

Nothing Stopped Sophie by Cheryl Bardoe and Barbara McClintock **AGE LEVEL 6–9 years**

About the Story

As a girl, Sophie Germain, born in 1776, was captivated by using math to solve important problems, like measuring the size of the earth. Her parents did everything they could to squash Sophie's passion, because girls were not supposed to do math at that time. But nothing stopped Sophie! After secretly studying math at the university (where girls were not allowed), she persisted in doing math and eventually won a prestigious prize for solving a really hard math problem.



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Words to Learn

MATH WORDS

measure lengths, tally (add up), patterns of vibration, calculations, balance, equations

OTHER WORDS

scored, indulge, equality, scholar, prodigy, francs, Royal Academy of Sciences, finery, cobblestones, prestigious, perseverance

About the Math

This book is mostly about Sophie Germain's persistence in doing math, despite prejudices against girls' and women's math abilities. Children can learn:

- Math can be used to solve important practical problems, like measuring the size of the earth.
- Girls and women can do math as well as boys and men.
- Do not give up on your passions, even when others discourage you.
- A little about how vibrations affect objects' movements.



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Talk During Reading

DISCUSS HOW SOPHIE'S PARENTS REACTED TO HER INTEREST IN MATH

At first, Sophie's parents tried to prevent her from doing math. Why did they do that? After a while, they changed their minds. Why?

DESCRIBE SOPHIE'S FEELINGS

What was Sophie's mathematical dream? How strongly did Sophie feel about math?

TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S FEELINGS

Is there anything you feel really strongly about, like Sophie?

EXPLAIN THE APPLICATIONS OF MATH

How can you use math to help you do things? (For example, you can count out how many quarters you have, measure the right amount for a recipe, see what time it is, and much more!)

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

Activity After Reading

READ ABOUT THE WINE GLASS EXPERIMENT IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK

Wet your finger and run it around the rim of a wine glass. Listen!

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

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 Barcoe
- 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

