

Count on Me by Miguel Tanco

AGE LEVEL 5–8 years

About the Story

A little girl sees that her family and friends have different passions. Dad loves to paint, brother loves music, and friends love to cook or sing. But the little girl doesn't enjoy any of these activities. She can't play tennis or the tuba. She doesn't like karate. Instead, she loves math. She loves finding shapes in the trees and at the playground. She loves thinking about curves. She loves making shapes with her blocks. Her passion is deep and satisfying, too.



Text and illustrations © 2019 by Miguel Tanco

Words to Learn

MATH WORDS

geometric shapes, concentric circles, infinite ways

OTHER WORDS

passion, difficult

About the Math

This book is about both math (especially geometry) and more importantly, the passion for math. Children can learn:

- Math is all around us in the world.
- You can see triangles, squares, and more at the playground.
- You can see concentric circles in the lake.
- Children have many different passions.
- Your passion doesn't have to be the same as your friends'.
- You can *love* math.



Text and illustrations © 2019 by Miguel Tanco

Talk During Reading

EXPLORE SHAPES

How many different shapes can you find in the playground picture? How many different shapes are there in the picture of the blocks?

DISCUSS THE GIRL'S FEELINGS

How do you think the girl feels when her friends love to dance but she can't dance very well? Do you think her friends will find it hard to understand the girl's passion for math?

TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S FEELINGS

What is a passion? Do you have a passion? What is it? Do you think girls can love math?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

MAKE LISTS OF PASSIONS

Let's make a list of some things you are passionate about and some you are not passionate about. Can you make a list like this for some of your friends?

Mathical

BOOK PRIZE

The Mathical Book Prize recognizes math-inspiring literature for kids ages 2-18. Prize-winning books are selected by a committee of teachers, librarians, mathematicians, and others. To get the Mathical List, plus reading guides, book reviews, and more, see

mathicalbooks.org

PreK WINNERS:

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller by Kate Read
Crash! Boom! A Math Tale by Robie H. Harris
Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke
ONE Very Big Bear by Alice Brière-Haquet
8: An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper
Have You Seen My Dragon? by Steve Light

GRADES K-2 WINNERS:

Pigeon Math by Asia Citro
Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Cheryl Bardoe
Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s by Judy Cox
Absolutely One Thing: Featuring Charlie and Lola by Lauren Child
Max's Math by Kate Bank
One Big Pair of Underwear by Laura Gehl

PreK HONOR TITLES:

Animal Shapes by Christopher Silas Neal
Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett
Count with Maisy, Cheep, Cheep, Cheep! by Lucy Cousins
Goodnight, Numbers by Danica McKellar
I Know Numbers by Taro Gomi
A Mousy Mess by Laura Driscoll
One Happy Tiger by Catherine Rayner
Over in a River: Flowing Out to the Sea by Marianne Berkes
Press Here by Hervé Tullet
Round by Joyce Sidman
100 Bugs! A Counting Book by Kate Narita

GRADES K-2 HONOR TITLES:

The Boy Who Loved Math by Deborah Heiligman
Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant by Songju Ma Daemicke

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Helaine Becker
Count on Me by Miguel Tanco
The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca
How Many Jelly Beans? A Giant Book of Giant Numbers! by Andrea Menotti
Is 2 a Lot?: An Adventure with Numbers by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans
Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer
Shapes, Reshape! by Silvia Borando
When Sophie Thinks She Can't by Molly Bang
Zero the Hero by Joan Holub
3x4 by Ivan Brunetti

HALL OF FAME TITLES:

Hippos Go Berserk! by Sandra Boynton
One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale by Demi
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

