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## The math inspectors books

Disclosure: I was sent a set of these books in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.As a high school math teacher, I love finding fun ways to share math with kids. Recently I have been reading Learning to Love Math by Judy Willis, M.D. In it she mentions how math is the one school subject that conjures up a series of emotions for most people and usually they are negative. I cannot tell you how many times people tell me they can't do math or hated math when they find out I'm a math teacher. One of the things Dr. Willis mentions is we need to change this in society. We need to stop telling kids that adults didn't do well or hate math. Parents, teachers, coaches, etc. are giving kids permission to not do well in math and to not really try. So please if you are one of the people who does not like math or didn't do well, please keep it to yourself. Don't give kids the permission to be like you. It is something we are working on at our school this year. With that said I get to share a great series of middle grades mystery novels about a bunch of math loving students who use their math to solve mysteries!! The series is The Math Inspectors by Daniel Kenney and Emily Boever. This series is recommended for ages 9 to 12.Stanley, Charlotte, Gertie, and Felix are just your typical twelve-year-old kids. They love to hang out after school...they love burgers and milkshakes...and they love math.And if there's one thing they love even more than math, it's solving mysteries! Thankfully, their hometown of Ravensburg, New York has plenty of mystery, and quite a few secrets.Ok, I love mysteries and I love having math used in real life examples so these books are amazing!! They are fun stories with math built in. The kids are your everyday math loving kids. They love to get together and talk, eat, and be. Their hangout is Felix's treehouse and Mabel's diner. Think small town USA. Their peer rivals are the English club. Not sure math and English loving people have to not get along, but it gives them someone to debate with. The stories are interesting and fun to read. Kids will enjoy them even if they don't love math!! They add in a new member to their club, and he is not a math genius, so they are often explaining the math to him or each other so the book has some great explanations of the math.The math is a bonus, and the topics of math are wide ranging. There are odds and betting, the Golden ratio, Fibonacci series, Pythagorean Theorem, and more! Some of these topics aren't covered in traditional math classes but are fun topics to learn about. Then at the end of each book are some math problems for the reader to see if he/she has what it takes to be a math inspector. The math inspectors are a diverse group of kids. The original are two boys and two girls. One of the boys is tall and can be annoying with his comments (think typical middle school boy) and eating habits. The other boy is the leader and is a math genius. Although rape is not discussed he is drawn as a Black boy. He is also afraid of many things and hates haunted houses, roller coasters, and more. The girls are different as well. One is shorter and stockier, and the other is more athletic. Their fifth member added in the second book seems to be Asian. The kids' interactions are fun and humorous at times. The books are easy to read and easy to get into. The mysteries are well written, and you will not guess the endings early on. There are many twists and turns to each one. I honestly hope these books will be added to every elementary/middle school library and the classrooms. They are such a wonderful way to bring math into real life situations (though some are more contrived than others) and show kids that math can be useful and fun. In a time when we need to inspire more kids into STEM fields all of which include math, these books are a great introduction to the fun side of math. I hope you will check them out! As you're probably already aware, a new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework will come into force in September 2019. You can get an overview of the new Framework in our blog post 'The new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework: What's changed?' We've taken a closer look at the Framework, alongside the new School Inspection Handbook that Ofsted inspectors will be using, and have pulled out some of the key points relating to how they will be assessing reading and maths in Primary schools. Reading: 5 things Ofsted inspectors are looking for The School Inspection Handbook explicitly states that assessing how well pupils are taught to read will be prioritised as a main inspection activity. Here are five important things that inspectors will be looking for when making the new 'Quality of Education' judgement: 1) Schools should be determined that every pupil will learn to read, prioritising reading as a foundation for future learning, and enabling children to access the rest of the curriculum and avoid falling behind. 2) Particular attention will be paid to pupils who are reading below age-related expectations (the lowest 20%) to assess how well your school is teaching phonics and supporting all children to become confident, fluent readers. Inspectors will listen to several low-attaining pupils in Years 1 to 3 read from unseen books appropriate to their progress, drawing on information from your school's reading policy, phonics assessments, phonics screening check results and lesson observations. 3) A sequential approach to the reading curriculum is expected; the sequence of reading books should demonstrate a cumulative progression in phonics knowledge, matched closely to your school's phonics programme, followed by ongoing reading progress throughout KS2. 4) A mix of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction should be used to develop pupils' vocabulary, language comprehension and continuing enjoyment of reading. 5) The ongoing assessment of pupils' reading progress should be frequent and detailed so that it identifies any pupil who is falling behind. Any gaps should be addressed quickly and effectively, with targeted support. Maths: 5 things Ofsted inspectors are looking for Inspectors will evaluate the quality of mathematics education through lesson observations, discussions with pupils and looking at their work, reviewing curriculum plans, discussions with curriculum leaders, and examining published data. Here are five specific things that inspectors will be looking for when it comes to 'Quality of Education' in maths teaching: 1) Schools' curriculum planning for maths should systematically build mathematical knowledge and skills. This means that children should be able to understand and draw on the knowledge, concepts and procedures they have already learned, and apply these to where they are now in their learning, as well as in the next stage. 2) Opportunities to show how mathematical reasoning and problem solving can be used to solve practical problems in everyday life should be identified and made the most of. You should also be thinking about the ways that pupils' mathematical knowledge can be used and developed elsewhere across the curriculum. 3) New material should be divided into manageable steps, with new procedures modelled, and using resources and approaches that help pupils understand what they are learning. Inspectors will be checking that you are revisiting pupils' previously learned knowledge, concepts and procedures to make sure that their mathematical knowledge becomes deeply embedded, encouraging rapid recall and increasing their maths confidence. 4) Flexible curriculum planning should be used to address any gaps in pupils' knowledge that stops them from learning new content, with assessment used to identify when they have reached the understanding they need to move on to new or more complex maths. Inspectors will want to see that any pupils who are behind age-related expectations are given opportunities to learn the mathematical knowledge and skills they need to catch up. 5) Inspectors will expect all teachers, including non-specialists, to have sufficient maths subject-knowledge, and for them to be supported by the necessary resources and professional development they need to deliver topics effectively. Want more details?The Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and School Inspection Handbook are available in full on the gov.uk website. Download the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework Download the Ofsted School Inspection Handbook Get support from Oxford We can support you with a range of resources that meet the requirements of the new Ofsted Education Inspection framework. Book an appointment with your local Educational Consultant now or take a look at the Primary Ofsted Framework page to see how we can help you ensure your school is Ofsted-ready. When the Claymore Diamond is stolen from Ravensbur... Do you want your kids to love reading, to get lost in an adventure, and maybe even enjoy math?Stanley, Charlotte, Gertie and Felix are just your typical twelve-year old kids. They love to hangout after school, they love burgers and milkshakes, and they love math.Wait. What?And if there's one thing they love even more than math, it's solving mysteries. Thankfully, their hometown of Ravensburg, New York has plenty of mystery. And quite a few secrets.Buy the first book in this great crime fighting series.The Math Inspectors: The Case of the Claymore Diamond, today!Age Level: 9 and up Grade Level: 3 and upLike Sherlock Holmes... but with Fractions!.THE MATH INSPECTORS = Adventure and Mystery with just a bit of Math!Book One - The Case of the Claymore Diamond.Book Two - The Case of the Mysterious Mr. Jekyll.Book Three - The Case of the Christmas Caper.Book Four - The Case of the Hamilton Roller Coaster.Book Five - The Case of the Forgotten Mine.THE MATH INSPECTORS JOURNALSThe Math Inspectors: Top Secret Journal.The Math Inspectors: Math Class Notebook.The Math Inspectors: Make Your Own Comic Book. Also By Daniel KenneyThe History Mystery Kids 1: Fiasco in Florida.The History Mystery Kids 2: Magic in Michigan.The History Mystery Kids 3: Midnight in Massachusetts.The History Mystery Kids 4: Camping in Colorado.The History Mystery Kids 5: Sabotage in South Carolina. Image not available forColor: To view this video download Flash Player Short, easy-to-read chapters Relatable characters (four kids) Solving a new mystery in each book Humor to keep them laughing Math word problems they can solve \$49.95 \$39.96 (Save 20%) Many kids are reluctant to read. But these books have 3 things that truly help change that: They are interest-based around math and solving problems, which helps immediately excite kids who enjoy math. The shorter chapters in these books are designed specifically to make kids feel progress as they read. Four relatable characters help readers identify with. Kids will enjoy reading if they are like or know someone like a character in a book. Problem #2: My Kids Won't Read Unless Its For School Book 1 & book 2 of The Math Inspectors series are Accelerated Reader approved. We are working on getting all five approved. They can test on these books for points at their school! Problem #3: I Can't Get Them Off Electronics (i.e. Video Games) This is a common problem that we aim to solve with our books. Here is what we can offer that helps: Engaging Covers: Kids get excited when the covers look cool to them, we put a ton of attention here. Interest-based stories: This is a series that is mainly about solving mysteries with math. So, it's perfect for math lovers. Designed for parents to enjoy: if you can't get them to read, you can start reading with them, and get them hooked! The Good News is with this series, your kids will be highly like to enjoy reading without much effort on your part. 5-Star Review: "We gave the set to our grandson who took the first book to school. His teacher saw it, asked to borrow it to look through. The teacher loved the book and my grandson has taken the whole series to school to share with the other students during their reading period." 5-Star Review: "My son started reading the first book and loved it. Flew through it in a couple of days and was off to the next one. Loves to tell us what's going on in the books. Great series for kids!" 5-Star Review: "I read this book to my 7 year old daughter and we both enjoyed it. We also did the word problems at the end of the book, which are a definitely above her current 2nd grade math skills, but it was fun to tell her how I would work through them." 5-Star Review: "We have one avid reader and one budding reader who both really like this book and the whole series. They say it's really funny and is a good story. It was recommended to me based on it being a good, clean, fun read." Format: Paperback Ages: 8 - 12 Grades: 4 - 7 Pages: 170 avg. Publisher: Bakken Books Dimensions: 5.5 x 8.5 Lexile Measure: Range: 620 - 650 AR Rating: Points: 2 to 3 & In Progress Read Inside Pages Great Math Chapter Book Series for Mathematics LOVERS! 5-Pack Book Series Kids Ages: 8-12 Can't Put Down. Key Reasons Kids Love This Series: Math word problems keep them engaged Humor, to keep them smiling Relatable character options (four kids) Short, easy-to-read chapters Kids enjoy a good mystery Book Series Description: Stanley, Charlotte, Gertie, and Felix are just your typical twelve-year-old kids. They love to hang out after school...they love burgers and milkshakes...and they love math. And if there's one thing they love even more than math, it's solving mysteries! Thankfully, their hometown of Ravensburg, New York has plenty of mystery, and quite a few secrets. This set includes (BOOKS 1-5): Book One - The Case of the Claymore Diamond Book Two - The Case of the Mysterious Mr. Jekyll Book Three - The Case of the Christmas Caper Book Four - The Case of the Hamilton Roller Coaster Book Five - The Case of the Forgotten Mine ABOUT THE AUTHOR Let's talk about some numbers first, as it seems appropriate for this series! The Math Inspectors is a mystery series for ages 9-12 about a group of twelve-year-old friends who use their love for math as a crime-fighting weapon. There are 5 books in the series, and each one is approximately 150 pages long. The story follows four (later five) diversely gifted characters: Stanley, Charlotte, Gertie, Felix (and later Herman). Each character brings a unique personality and set of skills to the Math Inspectors group, although they all share a love of math. Likewise, each book in the series has its own distinctive feeling and setting while tackling different mysteries that are tied to the kids' hometown of Ravensburg, New York. Because each book is so distinctive and does a good job reintroducing the characters, your child can read independently. However, the books build upon one another a bit in terms of plot and character development. This series revisits a familiar concept for most kids. The premise of friends solving crime together is classic, and it's popular for a reason. Kids are naturally drawn to mysteries, perhaps because they are constantly in a state of figuring things out in life! If your kids have ever enjoyed Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, or Scooby Doo, The Math Inspectors premise will appeal to them. In fact, there are several self-aware references made by the group of friends about their similarities to the Scooby Gang. However, the authors put a totally original spin on this premise by writing main characters who are unabashed math lovers. Their love of numbers makes their squad a little bit nerdy (the cool kind of nerdy), quirky, and gives them their crime-fighting abilities. Personally, this twist was what really intrigued me about the series to begin with. I have never encountered any book series that weaves math into the plot before. However, I absolutely love that concept, especially in a kids' book series. It also makes sense for the mystery genre because, as Stanley says: "If we find the right numbers, we find the truth." The Math Inspectors authors have hit on something uniquely brilliant in this concept. As a homeschooling parent, it also grabs my attention because I love it when subjects can cross over in a way that's fun and accessible. In reviewing this series, I decided to read it with my daughter, who just turned 8 a couple of weeks ago. Here are some of our thoughts! I appreciated several things about The Math Inspectors series as a parent and educator (more about those later). However, I wanted to start by sharing with you the element my daughter and I loved about The Math Inspectors. (Spoiler: it wasn't what I was expecting.) Most of all, we both completely enjoyed the dialogue and characters in these books! The conversations between the characters are so well-written, quirky, and fun! Several times when reading the books together, we found ourselves laughing out loud at the dialogue between Stanley and his friends. In fact, the conversations made it very easy to visualize the story. I could easily see this series being adapted into a television series (I think it would be a hit!) My daughter is a little younger than the target audience, so every once in a while, some of the banter would go over her head. However, I don't think this is a bad thing. In fact, it really gets at another one of this series' strengths: the books don't talk down to their target age range of 9-12. In an 8-year-old's words: "My favorite thing about The Math Inspectors books are the characters. They are smart and funny, and I feel like they like a lot of the same things I do." This is important feedback. If kids don't enjoy reading a series, or connect with its characters, then you don't have readers! I think these books' authors have done a great job creating characters that will draw young readers in and make them feel like they are reading about kids with whom they could be friends. Because of this, I wasn't too surprised to discover that Daniel Kenney is a father of eight who teaches high school. Emily Boever also has eight children, is a homeschooling mom, and teaches other students in addition to her own. The authors' collective knowledge of kids and how they interact with each other shines through in this series! Also, in keeping with Bakken Books' mission, the main characters are wholesome (not to be confused with "perfect"). Stanley and the gang value friendship, model creative problem-solving, and love helping their community. For example, in book #3, The Case of the Christmas Caper, the kids spend Christmas Eve trying to save Christmas for children at a local hospital. Sometimes a result of creating "clean" content can be characters who are too saintly, a little bit flat, or just unrelatable to the audience. While this series is very clean, it also tackles the task of "wholesome characters" with quirkiness and humor that kids in this age range can relate to. In summary, the characters are the real heartbeat of this series. They're smart, wholesome, big-hearted oddballs, and I think your kids will love them. Katie is a Christian, wife, writer, and homeschooling mother of two. She and her husband are both homeschool graduates who now homeschool their children. Katie is passionate about literature, the arts, STEM, and education. Katie has a MA in English and literature, and she works with her local STEM organization and Classical Conversations community to help create hands-on learning opportunities for children. She teaches NASA Astro Camp every summer, and she loves to read and paint whenever she can. She believes that the arts and sciences have much more in common than many people realize! PRAISE FOR THE MATH INSPECTORS"Clever, humorous and well-written detective mystery targeted for late elementary and middle school readers. I must admit the plot kept me guessing and entertained. Chapters are short and easy to read. Pencil sketches are an added bonus. I particularly enjoyed the way that the authors found a way to integrate those dreaded hard to solve math word problems right into the story line.""This is a fun math story for the 8 to Tween set, with well developed characters who could jump onto the Saturday morning TV screen and find a comfortable home on PBS. I look forward to more in this series for myself and the kids in my life!"Math Is Useful At The Crime Scene"Great book for late elementary and middle school youth.... detectives who use math to solve the crime. Also teaches that "word problems" are real life math. Cute story even teachers and parents will enjoy. Math can be FUN!"If you've read any of the Math Inspectors books, you're probably hooked on crime solving, math problems, and chocolate milkshakes. Well, we can't help you with the milkshakes. But if you've answered the bonus problems at the end of the book, check your answers below and find out just how smart you really are. Answers to the bonus questions at the end of BOOK 1: Problem 1:Polly can buy 9 brooms (and have some change left over)Problem 2:Stella spent \$204.00 attending Rhyming CampProblem 3:Felix would eat 70.5 truffles for \$123.38 & get sick immediately Problem 4:Wervish would get 159 votes and Martridge would get 141 votes Answers to the bonus questions at the end of BOOK 2: Problem 1:Mr. Under sells 67 hotdogs per hour (answer is rounded)Problem 2:Felix needs 1.25 gallons of melted chocolateProblem 3:Felix needs 44 (1-pint jars) to sell all of that delicious soup Problem 4:Felix's shoulder will stop functioning in 349 minutesAnswers to the bonus questions at the end of BOOK 3: Problem 1:It will be 49/100 on the Boring Scale Problem 2:Gertie will pay \$10 plus \$13 for a penalty (for a total of \$23)Problem 3:Gertie caught %300 more Problem 4:92 hours of shoving!Problem 5:3/4 of a foot tallerAnswers to the bonus questions at the end of BOOK 4: Problem 1:We will make \$4.19 per cat that we wash!Problem 2:We would need to wash 478 cats!Problem 3:Smoothie 1 = \$.94, Smoothie 2 = \$.68, Smoothie 3 = \$.39 profitProblem 4:Would need to sell 513 smoothies!Answers to the bonus questions at the end of BOOK 5: Problem 1:The next number will be 16!Problem 2:Begin with 1, and skip count by 3!Problem 3:A 1/9 chance, or 11.1%!Problem 4:A 1/6 chance, or 16.7%!Problem 5:Gertie would finish in 20 seconds, and Felix would finish in 24 seconds. So go!Collect all 5 of the Amazon Best Selling Math Inspectors Books & More! The Claymore Diamond is missing! And the Math Inspectors think the wrong man has been arrested... but can they prove it? When Ravensburg is hit by acts of hilarious vandalism, the Math Inspectors are called in...but is to solve the case or take the fall? What's the worst possible Christmas crime? It's the one the Math Inspectors face in this story. Can they save Christmas?When the Math Inspectors are targeted by a criminal mastermind, more than their favorite roller coaster is on the line. What's going to happen?A field trip to an abandoned mining town...what could go wrong? How about everything! And this time, things could turn explosive.Are you ready to be a Math Inspector and solve cases of your own? Then you're going to need a journal to write down all your clues! This book has 120 PAGES OF BLANK COMIC STRIPS just waiting for your imagination!Write your own the math mystery for The Math Inspectors: Stanley, Charlotte, Gertie, Felix, and Herman. Or, make your own adventure!Math Inspector Class Notebook A Lined Journal For Math Class!Hey Fellow Math Inspectors! If you want to get better at solving mysteries, you know what you need to do...keep getting better at math! One great place to get better at math is MATH CLASS, of course. Not only did Stanley come up with the bright idea of starting the Math Inspectors with his friends, but he's the heart of the group. If he knows there's a math mystery to be solved, he never gives up...no matter what!Charlotte has been Stanley's best friend ever since she can remember. Brave, loyal, athletic, and a real math lover, Charlotte is a key member of the crew. Luckily for the Math Inspectors, she also has a photographic memory! Not a bad skill for a detective.Gertie may be the shortest member of the Math Inspectors, but she is has the biggest personality. Feisty but loyal, her math speciality is word problems, and she always has a notebook ready to jot down important notes and complicated problems. Felix loves snacks and hates squirrels. He and Gertie are best pals, even though he drives her a bit crazy. Felix is always fun to have around, but don't let that fool you! He's the most advanced mathematician on the team.Herman wasn't part of the team from the beginning. He wasn't even friends with the rest of the Math Inspectors. In fact, his unique talents aren't mathematical. But rest assured, Herman has become an indispensable part of the Math Inspectors. Polly Partridge is DEFINITELY NOT a Math Inspector! She the leader of the English Club, and she's convinced that people who like math more than Shakespeare are crazy. She causes all sorts of problems for the Math Inspectors at school... and sometimes with the police as well.Officer Bobby Evans is a standout in the Ravensburg Police Department. Having spent years as a resource officer, Evans knows that Stanley and his friends are smart kids. When the kids turn into amateur detectives, they put a lot of trust in Evans to back them up.Ravensburg Police Chief Abrams does not like amateur detectives messing in his business of crime solving. And he doesn't like kids very much, either. So you can imagine how much Chief Abrams loves working with the Math Inspectors! Answer: not very much. Stanley, Charlotte, Gertie, Felix, and Herman have solved lots of problems and stopped many criminals...maybe one too many! Now, one of those criminals wants a little paycheck. But who is MacBeth? The clues are there. Read closely and see if you can find out who this mastermind is, even before the Math Inspectors do!If you liked The Math Inspectors, check out our other works!Emily is the wife of Matt, a homeschooling mother of many children, and a teacher of typical and dyslexic students, both in person and online. Emily specializes in the topics of homeschooling, history, non-fiction research, storytelling, and dyslexia awareness.Check out Emily's online classes here.