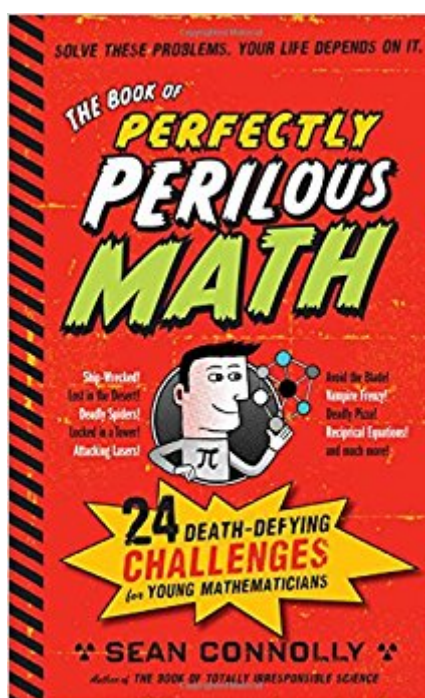


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# The Book Of Perfectly Perilous Math: 24 Death-Defying Challenges For Young Mathematicians (Irresponsible Science)



## Synopsis

Math rocks! At least it does in the gifted hands of Sean Connolly, who blends middle school math with fantasy to create an exciting adventure in problem-solving. These word problems are perilous, do-or-die scenarios of blood-sucking vampires (How many months would it take a single vampire to completely take over a town of 500,000 people?), or a rowboat of 5 shipwrecked sailors with a single barrel of freshwater (How much can they drink, and for how long, before they go mad from thirst??). Each problem requires readers to dig deep into the tools theyâ™re learning in school to figure out how to survive. Kids will love solving these problems. Sean Connolly knows how to make tough subjects exciting and he brings that same intuitive understanding of what inspires and challenges kidsâ™ curiosity to the 24 problems in *The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math*. These problems are as fun to read as they are challenging to solve. They test readers on fractions, algebra, geometry, probability, expressions and equations, and more. Use geometry to fill in for the shipâ™s navigator and make it safely to the New World. Escape an evil Dukeâ™s executioner by picking the right doorâ™probability will save your neck.

## Book Information

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Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Word Games #440 in Books > Children's Books >

Education & Reference > Math

Age Range: 9 - 15 years

Grade Level: 3 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8-This follow-up to *The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science* (Workman, 2010) offers 24 engaging and thought-provoking math problems. A brief introduction explains the arrangement of the text and includes some tips and hints for tackling them. Each one is framed as a tough or dire situation that readers must solve using their math skills and knowledge. There are three levels of difficulty: "You Might Make It" (grade 5), "Slim to None" (grade 6), and "You're Dead" (grade 7). The grade-level assignments are based on Common Core Standards in mathematics, which the problems are aligned with. Each entry begins by stating its "challenge." A boxed area called "Euclid's Advice" offers some tips and suggestions for solving the challenge, followed by a blank page for students to work out their solutions. Next, the solution is provided. Explanations are clear and easy to understand. In "Sage in the Tower," readers must figure out how to use shadows and proportions to determine how tall a tower is in order to rescue the king's scholar. Lastly, each challenge concludes with a "Math Lab" that offers an example of how the principles being addressed can be put into action. The layout is clean and attractive with wacky three-color cartoons throughout. A useful addition to libraries wanting to supplement their mathematics collections, in addition to being an entertaining supplement to the curriculum.-Maren Ostergard, King County Library System, Issaquah, WA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Sean Connolly is the author of *The Book of Totally Irresponsible Science*, *The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science*, and *The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math*, and dozens of other books for both children and adults. A father of three, he is in an ideal position to explain the nuts and bolts of these experiments. Â

This book is a must read for every parent, teacher and child who loves science and math. And if you don't love science and math yet, you will after reading this book. I hope the author earns so much money with this book, that he is allowed to write another 50 of the same kind. These math puzzles are so incredibly thoughtful, entertaining and delighting - even my three year old wants to do math, after looking at the illustrations and hearing the funny notes. Thank you Sean and the publisher for undertaking this work and creating such a delightful inspiring book. I think if our bookstores would be filled with books like this, America's future in science and engineering would look even brighter. For everyone wondering about the impact of math problems on a child's development of analytical skills, I highly recommend Andrei Toom's paper "Word problems in Russia and America".

I heard this author on National Public Radio one morning and decided to order the book as a Christmas gift for the children of a couple of friends of ours who were between the ages of 8 and 14. The book presents really fun scenarios that require a mathematical solution. Some of these problems were quite challenging for me, even as an adult, but I was proud of myself for remembering enough of my past math classes to work out almost all of the answers. I do not have children, but my husband and I thought it would be really fun to work on the problems together with your child. (I don't know how it would work with more than one child at one time...you would have to try that). The young man to whom we gave the book loved it and his brothers enjoyed it, too!

Great book! I am a GATE teacher and my students love this! Great puzzles involving math and logic!

This book is so unique and creative. Needless to say, as a middle level math teacher, I was excited to find something to ignite a spark in my students' minds. However, there are numerous mathematical inaccuracies in this book. For instance, the author uses the words "odds" and "probability" interchangeably. In my state's 8th grade math standards, the students are required to not only know the difference between those two concepts, but also must be able to convert between them. They are NOT the same thing. Also, the author claims that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of 75 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  is 50 and  $\frac{1}{4}$ . It's actually 50 and  $\frac{1}{2}$ , making the solution to the problem much different than how it's described. I've had this book for 24 hours now and have already found those mistakes. I'm just glad it was only \$5.

Fantastic book! Bought it for my daughter, and her math teacher loved it so much, he wanted to borrow it. So we bought him one as a Christmas gift. I should also mention that my daughter happens to love the book too. :-)

Great intro to algebra! I think even if your kids aren't "doing" algebra in school yet, they can do this. I think it's very important to get comfortable with word problems and doing algebra because it's real world math. This book gives funny, different, interesting scenarios for using math. After each problem, there are pages to work out the problem and after that they have ways to solve the problem and why.

I have a young son who wasn't that much into reading until recently, but loves math. This has been an early favorite.

What a fun book! It brings forward a lot of good thinking and strategy as well as some great math to work out. It's a good way to make the common core approach be fun, engaging and teaches true strategic problem solving.

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