Virginia Kroll, illustrated by Philomena O'Neill.

Published by Philomena O'Neill.

For ages 5-8.

Fiction: Mouse and her forest friends want to play tug-o'-war and must think mathematically in order to make their teams equal.



Two of Everything

Written and illustrated by Lily Toy Hung.

Published by Albert Whitman & Co.

For ages 5-8.

Folktale: Mr. Haktak digs up a curious brass pot in his garden and decides to carry his coin purse in it. When Mrs. Haktak's hairpin slips into the pot, she reaches in and pulls out two coin purses and two hairpins—this is a magic pot.

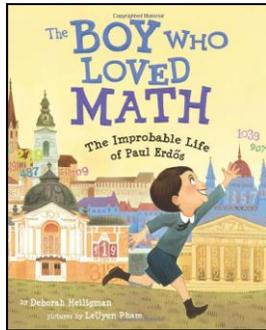
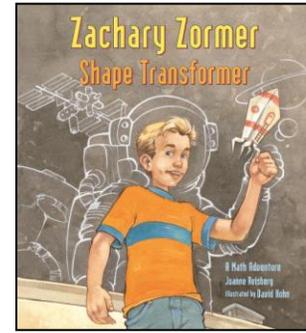
Zachary Zormer: Shape Transformer

Written by Joanne Anderson Reisberg, illustrated by David Clark.

Published by Charlesbridge.

For ages 5-8.

Fiction: Each week Zachary uses whatever is in his pockets to take on a different math concept (length, width, area, perimeter) with projects that include a Mobius strip, a paper frame, and a light show.



The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdős

Written by Deborah Heiligman, illustrated by LeUyen Pham.

Published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 6-9.

Biography: With a simple, lyrical text and richly layered illustrations, this is a beautiful introduction to the world of math and a fascinating look at the unique character traits that made "Uncle Paul" a great man.

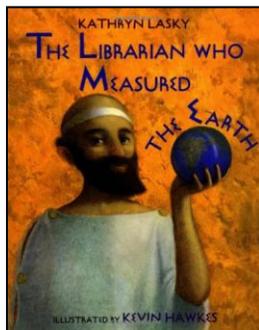
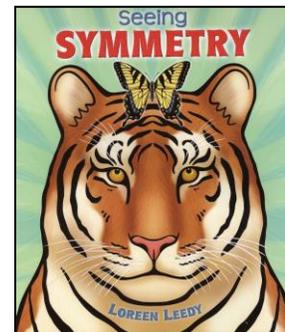
Seeing Symmetry

Written and illustrated by Loreen Leedy.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 8-11.

Nonfiction: Once you start looking, you can find symmetry all around you. It's in words and even letters. It's in both nature and man-made things. In fact, art, decoration, and buildings are full of it. This clear and concise book explains different types of symmetry and shows you how to spot them. Notes and a glossary are included, as well as activities that show kids how to make their own symmetrical masterpieces.



The Librarian Who Measured the Earth

Written by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes.

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

For ages 8-12.

Biography: A colorfully illustrated biography of the Greek philosopher and scientist Eratosthenes, who compiled the first geography book and accurately measured the globe's circumference.

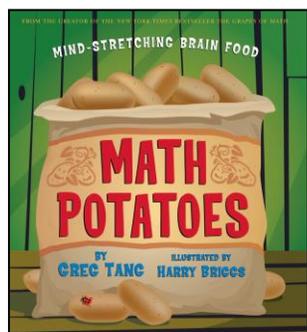
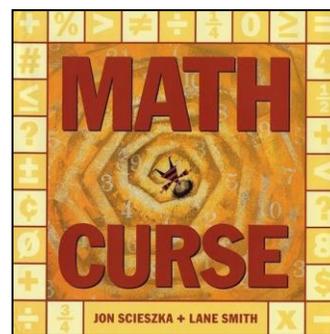
Math Curse

Written by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith.

Published by Viking.

For ages 8-12.

Informational Picture Book: Did you ever wake up to one of those days where everything is a problem? You have 10 things to do, but only 30 minutes till the bus leaves. Is there enough time? You have 3 shirts and 2 pairs of pants -- can you make 1 good outfit? Don't worry—it's just the Math Curse striking! An amusing book about dealing with numbers in everyday life.



Math Potatoes: Mind-Stretching Brain Food

Written by Greg Tang, illustrated by Harry Briggs.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 8-12.

Nonfiction: Greg Tang is back with his bestselling approach to addition and subtraction: problem solving. By solving challenges that encourage kids to "group" numbers rather than memorize formulas, even the most reluctant math learners are inspired to see math in a

whole new way!

Mysterious Messages: A History of Codes and Ciphers

Written by Gary Blackwood.

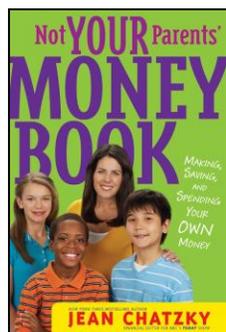
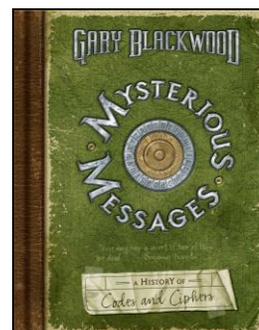
Published by Dutton.

For ages 10-14.

Nonfiction: This fascinating look at history's most mysterious messages is packed with puzzles to decode and ciphers that kids can use themselves.

Here are the encrypted notes of Spartan warriors, the brilliant code-crackers of Elizabeth I, secret messages of the American Revolution, spy books of the Civil War, the famous Enigma Machine, and the Navajo code talkers. As computers change the way we communicate, codes today are more intriguing than ever.

From invisible ink to the CIA, this exciting trip through history is a hands-on, interactive experience. So get cracking!



Not Your Parents' Money Book

Written by Jean Chatzky, illustrated by Erwin Haya.

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

For ages 11-12.

Nonfiction: For the first time, financial guru and *Today Show* regular Jean Chatzky brings her expertise to a young audience. Chatzky provides her unique, savvy perspective on money with advice and insight on managing finances, even on a small scale. This book will reach kids before bad spending habits can get out of control. With answers and ideas from real kids, this grounded approach to spending and saving will be a welcome change for kids who are inundated by a consumer-driven culture. This book talks about money through the ages, how money is actually

made and spent, and the best ways for tweens to earn and save money.

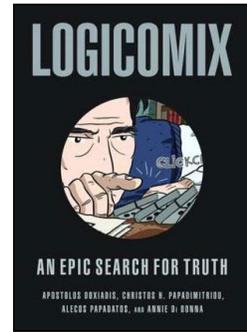
Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth

Written by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos H. Papadimitriou,
illustrated by Alecos Papadatos.

Published by Bloomsbury.

For ages 12 and up.

Graphic Novel: This exceptional graphic novel recounts the spiritual odyssey of philosopher Bertrand Russell. In his agonized search for absolute truth, Russell crosses paths with legendary thinkers like Gottlob Frege, David Hilbert, and Kurt Gödel, and finds a passionate student in the great Ludwig Wittgenstein. But his most ambitious goal—to establish unshakable logical foundations of mathematics—continues to loom before him. Through love and hate, peace and war, Russell persists in the dogged mission that threatens to claim both his career and his personal happiness, finally driving him to the brink of insanity.



©2014 by *The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance*