

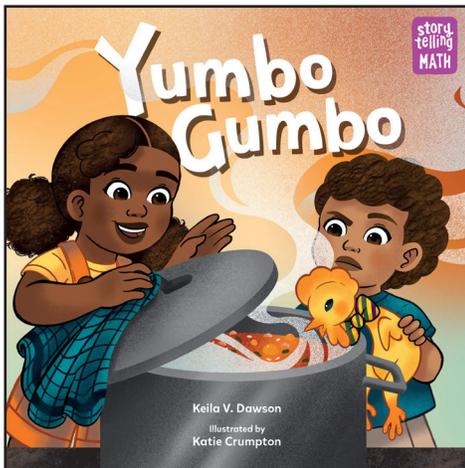
story telling MATH

Storytelling Math celebrates children using math in their daily adventures as they play, build, and discover the world around them. Joyful stories and hands-on activities make it easy for kids and their grown-ups to explore everyday math together.

www.charlesbridge.com/storytellingmath

Yumbo Gumbo

Math activities by Marlene Kliman, TERC



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About the Book

Annabelle is finally going to learn how to cook gumbo! But she and her little brother, Beau, can't agree on what type to make. Annabelle tells everyone in her family to vote for their favorite gumbo—but each vote ends in a tie. Mudbugs! How will they choose?

About the Math

Annabelle asks her family to vote for the gumbo they want: okra or chicken. When the vote ends in a tie, she offers a third choice: seafood. But that vote ends in a tie, too! She decides to ask everyone to vote for the gumbo they want the *least*. If she can't find a winning gumbo, maybe she can find one that no one objects to.

When children use voting to solve problems, they are gathering, interpreting, and making decisions based on data. Look for opportunities to encourage children to plan and carry out votes. They will learn to resolve issues in a democratic manner, and they may also find that with a little creativity, they can find a solution that everyone likes!

Dr. Yvelyne Germain-McCarthy
Consultant and Professor Emerita of Mathematics Education, University of New Orleans

About the Author

Keila V. Dawson was born and raised in New Orleans. Nowadays she lives in Cincinnati, where she writes books for children. She is the coeditor of *No Voice Too Small* and *No World Too Big*.
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About the Illustrator

Katie Crumpton currently lives in South Carolina, after spending a decade in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she attended the Academy of Art University. She has illustrated several picture books, including *I, Too*, *Sing America* and *A Stitch Through Time*.
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Math Activities

Explore data with these activities!

Team Up

One person picks a clothing feature that some, but not all, of the group has in common, such as shorts, the color blue, or a shirt with at least one pocket. Everyone gets into groups based on that feature. For instance, people wearing shorts might stand by the window. People who are not wearing shorts might stand by the door.

Talk together: "How can you tell if more of us are wearing shorts? Do you think we'd get a different result at a different time of year? Why or why not?" Next time, someone else picks a feature to team up by.



Make (and Use!) a Ballot Box

Cut a slot for ballots in the top of a shoebox lid, and invite children to decorate the box. Look for opportunities for everyone to vote on two or three choices (for instance, which game to play or which movie to watch). Pass around strips of paper to use for ballots. If children are too young to write, they can use a sticker or picture to show their choice. When the vote is complete, engage children in sorting and comparing ballots to find the winner.



Take a Poll

Together, decide on a poll question (for example, "What is your favorite dinosaur?") and two or three choices. Then gather votes with a show of hands.

Once everyone has agreed on the winner, discuss: "Do you think we'd get the same result if we asked a different group of people the same question? Why or why not?" Try it and see! Consider inviting people who live far away to participate by video call.