

USING MATHS STORYBOOKS TO ENGAGE CHILDREN

Mini 'stories' can be an effective way to reveal mathematical structure and are a common feature in some of the best maths textbooks



NUMBERS
(Counting and Place Value)



What would you say makes a good maths story picture book?

First, it must contain an **engaging story** - it mustn't be a word problem or textbook in disguise.

Second, it should be able to demonstrate how different representations of a concept come together - the **illustrations must match the context and the mathematics.**

Third, the story should demonstrate how maths can be used, by the characters, to solve problems in an **everyday context.**

So where should we start? What are the benefits of learning maths through storybooks?

When compared to teaching through textbooks or worksheets, storybooks make mathematics more engaging. Quite often, there is some sort of a problem or crisis in the story and characters use their mathematical knowledge and skills to solve it. As children become involved in the narrative and characters, they emotionally invest in understanding the maths.

Stories also allow children to relate mathematics to their own lives through contextualisation.

Another powerful aspect is the visualisation of abstract mathematical ideas. Through illustrations, abstract concepts such as prime numbers or division of fractions are represented visually.