

Summer Math

Dear Parents,

Incoming fourth grade students will experience greater success in fourth grade math if they come in September having memorized the times tables.

Please help your child practice his/her multiplication facts frequently throughout the summer months. When you are doing drills to memorize, explain to your child that the goal is to memorize the facts (to recall from memory) and not to get the answers by counting or some other method. Just like your child memorized your address and phone number, now he/she needs to memorize multiplication facts. You can easily see if your child is trying to count because producing the answer takes much more time. You should expect the answers from your child immediately when you are drilling. If he/she doesn't know the answer readily, tell him/her the right answer.

Usually short drill sessions are best. A session of 5-8 minutes daily would be most beneficial for your child.

Flashcards are a wonderful resource and can be purchased rather inexpensively at local dollar stores. In addition, there are many websites and apps that offer drills, games, strategies, and activities to help students learn their facts.

Some helpful websites:

Timez Attack www.bigbrainz.com/ (free download)

www.multiplication.com

www.aaastudy.com/mul.htm

www.aplusmath.com/Flashcards/multiplication.html

www.gamequarium.com/multiplication.html

Thank you for your help and support,
Miss Devlin
Miss Flaherty

Required Summer Reading for 4th Grade

Dear Parents,

Summer is a time to take a break from school work, but not from reading. Your child has worked hard this year! According to research, students who do not read over the summer can lose as much as 22% of their reading level. That means 2 months of school down the drain! You can prevent this summer reading loss by encouraging your child to read over the summer. Your child should be reading something every day. Please see the impact reading can have on your child as provided by Scholastic on the following page.

The incoming fourth grade students are required to read the following book during summer vacation:

Fourth Grade Rats by Jerry Spinelli

This book is available at the Public Library, any bookstore, or online. The attached questions must be answered and the children will find it easier to answer the questions as they read the book. Since the assignment will be used for a reading grade, children are encouraged to check their responses carefully.

The completed assignment is due the first day of school. Five points will be deducted each day the assignment is late.

Sincerely,

Miss Devlin
Ms. Flaherty

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987

Fourth Grade Rats by Jerry Spinelli

Name _____

Read the story carefully. Take time to answer the questions as you read.

1. Who is telling this story?
 - A. Joey
 - B. Suds
 - C. Judy
 - D. Mr. Nelson

2. What caused Suds to yell, "Get 'im off me! Get 'im off me!"?
 - A. A fifth grade boy jumped him at recess
 - B. A wasp landed on his arm
 - C. A spider landed on his lap
 - D. A big dog jumped up on him

3. What animal was on Suds' lunchbox?
 - A. An elephant
 - B. A dog
 - C. A monkey
 - D. A horse

4. How did the things in Suds' lunchbox get spilled all over the floor?
 - A. He dumped it out on purpose
 - B. Gerald Willis took it and dumped it out
 - C. Richie Vernon took it and dumped it out
 - D. His little brother dumped it out

5. What did the note from Joey say?
 - A. "Swings after school."
 - B. "Let's ride bikes tomorrow."
 - C. "Girls stink!"
 - D. "Call me after school."

6. What did Suds and Joey do to the little kids on the swings?
 - A. Beat them up
 - B. Scared them off
 - C. Called them "big babies"
 - D. Spit on them

7. How does Suds feel about being a rat?
 - A. He loves it
 - B. He's not too sure about it
 - C. He's proud of it
 - D. He'd rather be a rat than an angel

8. What did Joey tell Suds to say to his mom?
 - A. "I'm a rat!"
 - B. "I need a new lunchbox."
 - C. "I won't eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches."
 - D. "No."

9. What does Suds usually do to make himself feel better?
 - A. Take a bath
 - B. Read a book
 - C. Watch TV
 - D. Go for a bike ride

10. Who is Zippernose?
 - A. A mean fifth grader
 - B. Joey's friend
 - C. Suds' sister
 - D. Suds' Science teacher

11. Joey said that being a rat is the next step to being a _____.
 - A. Big boy
 - B. Angel
 - C. Cat
 - D. Man

12. What was sitting on Suds' pillow when he went to bed?
 - A. A candy bar
 - B. A new shirt
 - C. A mouse trap
 - D. His homework

13. Which of these things did Joey NOT do to prove he was becoming a man?
- A. Cut his hair really short like a Marine.
 - B. Started wearing sweatbands with "No. 1" written on them
 - C. Started kicking people in the kneecaps
 - D. Nominated himself for President of the United States
14. What happened after Joey started to "become a man"?
- A. All the kids hated him
 - B. All the girls swarmed over him
 - C. He got sent to the principal's office
 - D. He got kicked out of school
15. Why was Suds mad at Joey?
- A. Because Joey beat up Suds
 - B. Because Judy Billings likes Joey
 - C. Because Joey told suds a bunch of lies
 - D. Because Joey cheated on his math test
16. What did they do to Joey's bedroom?
- A. They painted the walls
 - B. They trashed it
 - C. They cleaned it up
 - D. They moved all of the furniture out of it
17. What painful thing did Joey want Suds to help him do?
- A. Jump out of his bedroom window
 - B. Put a staple in his forehead
 - C. Pound a nail through his ear
 - D. Rip a fingernail out
18. Who called Joey on the phone during the sleep over?
- A. Joey's dad
 - B. Gerald Willis
 - C. Becky Hibble
 - D. Judy Billings
19. According to Joey, what did Suds need to do to become a rat?
- A. Quit school
 - B. Kick his mother in the kneecaps
 - C. Practice
 - D. Read books about rodents

20. How did Joey try to stop Suds from crying?
- A. Told him not to cry
 - B. Kept showing the same sad part of a movie until he didn't cry anymore
 - C. Stood on his foot until he didn't cry anymore
 - D. Kept calling him names until he stopped crying
21. How did Joey try to help Suds overcome his fear of spiders?
- A. By making him watch a video about spiders
 - B. By making him eat a spider
 - C. By making him hold a spider in his hand
 - D. By making him hold a tarantula
22. What did Suds' sister do first when she saw him hanging from the rope?
- A. Called 911
 - B. Told their mother
 - C. Called him an ape
 - D. Tickled his feet
23. Why did Suds fall on the floor?
- A. Gerald pulled his chair out from under him
 - B. Joey pushed him down
 - C. Judy tripped him
 - D. He tripped over his own shoelaces
24. What was Suds doing in most of Chapter 10?
- A. He started being an extra good boy
 - B. He started acting like a rat
 - C. He was pretending to be sick
 - D. he was helping his father in the garage
25. What did Suds do "especially for Judy"?
- A. Kissed a toad
 - B. Let a bee sting him
 - C. Bought her flowers
 - D. Let a spider crawl on him
26. What happened when Suds and Judy went to Judy's house after school?
- A. Joey was there awaiting for them
 - B. Judy's cat got out
 - C. They had cookies and milk
 - D. Judy's mom told Suds to go home

27. What happened when Suds was up in a tree?
- A. He suddenly remembered that he was afraid of heights
 - B. He discovered he wasn't afraid of heights anymore
 - C. He fell out
 - D. A man came out of the house and told him to get down
28. How did Suds get down out of the tree?
- A. He climbed down
 - B. He fell out
 - C. His mom and dad showed up with a ladder
 - D. Judy called the fire department
29. What did Joey's mom make him do?
- A. Clean up his room
 - B. Wash off his tattoos
 - C. Apologize to Suds for making him into a rat
 - D. All of the above
30. What was Suds' dad doing at the end of the book?
- A. Watching the movie E.T.
 - B. Eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich
 - C. Lifting weights in the garage
 - D. Raking leaves