



Multiplying Menace: The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin

Pam Calvert , Wayne Geehan (Illustrator)

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Rumpelstiltskin is back! This time he's making mischief with his multiplying stick. Can Peter unlock the secret of the stick in time to save the kingdom? Whimsical illustrations bring fun to multiplying whole numbers and fractions.

Multiplying Menace: The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin Details

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From Reader Review Multiplying Menace: The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin for online ebook

L11_Laura says

This book is a continuation of the King and Queen's life 10 years later and their son Peter is the main character. Rumpelstiltskin seeks revenge and returns to the castle to steal Peter and cause mayhem among the castle and the village. Rumpelstiltskin multiplies the king's nose by 6 and 4 branches by 10 (making 40 branches) etc. Peter is put to work by Rumpelstiltskin and does many chores. When Rumpelstiltskin falls asleep, Peter takes Rumpelstiltskin's magic stick and escapes. He figures out how to use the stick and returns to the castle and village to restore life as he knew it. When Rumpelstiltskin awakes and returns to the castle to find Peter, Peter multiplies him by zero which makes Rumpelstiltskin vanish. Of course, everyone lives happily ever after.

I like this book because it lends itself to use in the classroom. Reading the original fairy tale and then having the students write their own story of what happens 10 years later, and then reading this story and making comparisons. It allows students to use their creativity, and then increases their interest in the story as it's read.

Also, since this story uses multiplication throughout, there are many stopping points that can be used to determine the answer to what Rumpelstiltskin or Peter may have multiplied. I can see using this with my gifted students and have them write the equations out as they read. Some of the equations require multiplying by fractions, which is advanced for 3rd grade.

Evelyn says

Multiplying Menace by Pam Calvert does a great job in telling the story of Rumpelstiltskin's revenge by also incorporating mathematical concepts. This book can be used to teach students about multiplication facts and also teaches them to compare multiplying by whole numbers as opposed to fractions. This is a fun way to show children different usage for multiplication facts. I would use this book for students in 3rd-4th grade.

Dolly says

This is a fun story that teaches about multiplication by whole numbers as well as fractions. It is an After Happily Ever After-type of story, where we rejoin the characters from a classic fairytale after some time has passed. In this tale, Rumpelstiltskin returns to claim what he is owed.

The story is entertaining and I thought it was a novel way to teach about what fractions do to numbers when multiplying. The math wasn't terribly difficult and our girls enjoyed solving the problems, too. We really enjoyed reading this story together. I love it when we find a story that is both educational and entertaining!

GooseberryCompote says

The pictures of regular people were uncomfortably off-kilter, which is the opposite of how they were for the evil Rumpelstiltskin, who had a great Capt. Jack Sparrow - meets - troll under the bridge vibe going.

Aaron Alexander says

This is a fun book that would be good for first through third grade students to learn multiplication facts. In this story Rumpelstiltskin uses multiplication to reach havoc on the inhabitants of a village. A young boy named Peter steals Rumpelstiltskin's stick and begins repairing everything that Rumpelstiltskin did to mess up The town. In the end, Peter multiplies Rumpelstiltskin by zero, making him disappear forever. This is a fun way to show children different usage for multiplication facts. After reading the story you could ask your students to take an existing fairytale and add multiplication math facts into the story in the same way that they were used in this one.

CH_Kathleen says

The Multiplying Menace the Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin is a wonderful book to use when teaching students multiplication with fractions and whole numbers. This book is a sequel to the traditional folktale of Rumpelstiltskin. Rumpelstiltskin comes back to take the Queen's son on his tenth birthday. During this time Rumpelstiltskin causes quite a stir in the town including giving the king 6 noses. The Queen's son soon figures out how to utilize Rumpelstiltskin's magic stick and learns how to fix everything Rumpelstiltskin ruined, but while learning to use the stick he learns that multiplying by fractions makes less. I thought this was a clever book that had an interesting storyline while teaching students in a fun way how to multiply.

Frank Lee says

I like how the author combined math instruction with a story a majority of students will be familiar. Multiplication is the primary math operation emphasized in the book. Multiplication via character interaction is an effective strategy to instruct young students. I also like how the story and math instruction are cohesive together. Overall, an ideal book for teaching multiplication to students starting to learn math.

Angela says

Best for kids ages 8 and up
Early Literacy Skills: Print Motivation, Vocabulary, Narrative Skills

From cover:
Rimpelstiltskin is back!

Ten years ago, the Queen guessed his name. That stopped Rumpelstiltskin from taking her first born child. Now Rumpelstiltskin has returned, and he wants revenge. Overnight, strange things happen across the kingdom. Mice, bugs, and other pests multiply in great numbers. Cows and other farm animals disappear. Peter is the kingdom's only hope, but is he clever enough to stop the multiplying menace!

Great math story about multiplication, but the illustrations may distract some readers.

Kate Hastings says

Grades 2-4

Rumplestiltskin is back to claim the princesses' son—only this time he has a puzzle that confounds everyone.

--magic stick that he points

--noses times six (king gets 6 noses)

--stones times 1/3 (stones disappear)

--boy grabs the stick and uses multiplication to save the day.

--Great intro for multiplying whole numbers and fractions.

--Students could use their own magic sticks in the classroom as an extension

Heidi says

This "math adventure" concept picture book picks up where the original story of Rumpelstiltskin leaves off (minus him ripping himself in two) ten years into the future. It is Peter's 10th birthday, the boy Rumpelstiltskin had been promised before the queen guessed his name. This time, Rumpelstiltskin demands that the boy come with him or he will continue to wreak havoc on the village. Eager to help return his town to normal, Peter agrees to go with Rumpelstiltskin. Peter discovers Rumpelstiltskin's magic cane which has the ability to multiply! This cleverly constructed story may not be the highest quality literature, but the story is engaging and the math concepts are clearly presented. Because it explores multiplication of whole numbers and fractions, it is appropriate for middle to late elementary students, grades 2-5.

Sylvia Ulmer says

I will definitely come back to use this book when we begin to cover CCSS.Math.Content.5.NF.B.4 - Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction or whole number by a fraction.

I think it's great in that it gives a picture reference for big ideas like the fact that multiplying a whole number by a fraction results in a smaller number, and multiplication by 0 always equals 0. The story is humorous and imaginative, with a clear conflict and resolution in the end (which sometimes isn't found in didactic math literature). I think it appropriate for the 5th grade age group as well.

UPDATE: Today, we read it to introduce the unit on multiplying & dividing fractions - they loved it!

Cara says

Multiplying Menace: The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin, teaches students how to solve multiplication and fraction word problems. This story is set in a kingdom and Rumpelstiltskin's house where he takes the young boy Peter but before the Rumpelstiltskin terrorizes the town with multiplication. Peter escapes and fixes the town with fractions. This book could be read to students before a multiplication, fraction, or word problem lesson in math. Students could solve the problems from the book as the teacher is reading the story.

Ali Hembree says

This is a great book to use with grades 3-5th when talking about multiplication. It allows the kids to see the effect of multiplying whole numbers opposed to fractions.

Rumpelstiltskin comes back to claim the queen's sun on his tenth birthday. He puts a multiplying curse on the kingdom and even multiplies the king's nose by 6, giving him 6 noses. The queen's son finally breaks the curse by getting a hold of the magic stick and multiplying everything with small numbers (fractions) so the kingdom goes back to normal.

Mimi says

This book includes popular fairy tale character Rumpelstiltskin, as he tricks a 10 year old boy and his family and friends by using a magic multiplication stick. I would use this with upper grade levels because the concepts in the book can be hard to grasp. Some solid knowledge and understanding of multiplication is needed for this story to make sense and be fully beneficial for students. I would read this at the end of a unit on multiplication instead of at the beginning.

Pumpkinbear says

In the category of "Trope Invented to Enliven and Contextualize Math," Multiplying Menace is excellent. It's a picture book, so it's easy to get through; the story is engaging, so it appeals to my six-year-old; and it has a plot with enough action and complications to also engage my eight-year-old.

In a lot of living books, the academic topic is just tacked on, but the idea of multiplication is here integral to the plot--you can't understand what's going on without taking the time to wrap your head around multiplication, and if you understand what's going on, you understand multiplication!

There are a lot of methods for understanding multiplication--arrays, repeated addition, groupings, etc.--so it's helpful to explore it in a wide variety of ways. The approach in Multiplying Menace is unusual, so it's less likely to directly correspond to a hands-on lesson, but for overall contextualization and achieving a greater understanding of the concept, it's a valuable resource.

