

MATH = FUN!



Stuart J. Murphy

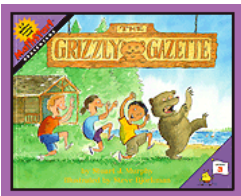
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KIDS BE BETTER  
AT MATH



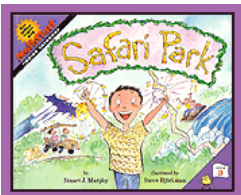
**MATH = (SUMMER) FUN! / LEVEL 3, AGES 7 + / from OUR FREE E-NEWSLETTER**



**The Grizzly Gazette** (Percentage): *It's election time at Camp Grizzly. Who will be the new mascot? Sophie has the support of the boat club. Daniel hands out flyers and candy bars. But with 50 out of 100 campers—50%—still undecided, Corey decides to run, too. "The Grizzly Gazette" publishes daily polls using a pie graph to show the candidates' percentages. Describing a group of 100 in terms of percentages is the first step toward understanding this important concept. Illustrated by Steve Björkman.*

\* As you read the story together, ask your child to find the sum of the percentages shown in each graph. It is important to understand that percentages represented in a circle graph will always add up to 100.

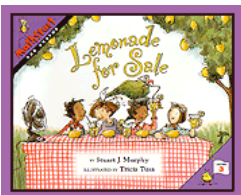
\* Cut a stick of butter, or an orange, or a candy bar in half. Then cut one of the halves into two equal pieces. Ask your child to name the fractions (answer: halves and quarters). Then ask which piece is 25% of the whole. Point out the largest piece and ask what percentage of the whole it is. Put the quarters together and ask what fraction and percentage the two pieces combined represent.



**Safari Park** (Finding Unknowns): *Grandpa's taking all the grandkids to the neatest amusement park ever: Safari Park! Jungle King rides all cost 4 tickets. Rhino Rides are just 2 tickets. Monkey Games and Tiger Treats are just 1 ticket each. But the "spectacular, amazing, heart-pounding Terrible Tarantula" costs 6 tickets! Each child has 20 tickets and must figure out the best combination of rides. Early algebraic thinking involves understanding a number sentence with a missing element (" $8 + ? = 20$ ") and then finding the unknown. Illustrated by Steve Björkman.*

\* Before reading the story, cut up 20 pieces of paper to use as tickets. Work with your child to solve each for the unknown in each number sentence using the tickets to help work out the problems.

\* With your child, review the number of tickets needed for each ride and think of several different ways to use 20 tickets. Write a number sentence for each one. Do the same thing with 15 tickets, 18 tickets, and 10 tickets.



**Lemonade for Sale** (Bar Graphs): *Members of The Elm Street Kids' Club kids decided to sell lemonade to raise money to fix up their clubhouse. Dressed in special "lemon hats," business booms at first. Sheri charts daily sales with a bar graph. Sales drop when Jed the Juggler comes to town. What will the Elm Street kids do? Gathering, charting and comparing data are important skills for assessing progress and making predictions. Illustrated by Tricia Tusa.*

\* Reading the story together with your child, talk about the lemonade sales graphs. Ask questions: "Were more cups sold on Monday or Tuesday?" "How many cups were sold on Wednesday?"

\* Make graphs of real life activities such as the number of children playing at the park at different times of day. Take a survey of your friends' pets. How many have dogs? Or cats? Or fish? What's the most popular pet?