**CREATING FUN WORD PROBLEMS**

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**Tyrannosaurus Math** is filled with fun word problems. After reading the book with your class, you can show students how to write their own.

**Word Problem Lesson using Tyrannosaurus Math**1. Read **Tyrannosaurus Math**

2. Make a list of the animals and objects that were used in the math problems (other dinosaurs, teeth, bugs, footprints, leaves, rocks, a tree, etc.).  
  
3. Look at the pictures in the book and identify other items T-Math could have counted (horns, bony plates, petals on flowers, etc.).  
  
4. Pick one of these items and make your own word problem, using the math operation of your choice.  
  
5. Draw a picture to illustrate the problem.

**Word Problem Lesson Using a Fun Nonfiction Character**

Any good non-fiction book that has lots of detailed illustrations can be a rich source for word problems. In the following example, I’ll use pirates.

1. Pick a math skill (I’ll choose triple digit addition.)

2. Point out the word problems in **Tyrannosaurus Math**. Then share an illustrated non-fiction book about pirates.  
  
3. You’re going to write a word problem about a pirate. Brainstorm a list of items or people that might be in his setting - ships, sails, parrots, gold coins, etc. (My character will be Captain Jack, and the items will be treasure chests.)  
  
4. Think of an action that could involve math, using that item. (A pirate needs to travel a certain number of miles to chase the galleon with the treasure chests. Or it will take him a certain number of days. Or he will count up the money in the chest. I’ll pick the money.)  
  
5. Write the problem. (Captain Jack and his crew captured a galleon. There were two treasure chests on board. One had 715 gold pieces, and the other had 826. How many gold pieces were there all together? )  
  
6. Optional: Add details and description to your problem to make it more fun:  
  
Captain Jack and his crew chased a galleon. After a heated battle that lasted six hours they captured the ship. The men could hardly wait to open the treasure chests. There might be diamonds, rubies, and lots of gold. Actually there was 715 gold pieces in one chest, and 826 in the other. How many gold pieces were there all together?

7. Draw a picture to illustrate the problem.

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**Halloween Word Problems**  
1. Point out the word problems in **Tyrannosaurus Math**. Then share some Halloween picture books with lots of characters.  
  
2. Brainstorm subjects (ghosts, mummies and all the usual suspects) and/or items in their setting (coffins, tombstones etc.) for the word problems.  
  
3. For mathematical action, creatures can go to, or leave, parties/cemeteries/haunted houses (addition and subtraction). They can scare, haunt, fly over things, etc. Groups can be used for multiplication or division. If a mummy needs 12 yards of bandages, how many yards do four mummies need? If three vampires share a bag that has 18 candy eyeballs, how many eyes will they each get?

Draw a picture.

Use this lesson for any holiday.

Customized high interest subject + word problems = fun!