

A MathAdventures.com Publication

# Becoming a Mathematics Teacher

## *A Mathematical Romance*



**K-8**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*

George Gadanidis, PhD

# Contents



1. Becoming a mathematics teacher	1
1.1 Falling in love with mathematics	2
1.2 Your teaching concerns	4
1.3 The teaching dilemma	6
1.4 The story in your lesson planning	7
2. What is mathematics?	15
2.1 Mathematicians' views of mathematics	18
2.2 Children's view of mathematics	21
2.3 Your mathematical thinking	23
2.4 More mathematical thinking	24
3. Number	25
3.1 Making ten	26
3.2 Number operations	28
3.3 The broken calculator	31
3.4 Mathematical procedures	32
3.5 Beyond procedures	33
3.6 Playing games	35
3.7 Adding with expanded notation	38
3.8 Subtracting with expanded notation	41
3.9 Understanding fractions	43
3.10 To infinity and beyond	44
4. Algebra	47
4.1 What is algebra?	48
4.2 Bordering on algebra	52
4.3 Pattern puzzles	55
4.4 Multiplication patterns	57
4.5 Using a spreadsheet	59
5. Measurement	62
5.1 Turtles	63
5.2 How left-handed are you?	64
5.3 Area and perimeter	66
5.4 Why do elephants have big ears?	69
6. Geometry	71
6.1 A square by any other name	72
6.2 Cookie cutters	73
6.3 Geometry walks	74

7. Data management and probability	75
7.1 Rolling a die	76
7.2 Rolling two dice	78
7.3 Smoking	82
7.4 Drinking and driving	85
8. Assessment	88
8.1 A variety of assessment tools	89
8.2 When is an A not an A?	93
8.3 Level-specific assessment tasks	95
References	99

## Activities on the CD

Activity 1.1 – lost socks	3
Activity 3.0 – guess my number game	25
Activity 3.1 – different ways of making 20	27
Activity 3.6a – odd one out game	37
Activity 3.6b – number sum game	37
Activity 3.7 – different ways of expanding numbers	40
Activity 3.9a – fraction friends	43
Activity 3.9b – exploring fractions	43
Activity 3.10 – positive about negatives	46
Activity 4.1 – coordinate rules and straight lines	51
Activity 4.3 – patterns in ordered pairs	56
Activity 5.3 – area and perimeter	68
Activity 5.4 – surface area and volume	70
Activity 6.0 – symmetry in crossword puzzles	71
Activity 6.1 – a real square	72
Activity 6.3 – triangle interview	74
Activity 7.1 – probability with one die	77
Activity 7.2 – probability with two dice	80
Activity 7.3 – smoking	84
Activity 7.4 – drinking and driving	87

### Using the Activities on the CD

The easiest way to access all the Activities at once is by using your browser to open the **mtcd\_cover.htm** file found on the CD. Your browser needs to have the Shockwave Player plugin, which is freely available from [www.macromedia.com](http://www.macromedia.com).

Alternatively, if you are using a recent version of Windows, you can access each of the activities individually using Windows Explorer. Simply open each of the files in the **mt applets** folder by double-clicking on them.