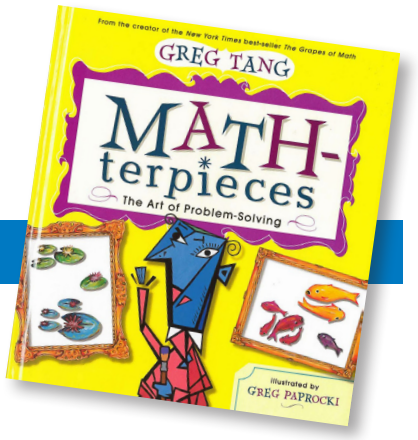
Math-terpieces: The Art of Problem-Solving



A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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, look at the pictures: Flip through the book to find your child's favorite picture. Start with that poem. This book works best if you read one or two poems a day instead of all at once.

While reading, explore numbers: Allow your child to find as many ways to make the chosen number—addition, subtraction, even multiplication and division—as they can!

After reading, ask questions:

- Which painting did you like the most? The least? Why?
- Which artist do you think was the most creative?
- Why is it important to be able to add?
- Can you list five ways you use addition in real life?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

A SQUARE MEAL

Ingredients: large and regular-sized square wheat crackers, cream cheese, food coloring

Create a snack of squares to look like the paintings of Piet Mondrian!

Spoon some cream cheese into four bowls. Mix three with a different color of food coloring (red, blue, or yellow) and leave one white. Spread the cream cheese on the crackers. Assemble your colored squares to form a masterpiece! Try mixing colors to see what new colors you can make.

SPLATTER MATTERS!

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

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 your child if they notice any shapes or patterns in their splatters. *(This activity is best done outdoors.)*

CAN IT!

Gather the canned foods from your kitchen. How many cans do you have in total? How many different ways can you group the cans to add up to that number? For example: If you have 12 cans total, you might group them into 3 + 3 + 6, 5 + 7, or 11 + 1. Move the cans around to show as many different groupings as you can! Write the equations (11 + 1, etc.) on a piece of paper as you go.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

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

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