

Chapter 1 : Life of Fred Math: Curriculum Review - The Happy Housewife, & :: Home Schooling

Life of Fred Zillions of Practice Problems for Beginning Algebra is a hardcover textbook containing pages. This book is not consumable. All answers are written on separate paper or in a notebook.

People who are naturally good at math Shelves: I wish I could give Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra a higher rating. It makes me picture mathematics as one of those 6-and-a-half-foot tall men who weigh pounds nearly all muscle and go through life trying not to scare people. But just as very large men tend to intimidate no matter how soft sp You know what? Schmidt is the wife of the very large man. He is some sort of omni-prodigy, an expert at not only math but also literature, communication, and generally getting around in a world not designed for 5 year olds. This is not the oddest part of this particular volume in the Life of Fred series. This book, my friends, is magical realism at its least self-conscious. Or maybe you do- I am making an assumption for the sake of dramatics. Magical realism is either really grand or poorly done. Fortunately Schmidt pulls it off. This wacky little plot carries the book along as opportunities to perform acts of algebra pop up in allegedly everyday situations if a hot dog has a diameter of 2 feet and a length of 3 feet, what is its volume and how much does it weigh? The very nature of the book gives one the impression that algebra will be useful should one trip into an alternate universe in which people buy tickets to gain audiences with military superiors. Which is why I borrowed from the library Life of Fred: Unfortunately it is time for the negatives. Math is not my strong point. It is, in fact, my weak point. I would go so far as to say that math is my nemesis, a six-and-a-half-foot tall man who weighs pounds nearly all muscle and keeps glaring at me from across the Starbucks as if he knows me and is waiting for his thirst for revenge to outweigh his common decency and fear of prison. Math took Man to the moon. If you believe in that sort of thing. Roses are different from moose, the author claims as if the math n00b has no feelings. Explanations are either brief, glossing over details that a student may not intuitively figure out, or convoluted, dragging in too MANY details at one time. But if you are like me and need to have your hand held as math instruction is dumbed down to the point of enraging those who keep declaring the decline of Western civilization, then this book just might make you pledge your vote to whichever presidential candidate promises to fight the War on Numbers. My reason for checking this book out of the library: I have the how. I need the why. I still need the why. Especially when you have funny bits like this: I dare say that would be as hard to explain as algebra itself.

Chapter 2 : Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra - Exodus Books

The character Fred explains the need for math in everyday blog.quintoapp.com of Fred: Beginning Algebra covers: Numbers, Integers, Equations, Motion amp Mixture, Two Unknowns, Exponents, Factoring, Fractions, Square Roots, Quadratic Equations, Functions amp Slope, Inequalities amp Absolute blog.quintoapp.com book is to be used with Fred s Home Companion.

It is definitely an indication of the unique approach of the Life of Fred math series. Stanley Schmidt has created the character of a young prodigy, Fred, whose story and life experiences present the concepts of math. After twelve chapters of following the adventures of Fred, students will have covered all of beginning algebra. Students will become engaged in the story of Fred and his real-life math problems. The answers to the problems in this section are given immediately after the problems. The first two cities have the answers supplied, the second two have odd answers supplied, and the last none. This allows students to go over the first several cities either on their own or with a teacher for practice, then complete the remaining cities as homework. For a closer look, there is a page Sample available. An overview of Beginning Algebra along with what topics are covered for each of the twelve chapters is located here. While at first glance the textbook does not seem as beefy as a traditional text, looking at the Table of Contents proves otherwise. I think the non-traditional approach throws some into worry that this is more a supplemental program, but that is not the case. Some students may be inclined to just read and enjoy the story and not stop to do the problems. Though the higher level texts Fractions and beyond are meant for the student to work through independently, wise parents will make sure students utilize the practice sets to make the most of the curriculum. There is also a Home Companion, available as a separate purchase, which provides lesson plans and other teaching tips for those needing more structure. I have heard secular users express concerns that the Life of Fred series may have objectionable religious content because the author is a Christian as is his character, Fred. While there are religious-oriented references, such as attending church, it is in a very non-preachy way and instead just incorporated into daily life. There are also no negative references to other religions. I like the quirky humor used throughout the text, and I suspect many kids will too. I suppose quirky humor is a given when the main character is a six-year-old college professor! The story is a bit rambling, which could be positive or negative depending on the reader. There are many trails and side notes leading into other subjects or interesting facts. For example, full adult vocabulary is used, often with an explanation of the word meaning. In one example using animals, an ibex was among the choices. Curious students will want to look up an ibex! I would think that non-mathy kids especially would like all the additional information integrated into their math learning. Life of Fred Beginning Algebra is definitely not your average, dry math textbook. Math does not have to be boring or serious. If you are looking for a different approach to math, whether for elementary grades or advanced math, the Life of Fred series stands in a category of its own.

Chapter 3 : Life of Fred Beginning Algebra

We had heard good things from Life of Fred users and decided to give it a try. A blog.quintoapp.com bought the Life of Fred Advanced Algebra first, but decided to start her in Beginning Algebra because she needed to go back to the basics and Fred will provide her with the foundations she needs.

How about a math hater? With either one, the Life of Fred series of math books may be the solution for your math curriculum needs. I first saw the Life of Fred books at a homeschool conference. The author and his wife were there talking to families about their books and I stopped to chat briefly with both. One thing that struck me instantly was that the author, Stanley Schmidt, Ph. You know how it is when you love something so much that you just want to share it with the world? That is exactly what I got from Dr. Schmidt and this love shines throughout his texts. Each book is based around a 5 year old genius, Fred Gauss, who encounters all sorts of situations and adventures sprinkled with plenty of humor. The stories are so entertaining you get caught up in them instantly. My daughter, who could be generally categorized as someone who would rather hand wash Thanksgiving dishes than sit down and work on some math, grabbed the Life of Fred Beginning Algebra book and started reading it with breakfast. I saw her sitting with it cracked open at lunchtime too! She then was reading it the next day and I also "caught" her on the couch when her schoolwork was done, browsing through, you guessed it, more Life of Fred math. The sound of the occasional snicker came floating over. She informed me on the second day that she wanted to use the Life of Fred books for her math studies. What is so special about these books that my daughter, a "math hater" , would sit and browse through math textbooks for hours just "for fun"? So many homeschoolers are recognizing the importance of "living books". The Life of Fred texts are living books that teach math. They are not just a dry text full of unrelated lessons and run of the mill story problems. In each book there are all sorts of interesting tidbits sprinkled throughout like vocabulary, references to literature, history, and a few life lessons thrown in to boot. Each text books starts with a story and is designed to be entirely self-teaching. As you progress through each story you run into math because it is needed for an issue or adventure in the context of the story. Here is a quote from a personal email from the author about the self teaching philosophy behind the books: Parents are encouraged NOT to teach the material. I believe that English and reading are more important than mathematics and I have a Ph. Increasingly, as the children go through their years of elementary school, high school, and college, they learn by reading more than by lectures. By graduate school, sitting around in seminars discussing what you have read becomes normative. And after college, the graduate faces 40 or more years in which virtually everything of importance that is learned is from reading not from the Discovery Channel on television. They seek labor-saving approaches to life. And this has several negative effects: If the parent says, "Dr. These sections have the complete solutions listed after them. Many of the problems require some puzzling through, others are pretty straight forward and still others may have several possible solutions. Your students will also appreciate that some of them are just plain fun. At the end of each chapter there are several "cities" of math to assign. The books designed for younger students only have a "Your Turn to Play" section in each chapter and then a "bridge" at the end of several chapters where if you get 9 or more right you get to move on. Students will probably work hard to really understand the material and get "over the bridge" in fewer tries. These home companion guides schedule daily readings, have a complete answer key and offer extra practice problems. They make a nice addition to the series and I highly recommend them, especially because they are so reasonable price-wise. Each hardback book costs anywhere from 19 to 39 dollars. The Home Companion guides are 14 dollars each. So what about the rubber meeting the road? Do the Life of Fred books really work? Well, that is a question I intend to find out with all three of my children. I have the fractions book and plan on using it with my youngest over an upcoming summer or two. My oldest will start using the statistics book as well. Just by looking through the texts though, I really believe that they will work out great and that the math is rigorous while at the same time understandable and let me say it yet again, even FUN. The author was very helpful in suggesting that my youngest son might not be ready for the material when I first contacted him and was reassuring in that there is no need to hurry. A student working through the Life of Fred books could

conceivably finish the entire series by 9th or 10th grade. Besides learning a lot of math, my goal is that they enjoy it. The two books before algebra LOF: Decimals and Percents each should take, on the average, less than a quarter of a year. Beginning Algebra and LOF: That means that each of the algebra books should take, say, a half year. Geometry has a lot of fun stuff in it. The concept of proof, which is central to why we teach geometry, is a new way of thinking for most kids. Schedule a year for the geometry. Trig has about a hundred lessons. Well before the end of their high school years. Calculus is covers all two years of calculus. Children CAN learn quite a bit of math in just a few years, if you give them the opportunity. In order to succeed in the Life of Fred math books, students really have to work through and puzzle out the material. You must understand what you are doing and why. I believe these textbooks encourage a true understanding of math and tie learning to concrete situations that have "meaning". When you are enjoying things, you will often want more, too! The possible downsides are that some students just will not do well with a self teaching program they must read themselves. This is not your push in the DVD type of lesson where you watch and listen. Sometimes the concepts will not be readily apparent to some children on the first pass through and will require some rereading until a "light bulb goes on". This could be frustrating, but as my husbands says, this could also be beneficial because it enforces the child to discipline himself mentally to accomplish the task at hand. There are also no manipulatives. While manipulatives are used less and less in higher math levels, parents may want to buy a few inexpensive fraction pie or bar pieces for younger students using the Life of Fred Fractions book, or print some out for free here. Remember though, the author is a phone call away. Some parents have stated that the materials are wonderful for a supplementary program, but not for the main math course. Others have reported, that for their children, the explanations were not thorough enough. All in all, I think the Life of Fred math books are an affordable, welcome and unique addition to the myriad of math programs available to students and parents. They manage to stand out because they are fun, funny, engaging and connected to stories that keep you involved in what you are learning. I can say that personally, I am sold on the Life of Fred math books. My older two will also be using some of the higher level books, at their request. Check back for an article about our experiences and any updates about how the LOF books are working for us. I recommend you go over to the official website and take a look at the sample pages to see if the series is a fit for your student s. You may just like what you see and join the quietly expanding fan base of the Life of Fred math books. Decimals and Percents Life of Fred: Geometry Life of Fred: Calculus Life of Fred: Please note if you read that the Life of Fred books contain "questionable" material, I have personally looked over some of the books and not found anything that is inappropriate, in my opinion, for my children. The author is an unabashedly Christian man and I believe his values are reflected in the books though there is no "preaching" and I do not believe anything that would offend or put off non-Christian families. There were allegedly some items that some parents may not have felt comfortable with, but some of these were reportedly removed, replaced or changed in subsequent editions. Please refer to this post on the Well Trained Mind boards, if you have any concerns and want details. Click here for more homeschool math materials, reviews and information on our site. Thank you for reading this Life of Fred math review. We hope you enjoyed it!

Chapter 4 : Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra by Stanley F. Schmidt

Beginning Algebra: Expanded Edition is the first book in the Life of Fred High School Mathematics Series, and is designed for students in 9th grade. This expanded edition of Algebra replaces the both the earlier Life of Fred Beginning Algebra and Fred's Home Companion Algebra books; it also contains all problems completely worked out.

Just for Fun The lights were low. Textbooks littered the floor like empty bottles. Somewhere a coyote howled, high and sweet and melancholy. Algebra stood thirty-seven feet tall and had narrow eyes that flashed with a maniac gleam. Numbers and letters fell from his skin like year-old dirt. I was small and weak and armed only with a bland textbook and a pencil; I was no match for Algebra. For years he haunted me, taunting me with my insufficient knowledge, my poor grasp of arithmetic principles. He brought me to a wasteland of unnavigable numbers, and I drowned. Until Fred came along. Fred was a young line drawing whose mathematical skill rivaled that of his namesake, Friedrich Gauss. He reached out a poorly sketched hand and pulled me out of the mire of algebra and into the golden daylight of arithmetic, even trigonometry and calculus. I will never forget him; I can thank him only by telling this story. The series chronicles the adventures mathematical and otherwise of Fred Gauss, a five-year-old math genius enrolled at Kittens University. Fred finds himself in a variety of situations which require math for their solution, instead of presenting a topic and then looking for an illustration by which to apply it—this ordering helps kids and adults see how mathematical concepts are useful and why they should learn them, rather than presenting the concepts as mere theories without context. How Do These Work? Schmidt believes reading is the primary way people learn, not just about math but about any subject. Hearing is important in the early years before a child can read, but as they get older more and more of what they know comes from reading and writing down what they know. Life of Fred is intended to be largely, even exclusively self-taught. Lessons are read by the student, and then application is reinforced by a series of problems. He encourages students to read at a well-modulated pace—certain concepts are difficult to grasp and should be read for comprehension, not speed. As a result, there is very little teacher support for this curriculum. This is not the best program for a parent with little or no formal math background who wants to be able to personally instruct and guide their child. The author welcomes emails and even phone calls from parents whose children are distraught and unable to understand a principle, but he also says he has received very few of those types of calls over the years. Each book is broken into chapters dealing with key ideas. There are problem sets at the end of each chapter, and answers are included in the back of each book. The first two volumes include "Bridge" tests after every fifth chapter to help reinforce the material covered. These are not workbooks; they are hardcover texts designed to be used and re-used. Problem set answers should be recorded not in the books but on a separate sheet of paper. The ten elementary books Apples, Butterflies, Cats, Dogs, Edgefield, Farming, Goldfish, Honey, Ice Cream and Jellybeans are meant for young students and concentrate on basic math like addition and subtraction, telling time, money, and measurements. But Schmidt manages to include basic algebraic content and problems plus quite the variety of seemingly unrelated information in a way that kids will find both fun and understandable. Read a more in-depth review here. The three intermediate books Kidneys, Liver and Mineshaft are meant for students who have their addition and multiplication tables down cold, but are not yet in 5th grade. These are new to the course, and should be used prior to Fractions and Decimals and Percents. The next two books, Fractions and Decimals and Percents, cover fairly basic principles. Stan Schmidt opens Pre-Algebra 0 with Physics with a chapter on friction, using the scientific concept as a way to compare math and science, and to demonstrate how the two interact. This is part of the Life of Fred program of showing how mathematics are practically useful as well as theoretically important, and it succeeds beyond what we could reasonably expect. Pre-Algebra 1 with Biology and Pre-Algebra 2 with Economics are intended to be read sequentially since the concepts explored are progressive and interlinked. The biology and economics aspects are added features—math is still the focus. However, the author avers that the first can double as a 7th grade science text, and the second as a high school economics text. These books together make an excellent bridge from the basic math explored in the first two Fred texts, and the much more complex material of Beginning Algebra

and beyond. Schmidt can manage to make math and biology and economics interesting simultaneously is testament to his consummate genius. Beginning Algebra and Advanced Algebra make a smooth transition from more basic functions to far more complex ones. The lighthearted approach is ably maintained, and algebraic principles are related to other branches of math and life in general in a way that will encourage most kids to want to learn more. Linear Algebra a recent addition is more advanced than its predecessors meant to follow Calculus and concentrates on linear equations and basic trigonometric functions. The texts are comprehensive, and leave the way open for more advanced math.

Chapter 5 : Life Of Fred: Zillions Of Practice Problems Beginning Algebra | eBay

Estimated delivery dates - opens in a new window or tab include seller's handling time, origin ZIP Code, destination ZIP Code and time of acceptance and will depend on shipping service selected and receipt of cleared payment - opens in a new window or tab.

Beginning Algebra Life of Fred: Reviewed by Martha Robinson Purchase details: Available from the publisher, Polka Dot Publishing. Author Stanley Schmidt has woven math concepts and problems into a compelling adventure of six-year-old college professor Fred who is mistakenly inducted into the Army. Beginning Algebra is a self-teaching text. The author explains concepts in a narrative style with occasional questions or comments from the "reader" shown in a different font. Sometimes additional material is introduced in the "homework. Six sets of exercises with six to ten problems each are at the end of each chapter. The first two sets have the answers immediately following them, while the third and fourth sets have only the odd answers. The final two sets do not show answers. Answers are available in the Companion reviewed below. The sets are named for random cities and could be used for a geography lesson just for fun. Fred encounters all of the concepts standard to a first year high school algebra text. In fact, with only pages, Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra deals with virtually every subject covered in the pages of Elementary Algebra by Harold R. Some of the material covered in Mr. In the final pages, a summary of the key points of Beginning Algebra called A. All Reorganized Together appears for quick reference. The text is illustrated with black-and-white drawings and diagrams. Fewer illustrations and more narrative appear in Beginning Algebra than were in Fractions and Decimals and Percentages. As in Fractions and Decimals and Percents , topics beyond math appear. Unusual vocabulary words, the aesthetics of window treatments, and roses in literature and music are just a few of the subjects mentioned. A subtle Christian undercurrent runs through this book. Fred says his prayers before bed, but the Army chaplain really adds to the Christian feeling. Beginning Algebra Stanley Schmidt, Ph. The material is broken into one hundred eight daily lessons. Each lesson refers to the pages in the text and either assigns "Your Turn to Play" or provides additional questions with their answers. Beginning Algebra will enchant your math student with its amusing story. The clear and simple explanations will allow him to learn algebra in a pleasant way, and the reasonable price will thrill every homeschooling parent. Being a widow, the reviewer was happy to see this verse. Advanced Algebra Advanced Algebra continues the story of Fred as he takes a long and rather bizarre bus ride back to Kittens University. Though it has almost the same amount of pages, this book spends more time on math than the Beginning Algebra program. Trigonometry is not included, but instead is covered in the next book in the Fred series. Five "half" chapters, each entitled "Looking Back," review material from Life of Fred: The story line is suspended in these chapters while the author provides a concise summary of fundamental concepts. Some answers are provided in the text, but others may be found in the Home Companion. Advanced Algebra breaks the course into one hundred one daily lessons with more problems and explanations. The author provides additional information and tips in the "Intermission" sections. Advanced Algebra covers a tremendous amount of material in its pages! The story line is not as fun and interesting as in the previous volumes, but that actually highlights how good the math is. Schmidt explains concepts in a very different way from standard texts, and students will gain an understanding rather than just the drilled memorization of problems. The Home Companion takes the effort of planning completely off the backs of homeschooling parents. Using it, the student can become an independent learner. The format remains the same with a story line of Fred, a pint-sized math professor at KITTENS University, having sometimes bizarre adventures while running into many geometry applications. In this book, Fred encounters llamas, love, and lost relations, pirates, prison camps, and police officers. The story line is enjoyable, but the geometry is amazing. Schmidt covers Euclidian geometry in depth with the majority of the book devoted to proofs. In the final chapter, the author opens a world that high school students are never exposed to, the world of pure theoretical mathematics. Schmidt represents this world as a fun place without the massive number crunching like engineers have to do, but rather a place where the mathematician can create a work of art. Answers to some problems are in the back of

the book. All other answers are in a comb-bound answer booklet. Life of Fred Geometry truly qualifies as a "living book. An amazing amount of material is covered, but the best part is the way that Dr. Schmidt inspires the students to consider going farther with mathematics. He shows how interesting and stimulating the study of math can be. Few high school geometry texts cover proofs, and consequently, students miss one of the most rewarding and satisfying aspects of mathematics studies. Proofs teach students logic through the solving of a puzzle, and every student feels an achievement when he sees his solution!

Chapter 6 : Life of Fred Beginning Algebra Expanded Edition by Stanley F. Schmidt

Begin this book after Decimals and Percents, or after Saxon 7/6 or 8/7. The Human Face of Beginning Algebra In five days of Fred's life, every aspect of beginning algebra pops up in our hero's life.

Share Fred is a quirky little 6 year old who is a university professor of mathematics. Just that bit of info got me interested in learning more about the series known as Life of Fred by Stanley F. He takes real life situations as interpreted by Fred and uses them to teach math courses that can be started at around 5th grade or so and continue into college levels. The great thing about these books is that first, you see where the math is needed. Then, you learn the math. We were looking for something different and this series was recommended to me. He has recently written a two book Pre-Algebra course that also includes Biology and Economics. You then move on to Algebra and Advanced Algebra. Most of it is how he deals with his day to day experiences, friends, enemies, needs, and leisure time. They can be read as a story and not be boring. They can be taken as review books for later in life like for a former math teacher revisiting these topics for the first time in 15 years. There are a lot of other topics woven into the story as well. Vocabulary, literature, philosophy, Latin, ethics, nothing is too much for Fred to take on. My kids got interested in the stories and then the math. They can work on their own. You can buy the book and then the companion book if there is one. They cover from about 5th grade to college level. Some come with a pre-planned companion so you can see how much to do each day. There is a money back guarantee. Kids work on their own. There can be a temptation to just copy the answers down and be done. However, this is addressed in the book. One child might need extra help with a topic. I find that it is easy to find more practice, however, and to work through the difficult part with them or find another way to teach that concept. Not everyone wants to learn this way. Some kids learn better with textbooks, drills, videos or other programs. The books are not limited to just math. Read the books before your kids do to make sure everything is alright with you. My son and I worked out a lesson schedule for this year that kept daily work at a reasonable level. Right now, I have one son using the Pre-Algebra book 2 and another son using the Geometry book. They are both doing well. My oldest has hit a sort of block with Geometry but we are working through it. He started with the Fractions book in 5th grade and loved it. My 2nd son started with the Fractions and Decimals and is now in the Pre-Algebra books and still is very happy with the program. The author is personable and has even answered emails about his books, including when we found an error in one of the earlier editions. Tabitha wife to Tom, homeschooling mom to 8 kids ages 14 to 1, learning something new all the time 0shares.

Chapter 7 : Life of Fred Math Reviews | TheHomeSchoolMom

Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra Expanded Edition (This book replaces both Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra and Fred's Home Companion: Beginning Algebra. This book has all the Your Turn to Play problems completely worked out, which wasn't true in the old books.

Chapter 8 : Homeschool blog.quintoapp.com :: Review of Life of Fred Algebra and Geometry Programs

Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra as Serious as it Needs to Be By Stanley F. Mint Math Â· Â· Hardcover out of 5 stars - Life of Fred: Beginning Algebra as Serious as it Needs to Be By Stanley F. Mint.

Chapter 9 : Life of Fred Math - Exodus Books

Well, after using Life of Fred for Beginning Algebra and reading through most of the Fractions book, I think I can answer some of these questions. First, Fred IS the unlikely mathematician in all of us.