

FIGURE THIS!

Math Challenges for Families



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS



Math and Literature

Our family likes to read. Are there any good books that make math part of the story?

Find math where you least expect it—in your child’s books and reading materials.

Math turns up in the most unexpected places! You’ll find it somewhere between the covers of almost any book—novels, mysteries, biographies, legends, and adventures.

For ideas on how you and your child might talk about the math you discover in books you read, look over these selections and the questions that follow below them. But they’re only starters.

You’ll soon start finding the math in everything you read. Talking about it is one more way to bring your family together. Enjoy!

www.figurethis.org/fc/family_corner_literature.htm

How can I work with GSD to make sure my child gets the most out of math?

Just like your child, schools need your support—especially in the middle school years. Since choices made in middle school determine high school courses that either increase or limit future education and career opportunities, your participation is critical.

Two people you should get to know are your child’s math teacher and the school counselor. Working with you and your child, they can help you decide the math your child will take in the future. Talk with them often. Let them know that you want to participate in making decisions.

How do you begin? Ask questions. After all, you have a right to know.

Find out if your child is getting the same opportunities in math as everyone else. Ask if a plan is already in place for your child’s future math classes. If so, ask to see it. State that you have high expectations. Make it clear that you want your child to take challenging math classes each year through high school.

You’ll find that teachers and counselors will be happy to answer your questions. After all, you’re in this together.

www.figurethis.org/fc/family_corner_school.htm



Does drinking soda affect your health?



Figure This! For this study, researchers questioned ninth- and tenth-grade girls at a Boston-area high school. Do the data support the headline?

Hint?

Data organized in tables help people understand how different categories or groups are related. Tables are used by researchers, businesses, media, and the government to display information about study results, profit and loss, news stories, and census data.

“Teenage girls’ soda intake is linked to broken bones”

| | Fractures | No Fractures |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Drank Cola | 38 | 69 |
| Did Not Drink Cola | 5 | 52 |

Source: USA Today, Thursday, June 15, 2000.