Edgar Allan Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems

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Book Review
Edgar Allan Poe’s Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems

What do you get when you cross Walt Whitman with a spider whose web-spinning was disturbed by a wind which blew sixty percent of it away? Robert Frost with boxer shorts at ninety cents a pair? Shel Silverstein with a hippo-po-tah-tum eating you at four percent per bite? In Edgar Allan Poe’s Pie, children’s poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis cleverly integrates math problems into new adaptations of classic poetry using the original rhyme and meter.

Brilliantly executed, this book perfectly weaves poetry and mathematics. Teachers who want to emphasize transdisciplinary integration in their classrooms or who are looking for a way to challenge students will find great use for Edgar Allan Poe’s Pie. The math problems presented are at about a fourth to sixth grade level and cover money, multiplication and division of percentages and decimals, division with remainders, perimeter and area, and fractions. Answers to each problem are provided upside-down in small print in the bottom corner of each spread for easy access. Additionally, a spread at the back of the book provides a brief narrative of each poet featured in the book.

Author
J. Patrick Lewis

Illustrator
Michael Slack

Reviewer
Nicole Clark

Rating
Outstanding

Level
Primary, Intermediate

Pages
40

Year
2012

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Harcourt Children’s

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