



Stars & Poppy Seeds

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Flora loves to count; she counts everything she sees. Her passion for details and her desire to learn and dream inspires children to look at the world around them and imagine how everything works together.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder why the girl on the cover is dressed in maps and stars?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- mathematician – a person who is an expert in mathematics
- Pythagoras – famous Greek mathematician
- labyrinth – a place that has many confusing paths or passages; a maze
- Milky Way – a broad band of light that can be seen in the night sky and that is caused by the light of a very large number of faint stars
- accomplish – to succeed in doing something

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kinds of things did Flora like to count?
- What did Flora use to make portraits of Pythagoras and Newton?
- Was Flora able to count all the drops of water in the sea or stars in the sky?
- What advice did Flora’s mom give Flora to help her reach her dream?
- What is a googolplex?
- What do you like to count?
- Are you an artist or a dreamer? What do you dream of one day becoming?



DO

How many does it hold?

Materials

A clear plastic cup or bowl for each student

Popcorn

Pretzels

Fill a bowl with popcorn and ask students to estimate how many pieces of popcorn are in the bowl. Challenge your students to guess the closest without going over. Have them look at the size of each kernel of popped corn and try to figure out how many pieces the bowl can hold. To make it a bit trickier, mix popcorn and pretzels in the same clear bowl and ask them to estimate the number of pieces.

Finish the lesson by counting the pieces that were in the containers and having a snack!

