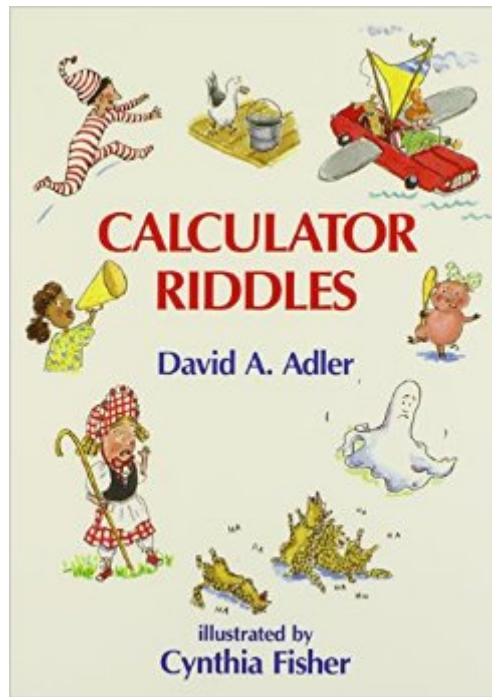


The book was found

Calculator Riddles



Synopsis

Answers to riddles are found by solving related math problems and turning the calculator upside down.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House (P) (September 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823412695

ISBN-13: 978-0823412693

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #705,353 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #223 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Video & Electronic #26868 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

As stated, the riddles are fun, and they encourage young kids to get used to punching buttons on a calculator. But beware of getting this book for kids in grades 5 and above, since the math equations work only if a child mindlessly follows the operations in the order listed. For students learning the rules for "order of operations" (like my son's 5th grade), these equations are not in proper form. For example: "I can be big. I can be small. But big or small, I weigh nothing at all. What am I?" The answer says: $20 \times 25 - 37 \times 8$. You can get the intended answer (3704 or HOLE) by following the steps exactly as written. But if you read this equation by the mathematical rules learned in pre-algebra or higher, you'll know that all multiplication steps should be done BEFORE addition steps and you'll get the wrong answer! You'll get $(20 \times 25) - (37 \times 8) = 500 - 296 = 204$. My son's calculator is programmed to follow these math rules, so it gives the wrong (but mathematically right!) answer. Few kids (or adults!) will care about my objection, but I wanted to point it out so that math teachers don't contradict their own lessons by using these riddles for classroom fun. Of course, you can steal the riddle and re-write the equations using parentheses to be mathematically accurate (as I did)! $(20 \times 25 - 37) \times 8 = 3704$ or HOLE.

A riddle book where the solutions must be solved using a calculator? This is fantastic. I tutor a wide age range of students and there are riddles for everyone to enjoy. Solving the intricate problems require good dexterity and an eye for detail (reading math symbols). When I finish the book with my students, I challenge them to try and write their own calculator riddles.

As previous reviewers noticed, this book contradicts everything students learn in school about the order of operations. I am kind of surprised to find out that the author is a former math teacher! It is so confusing to kids when we send them mixed messages. Math is hard for many students, and books like this one make it even more confusing. It also makes them think that math is important only in a classroom, but outside the classroom it is irrelevant.

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