



GRADE LEVEL

3rd - 5th

TOPIC

How can we expand our definition of math to include creative writing?

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Ask students to question their ideas about math, such as:

- What thoughts do we have about which kinds of people are good at math?
- Is math just about equations and calculations?
- Are you able to see math in a picture or poem?

MATERIALS

- Paper, pencil, pens, and markers
- *Mathematically* by Betsy Franko:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV5hRzAW-qU>

LESSON PLAN

Activity (10 minutes)

- Brainstorm 1, 2, 3 + letter words that describe breakfast foods
- Remember your breakfast food? Write a snowball sentence about your breakfast food using a 1 letter word, followed by a 2 letter word, followed by a 3 letter word, etc. (instructor shows an example)
 - Time for drawing
 - Time for sharing (ask what kinds of shapes they used)

Reading (10 minutes)

- Read an excerpt from *Mathematically* by Betsy Franko
 - Example: "rooftops + porches + under cars = where the neighborhood kitties are"
- Ask what the students thought of the poem
 - What did you notice about those equations?
 - Do you agree with them?
 - Would you change any of them?

Writing (15 minutes)

- Can you fill in the blanks in these equations?
 - Morning time + _____ = breakfast
 - Cereal - milk = _____
 - _____ + _____ = (my breakfast food)
 - Can you think of a different food to write an equation about?

Sharing (10 minutes)

Discussion (10 minutes)

- Where did you see math in our activity today?