

Math-terpieces: The Art of Problem-Solving

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Math, Art, Poetry, Problem-Solving

Grade Level: K to 1st grade

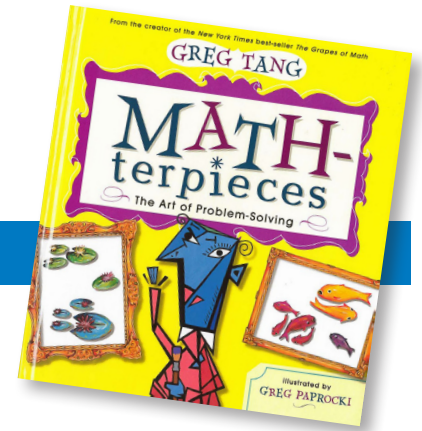
Book Brief: A collection of famous paintings, each paired with a clever poem that offers practice with making groups and addition.

Author:

Greg Tang

Illustrator:

Greg Paprocki



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Flip through the pictures and let kids pick which “math-terpiece” they want to read about first. Tell them to put on their thinking caps! The author is going to ask them to find different ways to make a given number.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

SPLATTER MATTERS! (AGES 3-12)

Materials: large piece of white paper, washable paint, brushes

(This activity is best done outdoors.) Create a splatter painting like Jackson Pollock! Lay paper on the ground. Choose a paint color. Dip a brush in the paint and shake it onto the paper. Choose another color and repeat. Ask kids if they notice any shapes or patterns in their splatters.

HIGH-FIVE HUES (AGES 4-12)

Materials: washable paint (red, blue, and yellow), bulletin board paper

Cover the floor or one wall with white bulletin board paper. Paint each child’s hand with red, blue, or yellow non-toxic paint. Let the children make handprints on the paper. Then, let them “high-five” a

handprint of a different color—be sure they rub their hands back and forth a little to mix the colors. What colors do the different combinations make? Ask children to tell you. Make a chart to show results.

MONDRIAN MATH (AGES 5-12)

Materials: unlined paper, rulers, pencil, markers (black, blue, red, yellow), page 20 in book

Have kids use a pencil and ruler to draw four different lines from the top to bottom of the paper. Use a ruler to draw three lines across paper from side to side. Lines do not have to be spaced out evenly. Discuss the shapes made. Use a black marker to trace over lines. Make some thick and some thin. Have kids choose a few of their shapes fill in with color. Ask, “How many shapes are red/blue/yellow?” “How many shapes did you color all together?”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Grapes of Math (2004), *Math Fables* (2004), *Math Fables Too* (2007), *Math for All Seasons* (2005), *Math Potatoes* (2005).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids



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