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15 Irresistible Mini-Plays for Teaching Math

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Play Review

Title: 15 Irresistible Mini-Plays For Teaching Math

Author: Sheryl Ann Crawford & Nancy I. Sanders

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Publisher: Scholastic Professional Books

Publication Year: 2000

Number of Pages: 108

Production Requirements: Very minimal set, prop, and costume needs; items easily

found in a classroom setting.

Estimated Run Time: 5-10 minutes each

Number of Acts: 15

Number of Characters: 30

Cast Requirements: variable, classroom productions

Time Period: present day

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Review

This informative book is full to the brim with ideas and activities to help educators present math concepts in a fun and engaging way. Each section begins with a short play designed to introduce a concept. For example, Chicken Pox Party introduces skip counting. Students practice counting by 2s, 5s and 10s in a silly, counting chicken pox spots situation. The plays are followed by helpful suggestions for performing the play with multiple options to suit individual class needs. Each play is accompanied by extra activity ideas, including a reproducible, that help to drive the concept home. Students will play a dot-to-dot challenge game in teams continuing to practice skip counting and then move on to one of the many inventive arts and crafts activities in the book; this time making Skip, the Class Creature, whose body parts help them to practice skip counting. Each concept/play is presented along similar lines, providing opportunities for the entire class to participate and learn.

15 Irresistible Mini-Plays For Teaching Math includes plays that are short enough that older students could easily memorize their parts or simply read along with the script and the rhyming verse makes it easy for teacher with beginning students to do most of the reading while the children can join in on chorus type lines. This imaginative, interactive activity will engage students in the classroom and help them to apply the learning outcomes outside the classroom. An extremely helpful chart is included at the beginning of the book listing all the math concepts presented and their connections with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards – a helpful tool for the busy classroom teacher when writing lesson plans. Teachers looking for an easy way to add some creativity and excitement to their mathematics lesson will find ample help in this easy to use, doable book.