



Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School

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Why does $\text{elf} + \text{elf} = \text{fool}$? How many meals will Miss Mush, the lunch teacher, have to cook for the food to taste as bad as it smells? This book is packed full of brain teasers and maths puzzles and all the wacky pupils from Wayside School to help you find the logical solutions to all the problems.

Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School Details

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Author : Louis Sachar

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Michelle says

(Guided reading)

Elisabeth says

Why does elf + elf = fool? How many meals will Miss Mush, the lunch teacher, have to cook for the food to taste as bad as it smells? These Sideways Arithmetic problems may look puzzling at first, but you can use real maths to solve them, and the answers are right there in the book. There are lots of clues and hints; plus all the answers are in the back of the book. Best of all, all the kids you read about in the other books about Wayside School are here to help you! Try solving this, and more than fifty other maths brainteasers, along with the kids from Mrs Jewls's class. You'll learn a lot about maths but you'll be laughing too much to notice!

Jenny D says

Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School goes with Louis Sachar's Sideways Stories from Wayside School, using a similar story type and the same characters. This book can be used as an upward extension for students who have a good understanding of algebra. The later chapters are more appropriate for middle school math, but students in grades 4-5 can try to solve the arithmetic in the early chapters. Because the arithmetic uses "sideways" logic, students who rely on the algorithms to solve math will struggle. This instead requires that students problem-solve using different techniques, helping them to recognize patterns in math and develop their algebraic thinking.

Sam says

Want to help a young kid get on the right track with higher-level math? After they've fallen for the original Sideways Stories from Wayside School, they should give this book a shot. In short, the "reader" finds himself in Wayside School's bizarre math class, where equations all go like this:

elf
+ elf
fool

Words + words = words... the thing is, your job is to figure out what the numbers are. For starters, the "f" in the answer has to equal 1, because two single-digit numbers can't add up to more than 20. That makes "l" equal 2, "o" equal four, and "e" equal 7.

721
+ 721
1442

The storytelling mixed in with the lessons keeps things both goofy and easy to follow. By the end of the book, children will have learned the basic tenets of algebra without even realizing it.

Pooja Banga says

Why does $\text{elf} + \text{elf} = \text{fool}$? How many meals will Miss Mush, the lunch teacher, have to cook for the food to taste as bad as it smells? This book is packed full of brain teasers and maths puzzles and all the wacky pupils from Wayside School to help you find the logical solutions to all the problems.

Bridgit says

i remember LOVING this as a kid. Clearly i was a dork, but I don't care. I just bought this for my 7 year olds birthday. He loves math and will be challenged, but get a kick out of it.

Sofi says

Oh my god! I loved this book! I used to spend hours doing the puzzles. I swear one of Mr. Buhler's extra credits came straight out of this book.

Andrew says

In a way, I can't help but wonder, "What the heck did I just read?"

I read this in one sitting, obv. I figured out the answers to close to most, while others made me feel like a half gallon of milk had tipped over in my brain.

...I'm halfway between being a bit scared for these students...and being thankful that this is fiction...

I really have no idea what to say.

Erin says

This book is part of the Wayside School series, but is different from the rest of the titles in that it primarily consists of math and logic puzzles. Super fun for kids who like brain teasers! Who knew word problems could be funny?

Windy Kahler says

A favorite from my childhood that I've passed on to my kids.

Trever says

I'm not sure this should be classified as arithmetic. Most of the problems were just pure substitution and guess and check. Very difficult for students who struggle and too mind numbing for any enrichment.

Melissa says

I love puzzles and it was such a treat to get to do the "math" from the books.

Harriet Jane Mitchell says

I'd love to try a few of these with a class/ group of resilient children (depending).

Francis says

Tricky book to review. This 'story' is filled with a whole bunch of logic puzzles to try and solve. They definitely require persistence! I was able to successfully solve all 55 of the problems, although certain ones took me a long time!

I did read some of these out to my Grade 7 math class. Some students surprised me with their ability to deduce the answers.

Annie says

What? I had no idea that this book had actual PUZZLES in it! As a kid I thought it was some sort of dada-ist experiment with absurdity and language. I wasn't that amused either. But, as a superfan of the Wayside School series, I still gave it three stars.
