

# The Boy Who Loved Math

THE IMPROBABLE LIFE OF PAUL ERDÖS

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

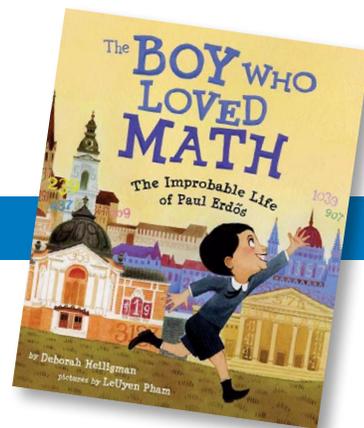
**Themes:** Numbers, Mathematicians, Social Skills

**Book Brief:** Math in the morning, math in the afternoon, math at night—Paul loved math! He thought about it all the time. This true story is about how Paul Erdős made his obsession for

math work for his everyday life.

**Author:** Deborah Heiligman

**Illustrator:** LeUyen Pham



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, make predictions:** Are there any clues in the cover picture that help you guess where Paul lived and when? Why do you think he loved math? What do you think “improbable” means?

**While reading, make connections:** Whom or what do you love “to infinity”? How many is that? Have you ever “counted down” to an important event?

How did that make you feel? Do you have someone who does a lot for you? Is there something that you think about all the time?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ How would you describe Paul?
- ◆ What does this mean: “Numbers made him feel better”?
- ◆ What makes someone a genius?
- ◆ Why are mathematicians important?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### PRIME PIZZA DIPPERS

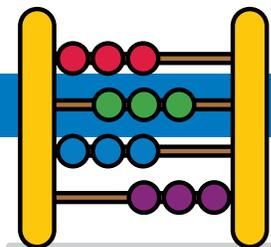
Ingredients: pre-made pizza dough, melted butter, Italian seasoning, pizza sauce

Divide dough into 10 equal sections. Roll dough between hands to lengthen. Shape dough into prime numbers and place on baking sheet. Brush numbers with melted butter and sprinkle with seasoning. Bake at 375 degrees until light brown; remove from oven and let cool. Dip in sauce and enjoy!

### MATH-TERPIECE

Materials: paper, crayons, water colors, paint brush  
Use crayons to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division problems on the paper.

Write each math fact in a different color crayon. Don't be scared to overlap numbers. When finished, use water colors and paint the paper. Watch your math problems turn into a beautiful math-terpiece!



### MAGICAL MATH

Paul loved to play with numbers. Try this little magic math game to find out someone's age! Ask the person to multiply the first number in their age by 5. Have them add 3 and double the sum. Have them add the second number in their age to the sum and tell you the answer. You subtract 6 and *voilà!*—that is the person's age. Is it math, magic, or both?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT MATH

*Mummy Math: An Adventure in Geometry*, Cindy Neuschwander (2009)

*Of Numbers and Stars: The Story of Hypatia*, D. Anne Love (2006)

*Math-terpieces: The Art of Problem Solving*, Greg Tang (2003)



Reading Is Fundamental