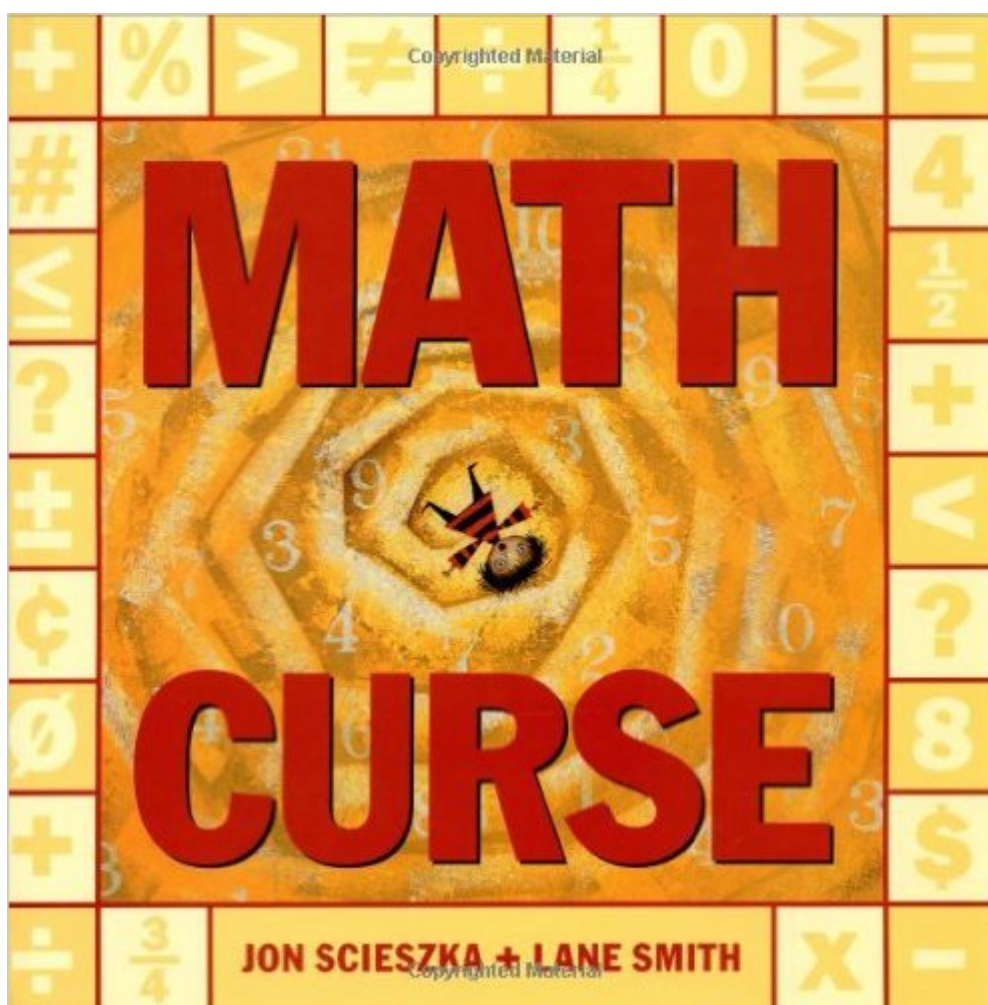


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# Math Curse



## Synopsis

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 until your bus leaves. Is there enough time? You have 3 shirts and 2 pairs of pants. Can you make 1 good outfit? Then you start to wonder: Why does everything have to be such a problem? Why do 2 apples always have to be added to 5 oranges? Why do 4 kids always have to divide 12 marbles? Why can't you just keep 10 cookies without someone taking 3 away? Why? Because you're a victim of the Math Curse. That's why. But don't despair. This is one girl's story of how that curse can be broken.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Viking; Library Binding edition (October 1, 1995)

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Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 0.3 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (125 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #11,247 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#51 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Counting](#) [#193 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#) [#251 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my daughter when she was in kindergarten. "Again Mommy." she demanded after I had read it to her. And so, I read it again. "Again Mommy." And so, I read it to her again. "Again Mommy." and so... I have long since lost track of how many times we read the book. It starts with Mrs. Fibonacci telling her class that "YOU KNOW, you can think of almost everything as a math problem." And we're off on adventure of doing just that. The illustrations are wonderful, and match the text perfectly. The book is silly for young children and funny for older children. It is obvious and subtle at the same time. I think this is why some reviewers think that it miscategorized as being for

ages 4 to 8. There is so much in the book that kids see it differently at different ages. My daughter is now in 4th grade and she still takes this book off the shelf to read... just for fun. Recently she had a math assignment to show a series of numbers. She chose a Fibonacci series. This book stays with you. The book ends with Mr. Newton telling his class "YOU KNOW, you can think of almost everything as a science experiment." Note to the author: I'm waiting for you to write the "Science Curse."

I teach math to adults, and I use this book in my classes when I discuss math anxiety. I also use it to illustrate some major math ideas, such as base numbers (important in computers and video games), the Fibonacci series (important in natural science and a good illustration of how math developed in the abstract can often later be found to have practical application), logic, and combinations. The book is chock full of math concepts, all presented in the context of everyday circumstances, which makes it a very valuable tool in making the argument to my students for their need to study math. It is also a very, very entertaining book, and all of my students can relate to the girl's frustration and anxiety. My 9 year old son reads this book at least once a week (for the last year, now!), and still laughs when he reads it. It is wonderfully illustrated and well written, a true gem. I recommend it for children and adults alike, and especially for math teachers of all ages.

There are few author-illustrator teams that I like as much as John Scieszka and Lane Smith. They have teamed up time and again to create books that both children and adults find humorous and wonder-filled. I have become an admirer of their books. Still--I had serious doubts that anyone could make math fun. Math Curse proved me wrong. One could scour the earth and not find a bigger hater and despiser of math than me. It has been a thorn in my side and the bane of my existence. Yet, surprisingly, Math Curse is just as engaging and funny as any other book by Scieszka/Smith. Smith in particular, does an exceptional job in this book. Some of his best illustrations can be found in these pages. The pages ringed by text are classic. The message of math curse is a simple one--math is all around us. The main character's teacher makes this point one day in class. The main character spends the rest of this book finding out just how true her teacher's statement was. The humor of Math Curse comes mainly from nonsensical (yet often true) problems that the main character works out in her head while seeking to cure her "math curse." Math Curse is a funny, educational book. It is representative of all that is great about the work of this author-illustrator team. I give it my full recommendation.

I'm a math major and during my classroom observations, I read this book to 4th graders and they loved it. The teacher ask me to stay and read it to the 5th and 6th graders. The book is illustrated beautifully and it really makes students and adults understand that math is a part of our every day life. I love the way the authors relate every aspect of the book to math: the price of the book is an addition problem, the price is also in available in binary, it's for ages >6 and

This is one of those children's books that adults will be reading to themselves and chuckling out loud. It was read to a classroom of 1st graders who loved it. Most of the children took it as a straightforward and funny story about a little girl who has had a "math curse" put on her by her math teacher. She perceives everything as a word problem in math. Some children (only one so far in my experience) might feel compelled to work each and every problem and experience distress if they can't come up with all the answers. Which is another important lesson of the book....some problems AREN't math problems. To try and solve these problems using math is just wacky. I think this lesson is every bit as important as the one that math is very pervasive in everyday life. The book ends when the little girl breaks the math curse and "life is just great until science class, when Mr. Newton says, YOU KNOW, you can think of almost everything as a science experiment..."

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