

FINDING THE MATHS BOOKS

Picture story books can be a great source of mathematical content. Do not think that you need to purchase special maths books that are designed to highlight mathematical concepts. Most picture story books can be used as a starting point for discussions in maths.

General Suggestions

- Count the characters, objects or the places visited
- Use location words to describe the position of objects or characters
- Create a map to show where the characters travelled
- Describe the sequence of events using ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)
- Use the ideas in books for inspiration for your own investigations



Book Ideas

Here are some ideas related to popular children’s picture story books.

BOOK	AUTHOR	SUGGESTION (S)
Each Peach Pear Plum	Allan Ahlberg	Describe the location of the characters
Who sank the boat?	Pamela Allen	Count the number of animals. Prove which animal sunk the boat
Window	Jeanie Baker	Describe the location of the objects
Dear Zoo	Rod Campbell	Count the number of animals
The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Eric Carle	Count all the food eaten
Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy	Lynley Dodd	Count the number of dogs at different stages of the book
The Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson	What order were the animals seen?
Possum Magic	Mem Fox	Count all the different foods eaten or places visited
Where is the green sheep?	Mem Fox	Count the number of sheep. How many sheep were sitting/standing, wearing hats, etc?
Diary of a Wombat	Jackie French	Count the number of things eaten by the wombat
Are We There Yet? A Journey Around Australia	Alison Lester	Create a map or order the list of places visited
The Cat in the Hat	Dr Seuss	Describe the location of different objects
Green Eggs and Ham	Dr Seuss	Create a map showing where the characters travelled
Goodnight Moon	Margaret Wise Brown	Describe the location of the objects. How many objects were there altogether?
Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs	Ian Whybrow	How many dinosaurs did Harry have? What locations did they visit?

A more extensive list of books for different year levels, linked to investigation ideas, can be found on the NZ Maths website: <https://nzmaths.co.nz/picture-books-mathematical-content>. Also, check out the University of Chicago’s *Everyday Mathematics* website: <http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/k/literature-list/>

For more information to support your child, download the **AMSI Schools Finding the Maths Parent Booklet**: <https://calculate.org.au/2017/11/21/finding-the-maths/>