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Children's Literature as a Tool to Teach Mathematics

[Kara Weinstein](#)

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Department

Mathematics

First Advisor

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Abstract

Common Core State Standards have changed the way that we teach math concepts in elementary schools. These new educational standards promote teaching math for understanding instead of teaching the standard algorithms that have been traditionally taught. Children's literature is an alternative teaching method. The aim of this project is to examine children's literature with the purpose of teaching mathematic concepts. This project models the components of quality children's literature to create an original book that teaches students grades 3-5 about fractions. 2

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I think that children's literature offers a wonderful vehicle for helping teachers teach math well." In *Books* by Marilyn Burns, Burns uses traditional and original literature to address mathematical concepts. Her efforts show students that those subjects, like most classroom topics, are interrelated. "Combining math and literature in classroom activities is a way for teachers to invite children into the world of math," stated Burns. An educator who began teaching secondary mathematics in 1962, Burns describes the start of her writing career as a "fluke." A friend asked Burns whether she would be interested in writing a book about math for what became the Brown Paper School series. She did so, creating *The I Hate Mathematics! Book*, published in 1975. Children's literature may also be used as a form of therapy (bibliotherapy) to reach learners who may be frustrated with being taunted or teased for excelling in mathematics or for having math anxiety. practices like incorporating children's literature in the teaching of mathematics to be sure to turn students on to the subject and assist in such an anti-anxiety curriculum. SUMMARY. Teaching your kid math can be challenging, but by making it part of daily life and using helpful learning techniques, you can encourage them to learn. You can start teaching your kid math from a young age, like as soon as you start reading bedtime stories to them. Count things you use every day to encourage your child to copy you. For example, you could count the number of plates you need to set the table.