

Citation metadata

Author: Annette Ricks Leitze
Date: Mar. 1997
From: Teaching Children Mathematics(Vol. 3, Issue 7)
Publisher: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc.
Document Type: Article
Length: 4,915 words

Main content

Abstract :

School mathematics instruction emphasizes the need to make mathematical connections, such as that found between mathematics and children's literature. Making this connection enables students to see mathematics in everyday society and gives it a meaning in their lives. Since problem solving is the focus of the math curriculum, the math-literature link can be further strengthened by connecting literature with process problem solving. Process problems are those that require the use of thinking processes and are solved by using problem-solving strategies. Two methods on connecting process problem solving and literature are presented.

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Source Citation

Leitze, Annette Ricks. "Connecting process problem solving to children's literature." *Teaching Children Mathematics*, vol. 3, no. 7, 1997, p. 398+. Accessed 13 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A19284222

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

Applying a problem-solving approach in language arts is key to motivating students and seeing how skills build upon one another. Problem-solving in language arts means using language skills to understand or communicate an idea: Is this car worth the money? What's that guy's agenda? How can I get my doctor to understand what I'm experiencing? This connection incorporates problem solving into the curriculum, permits children to gain experience with mathematics other than computation, and integrates mathematics with other school subjects. Moreover, in classrooms where teachers use a literature-based language-arts program, the literature and process problem-solving connection can be further strengthened by connecting literature, problem solving, and language arts. My preservice elementary school teachers and I have successfully connected process problem solving and literature using two approaches. The first approach focuses on the problem-solving portion of the lesson and a particular strategy and seeks problems and a book with which to coordinate the two. Problem-solving activities can be just 'theoretical', when students discuss and present the solution, or 'practical' when they come up with an idea and try it out at work (e.g. which objects sink and which swim). Such practical activities can be more physical when students actually have to move more. Problem-solving activities can also serve different purposes in the lesson both linguistic such as agreeing, disagreeing, introducing ideas and social such as ice-breaking, team-building, etc. Let's have a look at some

'Physical' problem-solving activities first, which can be great for English sum