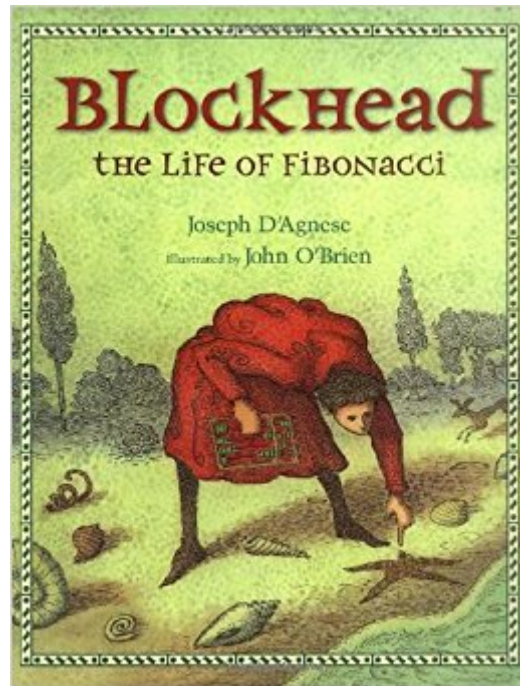




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Blockhead: The Life Of Fibonacci



Synopsis

Breaking News: In April 2015 *Blockhead* was named a Mathical Honor Book. As a young boy in medieval Italy, Leonardo Fibonacci thought about numbers day and night. He was such a daydreamer that people called him a blockhead. When Leonardo grew up and traveled the world, he was inspired by the numbers used in different countries. Then he realized that many things in nature, from the number of petals on a flower to the spiral of a nautilus shell, seem to follow a certain pattern. The boy who was once teased for being a blockhead had discovered what came to be known as the Fibonacci Sequence! *Blockhead* is a 2011 Bank Street College -- Best Children's Book of the Year. *Blockhead* has been translated into Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Catalan. Be sure to check for those editions of this title, if appropriate for your classroom!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1 edition (March 30, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805063056

ISBN-13: 978-0805063059

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 9 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,968 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology #209 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 2 – 5 • Leonardo does his math problems so quickly that he has plenty of time to look out the window and count other things in nature. His teacher, however, chastises him for daydreaming and the other students call him a "blockhead." Only his father's advisor, Alfredo, understands that Leonardo has a fascination with numbers, a love that will eventually help him become the "greatest Western mathematician in the Middle Ages." As an adult, Fibonacci imagines the figure of Alfredo continuing to help him refine his theories. Although the book is presented as a

biography, the author states that "little is known about the life of Leonardo Fibonacci" and no sources are listed. Entertaining in the vein of the "You Wouldn't Want to Be" series, this lighthearted introduction to Fibonacci's ideas will inspire young math lovers and perhaps point them toward more scholarly explorations. The illustrations have a medieval look to them but without any stiffness or fussiness. They include many touches of humor and are well suited to the story. Painted with a broad pointillist style detailed with pen and ink, the pictures incorporate many visual references to Fibonacci's work, such as swirling features suggestive of the spiral, a key element in the mathematician's theories of nature. •Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Though written in a modern idiom ("Yuck, I thought. Who wants to be a merchant?"), D'Agnese's introduction to medieval Europe's greatest mathematician offers both a coherent biographical account—spun, with some invented details, from very sketchy historical records—and the clearest explanation to date for younger readers of the numerical sequence that is found throughout nature and still bears his name. O'Brien's illustrations place the prosperously dressed, woolly headed savant in his native Pisa and other settings, contemplating flowers, seashells, and the so-called arabic numerals (which he promoted vigorously and rightly ascribes to India), as well as presenting a visual solution to his most famous mathematical word problem. Closing with a page of relevant activities for young naturalists, this picture book makes an excellent alternative to Joy N. Hulme's colorful but flawed *Wild Fibonacci: Nature's Secret Code Revealed*, illustrated by Carol Schwartz (2005). Grades 3-5. --John Peters

I bought this book to stimulate my daughter's interest in mathematics. I was probably more interested in reading it than my daughter. This is a well written biography suitable for 5-9 years old. It came with the math puzzle of counting rabbits, which lead to discovery of Fibonacci number. As a math major in college, I used to read a lot of biographies of the great mathematicians. It gave me passion when reading those smart brains' stories. I hope to see more of such books for kids.

Playful introduction for kids to the life of Fibonacci. Not exactly historically accurate, but no matter; the point of the book is how Fibonacci saw fascinating patterns in numbers all around him, and they

didn't look like a math textbook. We combined this story with activities from the book "Fibonacci Fun," and for once, my kids were actually doing math without their swords drawn.

This is a fun book to introduce Fibonacci (Leonardo Pisano). It is a must have for Artists, Biologists, Mathematicians, Architects, Physicists, Astronomers, heck you can connect Fibonacci numbers to almost everything. The book is written in first person voice so it helps the reader relate to this remarkable renaissance hero. The illustrations are superb. There are hidden sequences, spirals, and symbols to find throughout the book. Best of all, this book encourages readers to see our world in a totally new perspective. Thanks Mr. D'Agnese and Mr. O'Brien!

I was shocked when our 2 year old daughter earnestly liked this book! She found a spiral playdough toy and makes spirals obsessively now. There is a clear story line and the illustrations are beautifully intricate. She will be growing into the full concepts of the story for years, but it's never too early to get your kids excited about mathematicians and number problems.

I love books that introduce concepts in a story format--especially historical context! This one does a great job.

Great intro for a 5 year old to the man and the math theory...I looked at several other books and found this one most appropriate for the 5-7 yr old age range

You will never eat another grapefruit again without counting the sections. You will never pick another daisy without counting the petals. You will thank this "blockhead" for saving us from dividing by Roman numbers. And you will even learn how to pronounce Fibonacci. Get this book for your children. Get this book for yourself.

nice math connection

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