



That's a Possibility!: A Book About What Might Happen

Bruce Goldstone

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With colorful photographs and interactive examples, Bruce Goldstone introduces children to the ideas of something being possible, probable, or impossible. Each spread features an easy-to-understand scenario such as dice rolling, with questions about probable outcomes and simple explanations. In the vein of *Great Estimations*, this is a perfect book for getting across important math concepts in a fun way.

That's a Possibility!: A Book About What Might Happen Details

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Author : Bruce Goldstone

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From Reader Review That's a Possibility!: A Book About What Might Happen for online ebook

Barbara says

Filled with vivid illustrations and photographs that provide examples to support the text, this book introduces readers to probability or what might happen. The author first discusses what a possibility is and the difference between something that is possible and something that is impossible before discussing the likeliness of whether something will happen. The use of card decks, a stuffed bear with ten shirts and ten pairs of pants, the spinner on a board game helps readers visualize the important math concepts being discussed, and suggested activities that students can try for themselves makes the book even more engaging. For those who dream of winning the lottery, the back matter makes it clear just how unlikely that might be. There's a strong probability--and not just a possibility--that teachers will find this useful for their classrooms.

Jen says

Many kids dread opening math books because it is made up of mostly numbers and can get very confusing. However this math book is much different. It is full of colorful and incredibly illustrated pictures. The book starts out with easier terms and then gets progressively harder, but still contains rich colorful pictures. Goldstone starts off with words like "Possibility, Impossible, Certain, and Probable" and shows pictures to illustrate each word. In the beginning it shows 10 balloons and says it is a possibility that the monkey balloon will pop, but then asks the reader "What are some other possibilities?" By the end readers are looking at dice and the book asks "Is it possible to roll a 2 with just one dice?" Yes, it is possible but not probable.

Portable says

This is an outstanding book for introducing the mathematical concept of probability in terms that are clear, simple and easy to follow. Brightly coloured photographs set up questions and problems for children to discuss, and as the book goes on the concepts get more complex: starting out with possible/impossible and moving on to talk about chance and probabilities. I loved this book, and, as it says on the back cover: is this the best book about probability ever? Chances are very good!

Kylee says

Great informational book about possibility, impossibility, probability, and likelihood. Lots of really great examples and pictures.

Kaley Robinson says

This book was very fun to read! The book takes math terms, but uses them in different ways to keep it interesting. The author used candy, pets, and coins to help illustrate what the math terms meant. The pictures were bright and entertaining. This book would be a quick read and it would keep students attention.

Purpose in the Classroom:

Read Aloud: This would be a good book to use in a math lesson. The book covers probability and ways to think about the terms that go alongside probability. The book shows different ways to relate math to students lives by using pets, or toy vending machines. The book also talks about odds and chances. This book does a great job of defining every time in multiple ways so that students can really grasp what the term actually means. There is a question on each page that students could answer.

Non-fiction elements: This book does not have any of the non-fiction elements. At the back there is "notes" but the book does not have a glossary or anything like that. Because there is no elements, this might not be the best non-fiction book, but it does a great job of defining vocabulary and gives students a clear understanding of how all of the terms of probability fit together.

Oak Lawn Public Library - Youth Services says

Pages: 32

Lexile Level/Age Group: AD580L/ 5-8 year olds

Summary:

Many kids dread opening math books because it is made up of mostly numbers and can get very confusing. However this math book is much different. It is full of colorful and incredibly illustrated pictures. The book starts out with easier terms and then gets progressively harder, but still contains rich colorful pictures. Goldstone starts off with words like "Possibility, Impossible, Certain, and Probable" and shows pictures to illustrate each word. In the beginning it shows 10 balloons and says it is a possibility that the monkey balloon will pop, but then asks the reader "What are some other possibilities?" By the end readers are looking at dice and the book asks "Is it possible to roll a 2 with just one dice?" Yes, it is possible but not probable.

Comments:

I think kids will really understand the theory of probability much better with the use of this book. Pictures are a must for students who are learning math and these pictures greatly enhance the text.

4 out of 5 Stars

Reviewed by: Jen T.

Sara Kay says

This book goes through and explains different terms, including possibility, impossible, Certain, Likely,

Improbable, and Odds. It also includes various examples for each term and fun pictures which could keep kids entertained. This is a fun way to teach some otherwise pretty boring terms.

I really liked this book, I think it is a good way to introduce different terms to kids and have examples they can relate to and see through the pictures.

This would be a good book to use during math to show terms and try to make it easier to understand.

Heather says

Curricular Tie: Math

How it can be used to enhance instruction:

The illustrations and real life examples make this an amazing way to introduce the concept of probability. I would use this back as an introductory activity for each day's math lesson to get kids thinking and engaged in the topic. After completing the book and probability unit, I would have students create and illustrate their own probability problem to share with their classmates.

Rationale:

This can be a tough topic for students to understand and relate to. However, this book uses bright colors and engaging problems to capture student's attention and teach the concepts accurately.

Tam says

I'm not sure what age this is meant for. Towards the end it seemed a little mature for my 6-year-old but he still enjoyed trying to figure things out and it was a great book for us to talk about while reading.

It starts off very simple with a mouse at the starting line of a maze and the question "What's a possibility? If something can happen, it's a possibility. Will this mouse find the cheese? That's a possibility!"

The next page is about impossible things. If there are 10 pins in a bowling lane, can you knock down 12 pins in one roll? "Something that can't happen is impossible". It then shows 4 different types of eggs. The first one asks if a chicken can hatch from it, the second if a snake can hatch, the 3rd if a spider can hatch, and the 4th if an elephant can hatch. It gives the explanation of some animals hatching from eggs but it would be impossible for an elephant since they don't come from eggs.

The other topics are Certain, Likely, Improbable, and Odds.

Samantha says

A fascinating math book that covers the concepts of probability, possibility, impossibility, outcomes, combinations, and permutations. Each concept is explained using photos and objects found in a reader's daily life. Questions are included to check for understanding and readers are encouraged to further explore the concepts presented through suggested activities.

Math is a polarizing subject. When presented in as exciting a fashion as the author does here math becomes a subject readers can be excited about. Well done. Grades 5-8.

Michael says

Okay, I hate to jump on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) bandwagon, because we need to concentrate more on developing the habit of reading than on skills, but this one is just fun! Possible, impossible, probable, not likely, not a chance! Cats batting around balls of yarn, dogs scarfing up treats, and gumballs - who could resist gumball-based math? All concepts and virtually no numbers, starting from the very basics and getting steadily more complicated, so you can do one page together, or try to get all the way through the brain teasers in the back. Pull it out with a three year old or a thirteen year old.

For more great Nonfiction for elementary school guys, see: <http://www.talestoldtall.com/B4BENFSN...>

Jo Oehrlein says

This is a good book about probability, but a far better guide for a teacher putting together teaching plans for a class. It gives good illustrations/graphics for explaining concepts.

You can certainly read front to back in just a few minutes, but I think the power is in covering it much more slowly. The kids need to figure out the possible dice combinations and maybe even the possible teddy bear clothes combinations themselves.

Clare Rossetter says

Really colorful pictures are used to help students understand the math terms that deal with possibility and probability. This would be a good text to use pages individually rather than read it to class cover to cover. This would be good for any grade 3-7 as a way to introduce the concepts and then cement this with a solid lesson that includes modeling and practice for the students. These concepts can be very confusing and Mr. Goldstone has written a text to show in a graphic way how each works. There are several problems in the book for students to do as a demonstration of their learning that could be done after the lesson.

Kary says

This is an awesome book for a math lesson! the bright, colorful photos make it very interesting and the interactive questions make it very engaging.

Stephanie Watson says

This is an excellent book on probability. I can't imagine how an author could teach the concepts involved any more clearly. It is well-paced, giving kids several pages to explore and grasp each principal. Examples and scenarios are ones kids can relate to. Full-page photos and illustrations are bright, colorful, and clear in terms of advancing the text. Writing style is simple and engaging, with several cute tongue-in-cheek moments. The book concludes with some experiments to try at home and short review of some more advanced probability concepts. Even the author's bio made me smile. Well done!
