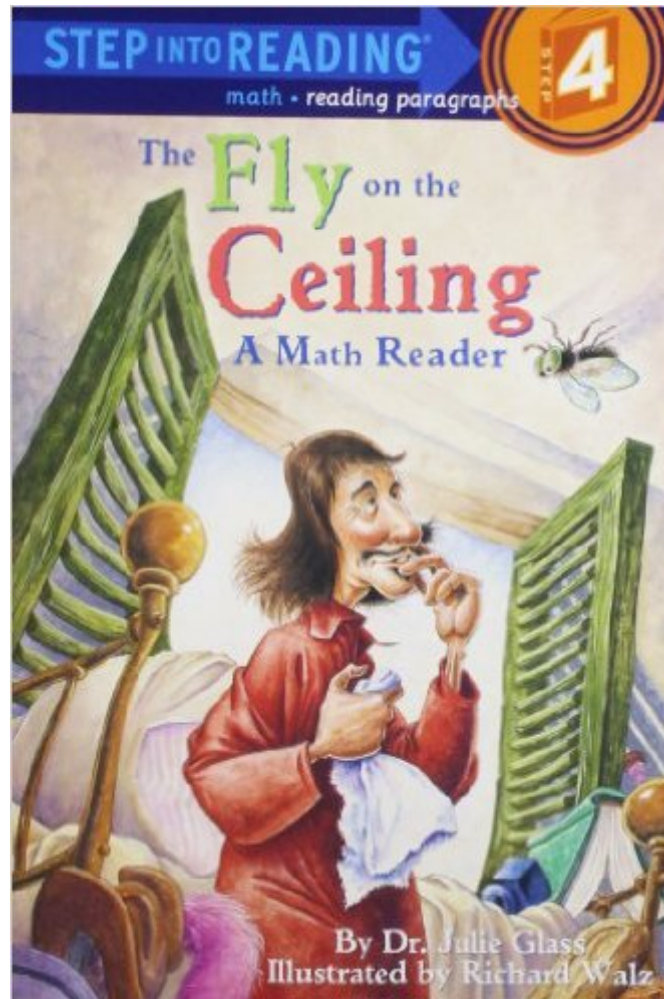


The book was found

A Fly On The Ceiling (Step-Into-Reading, Step 4)



Synopsis

Recognized as the father of analytic geometry, René Descartes was a French mathematician and philosopher. Kids will love this funny and very accessible tale - based on one of math's greatest myths - about the man who popularized the Cartesian system of coordinates.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What's this?)

Series: Step into Reading

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; First Edition, 1st Printing edition (May 19, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679886079

ISBN-13: 978-0439077651

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,799 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #68 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#) #189 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math](#)

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

AS a new teacher in 6th grade mathematics classrooms with wildly varying ability levels, I look for varied ways to present materials. Some of the children don't know how many minutes are in an hour, some are ready for algebra now. This book is a great quick read to introduce the coordinate plane. The kids who are struggling are grateful for a moment to catch their collective breaths and learn math at the same time. The kids who are breezing by appreciate the humor. It may have been written for a much younger audience, but it is clever enough to hold the attention of 12 year olds.

This book really helped explain a real life (as funny as it was) situation for using a coordinate grid. It gave my 5th graders that common experience from which we could continue to develop our

coordinate grid/ordered pairs conversations and activities.

This is a GREAT children's math book. I always buy it as a gift for friends with kids and they love it too!

This was easy for my 6 year old to read while teaching about Descartes and his grids...through a story about what he did one day while he was sick in bed. She understood afterward what the grids were used for and how they worked. I didn't know anything about Descartes before having this read to me either...so it was informative for us both! We love these readers for combining reading practice with science, math and history facts in enjoyable tidbits.

Which of the following statements are true:a) René Descartes invented the Cartesian coordinate system to track the movements of a fly on the wall.b) René Descartes was messy.c) René Descartes absentmindedly fell into the Seine.d) None of the above.The correct answer is "d)."

Unfortunately, the author of this pseudo-biography, tells an engaging story, which incorporates all three statements. The fact behind the fiction is stated in the Author's Note section on the final page (48), where we learn the only two undisputable facts in the entire book: "...René Descartes made the Cartesian Coordinate System very popular. And he was a darn good philosopher, too." The remaining pages are filled with speculation. Although the illustrations are very good, and the book's explanation of the Cartesian coordinate system is comprehensible, it seems pointless to provide a fabricated story to a seven to nine-year-old child, to whom you must at some point say, "It isn't true."

Recently, my son has discovered an interest in reading historical fiction and biography and the Step Into Reading series has been a great way to feed this interest. Prospective buyers should be warned that this book ends with a page that basically says, haha, none of this book of true, and since then, my son has been less interested in reading history and biography books. Thanks a lot, Step Into Reading.

I love this book! I always use it every year in my 4th grade class as a FUN way to introduce coordinate planes! I always keep extra copies in my class for the students to read. They LOVE IT!

An entertaining but appropriately simple explanation of how Rene Descartes developed coordinate graphing. It even gives a beautifully simple example of why this is important. Great first example of

the history of math. If you are just looking for a funny little story book with amazing illustrations this will work just fine.

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