

# THE MATHEMATICAL JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



## Characters

**Narrator 1**  
**Narrator 2**  
**Jacob**

**Adam**  
**Narrator 3**  
**Genie**

## Setting

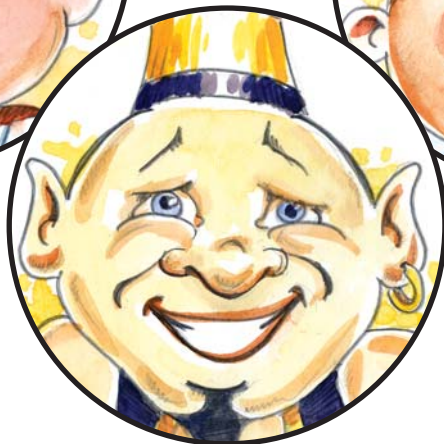
This reader's theater takes place in Jacob's home and in the middle of a dream.



Jacob



Adam



Genie

## Act 1

**Narrator 1:** It was a bright sunny day as Jacob walked to school.

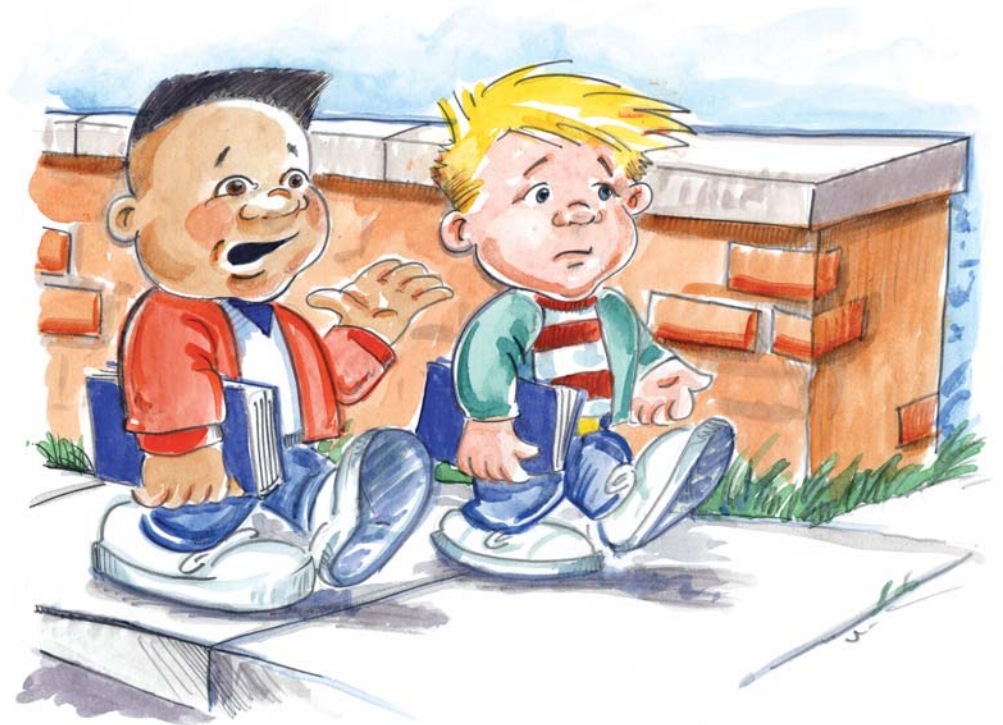
**Narrator 2:** He shoved his hands in his pockets as he kicked a rock along the sidewalk.

**Jacob:** "Nothing exciting ever happens to me!"

**Adam:** "What about when you won that contest at school last year?"

**Narrator 1:** asked Adam, Jacob's best friend.

**Jacob:** "I don't mean like that. I mean, I want to go somewhere . . . do something!"



# Math Journeys Lesson Plan

## Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students will determine the meaning of text and then participate in a public oral reading, focusing on the use of appropriate expression.
- **Content Area:** Students will become familiar with the mathematical skills of multiplication and factorials.

## Summary

Three narrators share a delightful tale of a young boy and his friend, who come to appreciate the role math plays in their lives as they take the journey of a lifetime. During their journey, they must use their math skills to solve problems. Without math, their incredible journey would not be possible.



## Materials

- *The Mathematical Journey of a Lifetime* script booklets
- *Math Journeys Character Masks*

## Introduce the Literature

Introduce the theme and the connected literature to your students by reading the book, *Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar*, by Masaichiro and Mitsumasa Anno. This book demonstrates factorials by using pictures and dots to illustrate the concept. Before reading the script, review with students the math vocabulary that is imbedded in this story, as well as in the script, song, and poem.



## ELL Support

Connect with your English language learners by allowing them to share about the countries from which they or their parents came. Ask them to describe what students in the class might see if they were to take a journey to this place. Get out a world map and have the students show the class where their home countries are located. Then, use the scale on the map to calculate how far the countries are from your town.

## Involving All Students

While this script has only six roles, there are many ways to involve all of your students. For this reader's theater experience, assign the main roles to six of the students. Explain to the remaining students that they will create sound effects for the performance. Small groups of students could add the sounds of ocean breezes or seagulls. Have groups of students read through the script to determine where sound effects would be appropriate. Assist the students in adding an appropriate number of sound effects so as not to detract from the performance.