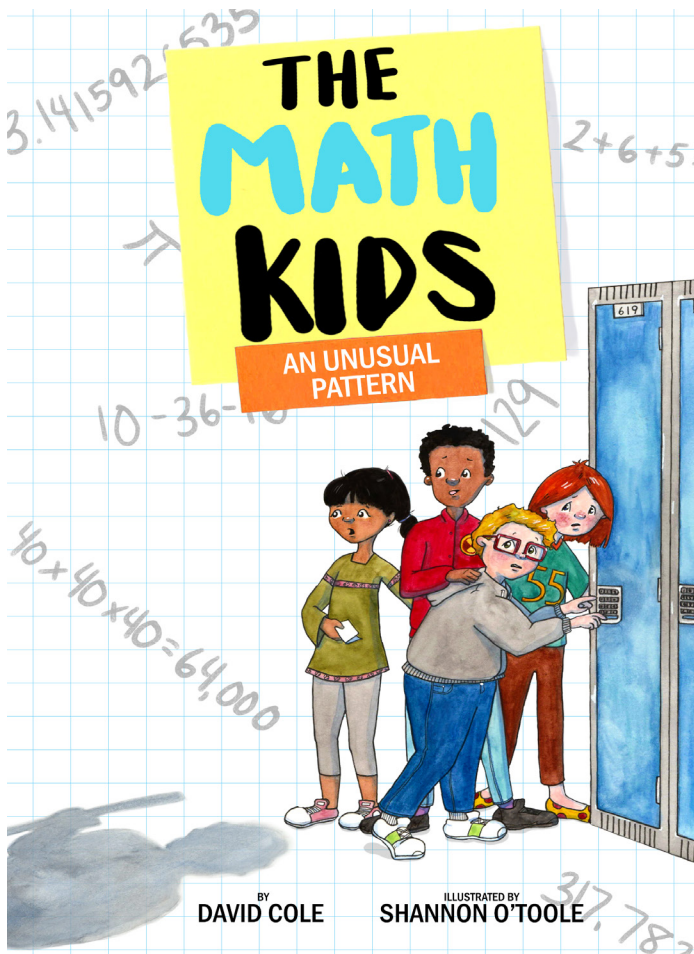


Discussion Guide for *The Math Kids: An Unusual Pattern* by David Cole



The Math Kids are at it again! When their new friend, Special Agent Carlson, asks them to take a look at a cryptic poem written by a dying bank robber, they know they will need all of their math skills to crack the case.

The poem isn't their only problem, though. Their favourite school janitor is fired for stealing from student lockers. The Math Kids know Old Mike would never do anything like that, but how can they prove it, especially with the new janitor watching their every move?

Jordan, Stephanie, Justin, and Catherine will need math, bravery, and a little bit of luck if they hope to solve the bank robbery case and get Old Mike his job back. Will they be able to figure out the unusual pattern in time?

The Math Kids: An Unusual Pattern

AUTHOR: David Cole

Common Deer Press • 124 pages

TYPE OF ACTIVITY: Individual work and class discussion

LEVEL: Grades 4 & 5

SUBJECT: Math, English

CATEGORY: Detective Stories, Mystery, STEM

Start the activity with a quick discussion:



1. Go back to the first page of this discussion guide. What do you like or don't like about the third cover?
2. What does the cover say to you?
3. What do you think is happening? Does the image make you want to start reading the book?

Talk about the students' thoughts on *The Math Kids 3*:

1. What is your favourite scene in *An Unusual Pattern*?
2. What do you think about the new janitor? Is he suspicious? Do you prefer Old Mike instead?
3. Does your school set up any prank days?
4. Do you think people can redeem themselves after they commit a crime? What are your thoughts?
5. What do you think about the ending of the book? Do you like how it wrapped it?

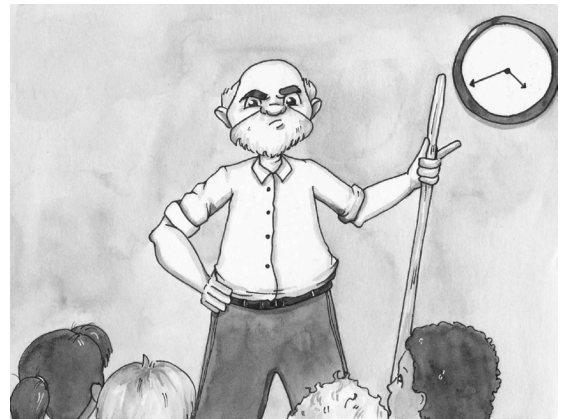


Name:

Date:

In the next edition of *The Math Kids*, who is your new favourite character? Explain why.

When you first started reading *Math Kids 3*, did you think Old Mike, the school janitor, was innocent? Did you come up with any ideas as to why this happened?



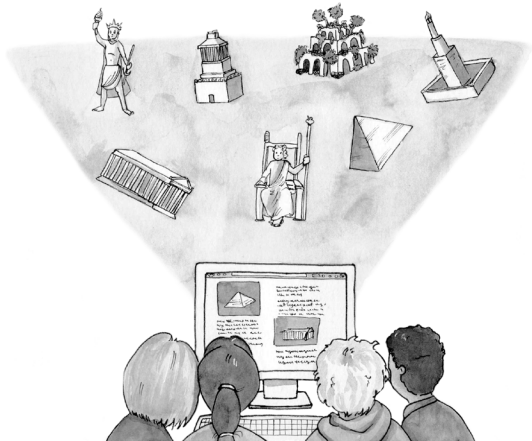
What are some of the first clues you found that the bank robber left in the poem he wrote?

4/5 THE MATH KIDS 3 • DISCUSSION GUIDE

Name:

Date:

Which seven wonders of the ancient world would you love to visit? Explain your answer.



Why do you think the robber used the seven wonders of the ancient world as a clue? Explain why.

If you were in the same situation as the Math Kids when they discovered who the second robber was, what would you do? Explain your reasons.

THE MATH KIDS 3 • DISCUSSION GUIDE 5/5

Name:

Date:

For your final activity, you get to solve the word search. Find the words listed below. You'll see words commonly used in each of the Math Kids books.

Y R R M C M F E S N J W Z S M
T E U S A A I X I A U T I O E
R B B E L U V W M D S G N I L
E B O L C S E Q E R T U K L T
B O L D U O H U T O I E G E I
I R Y E L L Z T R J N A H H N
L K M E A E M A A Y L X D E G
F N P N T U W D F L B R I M I
O A I S I M B F O U R N P E C
E B A N N O J N E L A O E P E
U Y X O G F S P L H D R R G C
T M Q F M Z E Z P P H M S Q U
A N N F I E U E M T I O I J B
T O N U Q U T E E B P Y R K E
S K X B D S C A T H E R I N E

BANKROBBER
CATHERINE
GALLONS
JUSTIN
OLDMIKE
STEPHANIE

BUFFONSNEEDLE
FIVE
HELIOS
MAUSOLEUMOFZEUS
OLYMPIA
TEMPLEOFARTEMIS

CALCULATING
FOUR
JORDAN
MELTINGICECUBE
STATUEOFLIBERTY
THREE