Text Set Project

Topic:

I chose multiplication as the subject area for my text set. The text set is composed of eight books of various lengths, one video, and one website for students to navigate through to learn the concepts of multiplication. The text sets, video, and website will help meet the needs of my diverse learning students in my classroom and will help enrich and expand the material already provided by the official “school-literacy” texts.

The text sets are designed to address the diverse learners with readability levels between the 1st and 10th grade levels. Some books are highly illustrated than others. Those lower readability books are intended for students who still need to learn multiplication, but do not have the reading skills required or they learn through visuals. The higher level text sets do address higher levels of mathematics, but the concepts of multiplication are still the same.

Summary of Students:

My classroom is composed of fifth grade math students with multiple learning disabilities. Some students have a disability where they need something audio to learn and some students have a disability where they need something visual to learn. Within the two groups of disabilities, you have to factor in their readability level. The audio learners will learn multiplication using the “Einstein’s Video Math Tour” and the visual
learners will read the other text sets.

All books are designed to meet the readability level of each student, where all text sets will allow students to learn multiplication just in a different way. The students do not like to use the classroom curriculum textbooks, so these text sets are designed to veer away from these textbooks and allow my students to still learn multiplication without using the textbooks. I believe that these text sets will motivate disengaged students and will help in meeting the needs for weaker readers and challenge stronger readers.

Reading Level Chart for Each Text Set:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Text Set</th>
<th>Number of Sentences</th>
<th>Number of Syllables</th>
<th>Fry Readability Level (Grade)</th>
<th>Intended Level Use (Grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Double The Ducks”</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Minnie’s Diner”</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Ten Times Better”</td>
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<td>127</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Making Multiplication Easy”</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Anno’s Mysterious Multiplying Jar”</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Multiplication and Division”</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Einstein’s Math Video Tour”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Pre-Algebra and Algebra”</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Algebra I and Algebra II”</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“WebMath” Website</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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</table>
Below Grade Level Text Sets:

“Double the Ducks” by Stuart Murphy tells us about multiplication in an exuberant story with bright and clear pictures. “Double the Ducks” is about a young cowboy who cares for his five little ducks, and how he scurries around to bring them three sacks of food and four bundles of hay with his very little two hands. When each duck brings a friend along, the boy has to double the ducks, so then he must need to double the hay and double the food. For that, he needs double the hands to do the work. Luckily for him, a friend comes to help him along.

“Minnie’s Diner” by Dale Dodds is another illustrated book that tells us about Papa McFay, seen only as an imposing shadow, orders his five sons not to chow down until they finish their chores. But a delicious aroma wafts their way from Minnie's Diner, and one after the other, the brothers shuck their responsibilities and make a beeline for the Minnie’s Diner. Since each brother is "twice as big" as his preceding sibling, each orders twice as much as the brother before. "Make it a double," they instruct Minnie. But Little Will McFay starts everything rolling with "1 soup/ 1 salad/ 1 sandwich/ some fries, and/ 1 of Minnie’s special hot cherry pies." By the time oldest brother Dill (the spitting image of Paul Bunyan) takes his place at the counter, he's ready for 16 of everything. As each family member enters, the “I’ll have a double” statement makes students double everything or multiply by two of what they had before.

“Ten Times Better” tackles the concept of multiplying by 10. The author, Richard Michelson, walks us through a virtual hierarchy of creatures who “jostle and joust” for a higher position. When an elephant says, "When I get hot, my ONE big schnozz’ll doubles
as a shower nozzle." A squid retorts, "Big nose? Big deal. I'm TEN times wetter and TEN tentacles are TEN TIMES BETTER."

**At or Near Grade Level:**

“Making Multiplication Easy” by Meish Goldish addresses different ways of learning multiplication through games, songs, stories, and more. Even though this book is intended material for teachers to use, students would enjoy reading the stories and playing the activities associated with this book. The book also addresses multiplication factors up to 10.

“Anno’s Mysterious Multiplying Jar” by Masaichiro and Mitsumasa Anno superbly demonstrates the conception of factorials in mathematics through text and illustrations. The readability level for this book was for a 4th grade readability, but I found that the book could be used for a student with a reading level of 5th grade.

“Multiplication and Division” by Lucille Caron, students would read sections 1-15 to learn how to multiply integers, powers up to 10, whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and more. This book also helps give students various ways to estimate or find the answer to many different multiplication problems.

“Einstein’s Math Video Tour” is a DVD where students can learn their multiplication tables up to 10 and can work an activity book that comes along with the DVD. The DVD also gives a review of multiplication at the end and gives students a private tutor to help strengthen the critical math concepts of multiplication.
Above Grade Level:

“Pre-Algebra and Algebra” by Lucille Caron is a book where students will read sections 12-14 and section 22 to learn how to multiply rational numbers and learn how to use multiplication to solver linear equations. This is an advanced mathematics book, but students will learn other uses of multiplication. This book is also used to help students learn multiplication, but at a higher reading level.

“Algebra I and Algebra II” by Lucille Caron is a book where students will read the entire book to learn how to multiply in higher level mathematics. It teaches the students higher levels of multiplication, but still works on the basics of how to do multiplication with a higher readability level.

Multiplying Polynomials using the WebMath website:

(www.webmath.com/polymult.html) allows students to type in two polynomials; then the computer will find the answer to multiplying those two polynomials together detailing the step-by-step processes. Using this website enables students to use multiplication, but at a higher level in mathematics like Algebra.

Readability and How it was Determined:

Readability levels were determined by using the Fry Readability Assessment sheet. The Fry graph seemed to pin point the readability level of most books right on the money, but I disagreed with some and noted that on the chart above. I noticed that the lower levels of readability had numerous sentences and few syllables. However, I still somewhat disagree with Fry about the number of sentences per 100 words. I believe on
the Fry Readability graph that the “average number of sentences per 100 words” should start around 6, not 2.5 sentences. It seemed to low of a number for 100 words.

Text Set Bibliography:


“Multiplying Polynomials”. Online. 20 Mar. 2007

