

# Count on Me by Miguel Tanco

AGE LEVEL 5–8 years

## About the Story

A little girl sees that her family and friends have different passions. Dad loves to paint, brother loves music, and friends love to cook or sing. But the little girl doesn't enjoy any of these activities. She can't play tennis or the tuba. She doesn't like karate. Instead, she loves math. She loves finding shapes in the trees and at the playground. She loves thinking about curves. She loves making shapes with her blocks. Her passion is deep and satisfying, too.



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## Words to Learn

### MATH WORDS

geometric shapes, concentric circles, infinite ways

### OTHER WORDS

passion, difficult

## About the Math

This book is about both math (especially geometry) and more importantly, the passion for math. Children can learn:

- Math is all around us in the world.
- You can see triangles, squares, and more at the playground.
- You can see concentric circles in the lake.
- Children have many different passions.
- Your passion doesn't have to be the same as your friends'.
- You can *love* math.



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## Talk During Reading

### EXPLORE SHAPES

How many different shapes can you find in the playground picture? How many different shapes are there in the picture of the blocks?

### DISCUSS THE GIRL'S FEELINGS

How do you think the girl feels when her friends love to dance but she can't dance very well? Do you think her friends will find it hard to understand the girl's passion for math?

### TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S FEELINGS

What is a passion? Do you have a passion? What is it? Do you think girls can love math?

*Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!*

## Activity After Reading

### MAKE LISTS OF PASSIONS

Let's make a list of some things you are passionate about and some you are not passionate about. Can you make a list like this for some of your friends?



# Mathical

## BOOK PRIZE

The Mathical Book Prize recognizes math-inspiring literature for kids ages 2-18. Prize-winning books are selected by a committee of teachers, librarians, mathematicians, and others. To get the Mathical List, plus reading guides, book reviews, and more, see

[mathicalbooks.org](http://mathicalbooks.org)

### PreK WINNERS:

**One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller** by Kate Read  
**Crash! Boom! A Math Tale** by Robie H. Harris  
**Baby Goes to Market** by Atinuke  
**ONE Very Big Bear** by Alice Brière-Haquet  
**8: An Animal Alphabet** by Elisha Cooper  
**Have You Seen My Dragon?** by Steve Light

### GRADES K-2 WINNERS:

**Pigeon Math** by Asia Citro  
**Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain** by Cheryl Bardoe  
**Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s** by Judy Cox  
**Absolutely One Thing: Featuring Charlie and Lola** by Lauren Child  
**Max's Math** by Kate Bank  
**One Big Pair of Underwear** by Laura Gehl

### PreK HONOR TITLES:

**Animal Shapes** by Christopher Silas Neal  
**Count the Monkeys** by Mac Barnett  
**Count with Maisy, Cheep, Cheep, Cheep!** by Lucy Cousins  
**Goodnight, Numbers** by Danica McKellar  
**I Know Numbers** by Taro Gomi  
**A Mousy Mess** by Laura Driscoll  
**One Happy Tiger** by Catherine Rayner  
**Over in a River: Flowing Out to the Sea** by Marianne Berkes  
**Press Here** by Hervé Tullet  
**Round** by Joyce Sidman  
**100 Bugs! A Counting Book** by Kate Narita

### GRADES K-2 HONOR TITLES:

**The Boy Who Loved Math** by Deborah Heiligman  
**Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant** by Songju Ma Daemicke

**Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13** by Helaine Becker  
**Count on Me** by Miguel Tanco  
**The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague** by Julia Finley Mosca  
**How Many Jelly Beans? A Giant Book of Giant Numbers!** by Andrea Menotti  
**Is 2 a Lot?: An Adventure with Numbers** by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans  
**Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives** by Lola M. Schaefer  
**Shapes, Reshape!** by Silvia Borando  
**When Sophie Thinks She Can't** by Molly Bang  
**Zero the Hero** by Joan Holub  
**3x4** by Ivan Brunetti

### HALL OF FAME TITLES:

**Hippos Go Berserk!** by Sandra Boynton  
**One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale** by Demi  
**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle

