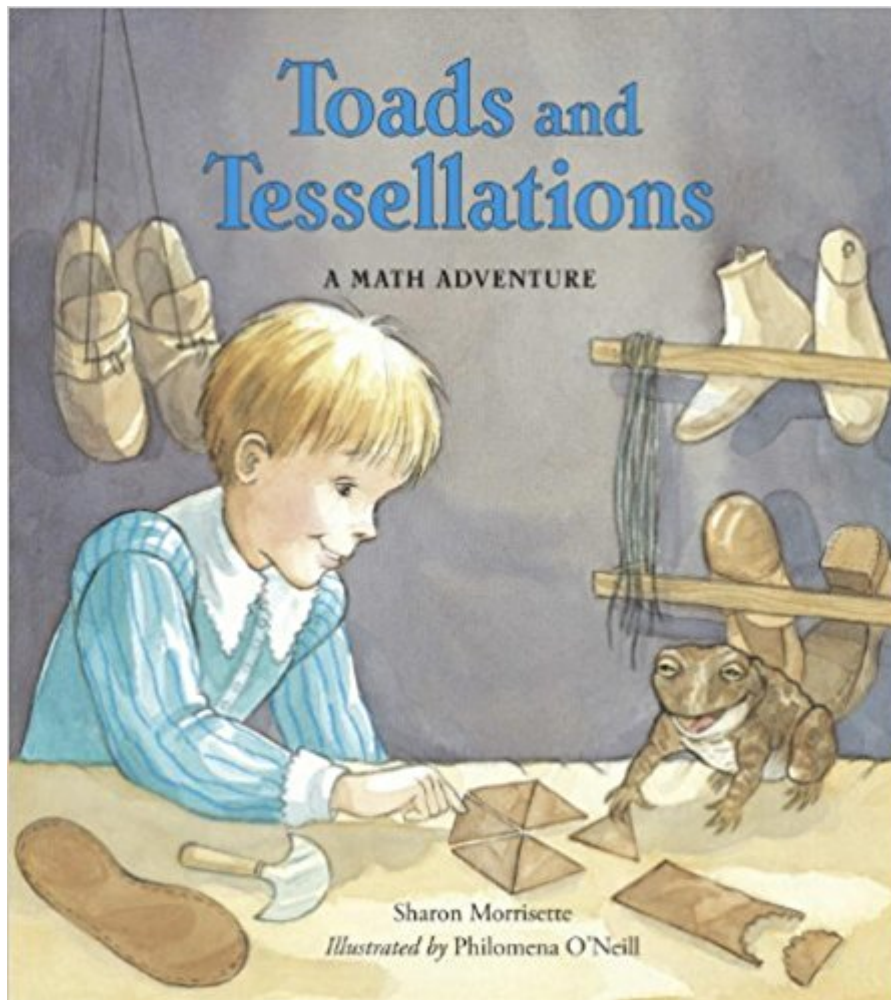




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Toads And Tessellations (Charlesbridge Math Adventures)



Synopsis

Enzo is the son of a great magician, however unlike his father, his spells create chaos instead of order. What really interests Enzo, more than books about magic, are books by and about the lives of famous physicists and astronomers like Galileo Galilei and Johannes Kepler. Enzo dreams not of becoming a magician, but a mathematician instead. When Tessel, the village shoemaker, is called upon to make twelve identical shoes out of only one piece of leather, Aida, the shoemaker's sister, goes to Enzo's father for some magic to help her brother. With Enzo's father out of town at a magic convention, it's up to Enzo to help Aida and Tessel out of their predicament. A spell snafu leads Enzo and Aida to a method of forming patterns without gaps or overlaps, and they discover that math, not magic, may be the answer to their problem. Sharon Morisette's accessible text introduces readers to the concept of tessellations, while Philomena O'Neill's illustrations offer a clear visual to what tiling is. Children will enjoy finding the tessellations hidden throughout the images. Back matter includes a glossary and notes about tessellations, Galileo, and Kepler.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5-Studying tessellations requires the energy of play and the focus of problem-solving, a wonderful subject for a story full of inspiration and blundering. Enzo is a magician's apprentice in late medieval Italy. His true passion is for the new ideas of mathematicians like Galileo and Kepler. As far as spell casting, he is no Strega Nona like his father. When the castle's housekeeper, renowned for her cruelty, requests 12 pairs of shoes to be made from one piece of fine leather for the 12 dancing princesses, the shoemaker Tessel comes running for Enzo's father, the local mago. He is away, so Enzo has to fill his shoes. He finds that using magic does not help when he inadvertently turns the shoemaker into a toad. Giving up on magic, he decides to take apart Tessel's shoe with Aida, the shoemaker's daughter. Once he turns to mathematics for inspiration, he and Aida begin to simplify the shapes, flip them, turn them, slide, and rotate them. They create a perigon of triangles and before long (and with a few laughs), they use tessellations successfully to meet the housekeeper's challenge. The illustrated glossary and notes in the back matter explain the mathematics, history, and current use of tessellations. The watercolor illustrations clearly and astutely express the necessary concepts, both mathematical and historical. There is even some fun embedded in them: 26 hidden tessellations for Where's Waldo fans.-Sara Lissa Paulson, American Sign Language and English Lower School, New York City

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The son of a "great mago," Enzo isn't a very good magician. Actually, he dreams of becoming "a grande matematico" like Galileo or Kepler. Enzo tries to help a shoemaker figure out how to cut the pieces for 12 shoes from a single piece of leather, but when he misspeaks a spell, he turns the craftsman into a toad, then a goat. Putting magic aside, Enzo looks at the problem geometrically, rearranges the shapes, and finds a way to cut the pieces with minimal waste. While the story presents informational content through whimsical fiction, the broadly dramatic line-and-watercolor illustrations could have been more helpful in clarifying the concept of tessellation, particularly in the main example of shoemaking. The information in the glossary and notes seems more appropriate for an older audience. Still, the story and back matter at least introduce the concept of tessellation to young children. For larger collections. Grades K-2. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a 7th grade math teacher, I like to incorporate stories about math skills that relate to topics I teach. Even though the reading level is below the 7th grade, it provides reading opportunities for those students that read below grade level. The math content is relevant for all students.

great book

Great story

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