

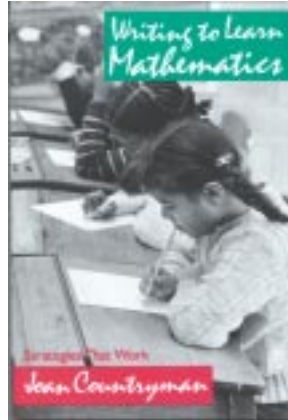
# COMMENTS from Evelyn

by Evelyn Maycumber

This is a new Department in the *Comments from CRISS*® newsletter. CRISS Master Trainer and educational consultant Evelyn Maycumber will provide CRISS-trained teachers with a review of materials which will help improve both teaching and learning in your classrooms. This first article by Evelyn focuses on some wonderful resources for mathematics instruction.

***Writing to Learn Mathematics***  
by Joan Countryman,  
Heinemann,  
Portsmouth, NH, 1992.

If you are not “into writing,” this book, *Writing to Learn Mathematics*, is for you. There are many resources that will help CRISS-trained teachers and Joan Countryman is well known among mathematics teachers. Here are some samples of CRISS-friendly and useful concepts and where to find them in the 101 pages of this small but useful book.



***Reading Counts: Expanding the Role of Reading in Mathematics Classrooms***

By Raffaella Borasi & Marjorie Siegel,  
Teachers College Press, NY, 2000.

This text has been instrumental in engaging many middle school math teachers. One of the reading coaches (Lila, also a CRISS trainer) with whom I work used it extensively to train her math department. She is not a math teacher, but became thoroughly engaged in the math accounts of this book.

The authors address the use of reading in inquiry-based mathematics. Chapter Two is entitled “Frameworks for Rethinking Reading in Mathematics Instruction.” Following this foundation, narratives—really vignettes—are presented that use reading, discussion, and best practices in reading. These present many strategies used to teach mathematical concepts.

Lila used the vignette that tells the engaging true story of the “egg man,” a mathematics/computer science professor, R. D. Resch. This fascinating account captivated teachers and students alike. In Lila’s training with her math department, she used this vignette to convey Reciprocal Teaching concepts.

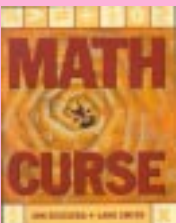
A companion book, in case you are interested in the “egg man,” is a book by Paul Hoffman that includes Resch’s twenty page essay, *Archimedes’ Revenge*. The copyright is 1988, Fawcett Publishing. It is a rather easy find in a used bookstore. You can also find a bounty of information on the web by entering “the egg man.”

Especially interesting are the books that deal with math for younger readers which secondary math teachers may not know about, but can use to engage struggling readers and mathematics students.

Math purposes for journals	Pages 42-43
Stages of composition and problem solving	Page 60
Possible topics for a math paper	Page 67
Guidelines for math teachers on commenting on student writing	Page 78
A general scoring rubric	Page 79

The list in the box to the right offers additional references to pursue.

**Here are just a few:**

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| <b><i>The Adventures of Penrose (The Mathematical Cat)</i></b><br>by Theoni Pappas | <b><i>The Grapes of Math</i></b><br>by Harry Briggs                                   |
| <b><i>Moja means one, Swahili Counting Book</i></b><br>by Muliel Feelings          | <b><i>One Grain of Rice</i></b><br>by Demi  |
| <b><i>The Greedy Triangle</i></b><br>by Marilyn Burns                              | <b><i>Math Curse</i></b><br>by Jon Scieszka   |
| <b><i>The History of Counting</i></b><br>by Denise Schmandt-Besserat               |  |
| <b><i>Sir Cumference</i></b><br>by Cindy Neuschwander                              |   |

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