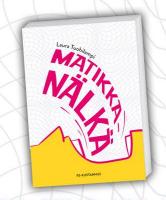


Deepening mathematical thinking, enjoyment and engagement through collaborative problem solving

Dr. Laura Tuohilampi

Associate professor, didactics of mathematics
University of Helsinki
The author of **Math Hunger** 



## **HOW TO FIND MATHS INTERESTING?**

Find intriguing problems

Solve (and discuss) them with your friends

Don't stress yourself by trying to remember the rules. Allow yourself to think wrong, find the mistake and motivate your justification. (It's you who you have to convince)

# Anna, 4 years, brought some toys to her kindergarten



## On the next day some of them were gone!



# Who is guilty?

Frank, 4y: I haven't taken any animals!

Ida, 2y: The red pony was so cute!

Edward, 3y: I know where the yellow toys are.











A 100 ml tube of toothpaste costs 1.50 euro. If the volume of the package is increased by 25%, and the price by 40% at the same time, by how much has the



"Young people have the idea ... that you can accomplish anything, as long as you want it enough. What we don't see is that people come from different starting points and social realities. People have different chances to make choices, based on different perceptions of themselves."

Dr. Mari Käyhkö



## **CATCH AND HOLD!**

Hidi & Renninger, 2006

#### **SITUATIONAL INTEREST (CATCH)**

- 1. emerging
- 2. maintained

#### PERSONAL INTEREST

- 3. emerging
- 4. well developed

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1207/s15326985ep4102\_4

### MATHS SHOULD BE

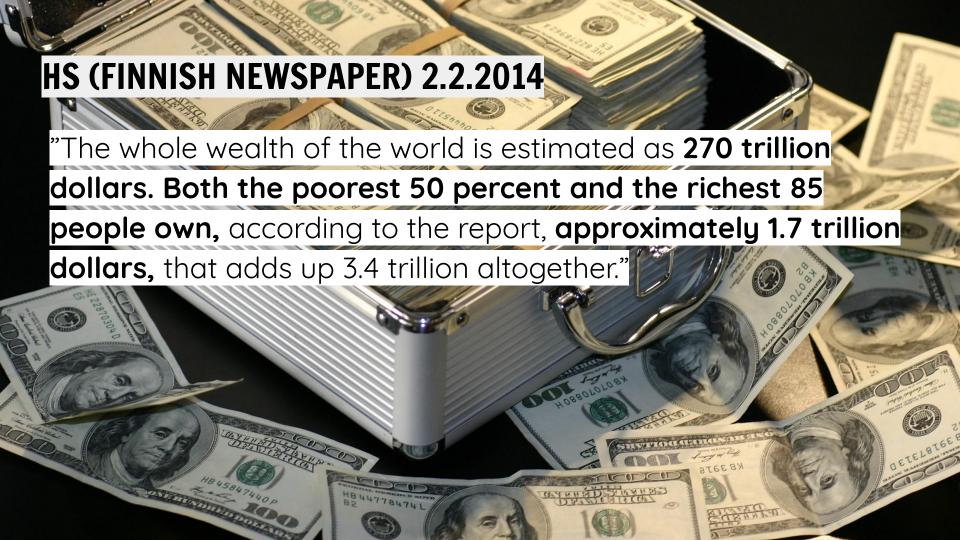
→ Emotionally triggering

→ Multilayered

→ A shared construction









# MATH CAN BECOME EMOTIONAL, IF...

The curriculum gives enough flexibility to provide open discussions that might progress unexpectedly

Students are shown that they are expected to add their own thinking into their learning process

# **CASE 2: MULTILAYERED MATH**

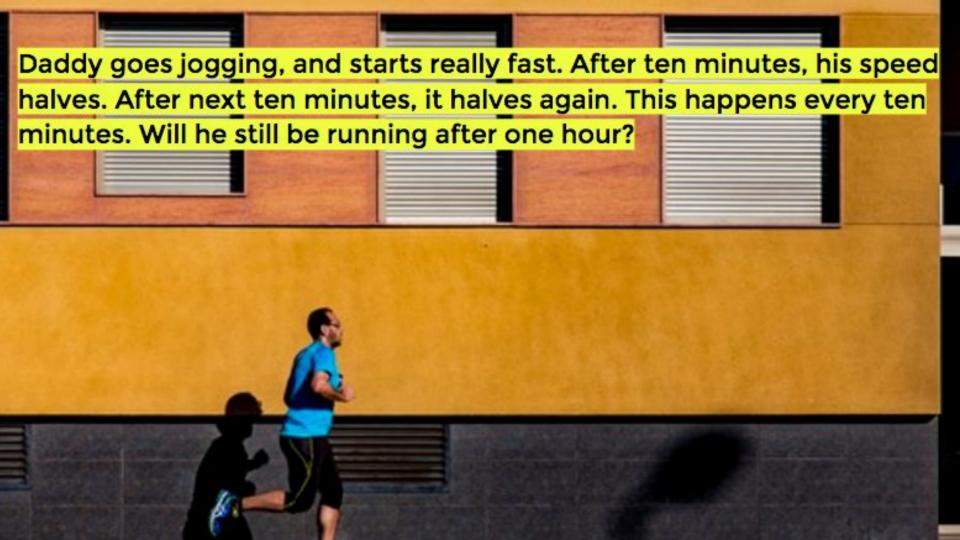


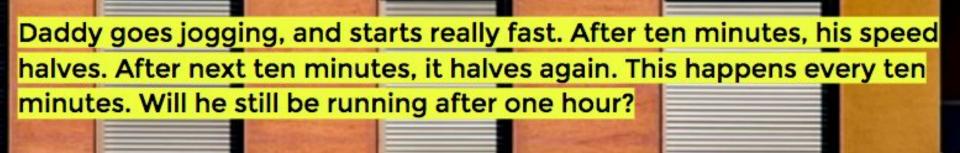
Multilayered math: something to grasp on every level

Alternative to tasks that are "flat", e.g.

Differentiate  $2x^3 - 3x^2 + 1$ 

What is the hypothenuse of a right triangle, if the two perpendicular sides are 3 and 4?





Tables, graphs, calculations, functions, fractions and percentages, ideas of non-linearity and exponential change  $\leftarrow$  all gathered together and creating a complete picture of the situation



Aha-moments when understanding the density of the real numbers - Does it get negative? When does it reach zero? ← Hypotheses that can be tested and discussed

# MATH CAN BECOME MULTILAYERED, IF...

Schools emphasize inclusion allowing (and supporting) students with heterogeneous capacities to study together.

The tasks are open, easy to start with, and possess opportunities to deepen your thinking

# **CASE 3: MATH AS A SHARED CONSTRUCTION**



Student gives a correct answer, but with a clearly wrong justification.

#### **Traditionally**

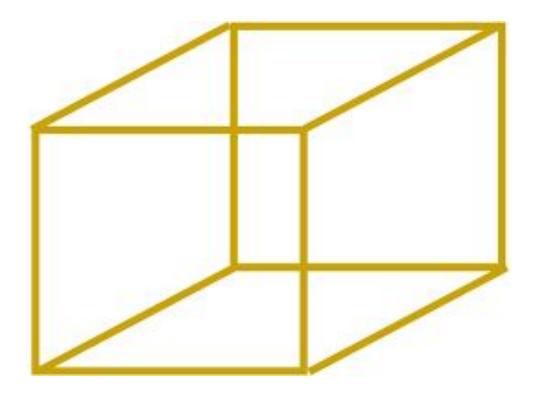
- Teacher's job is to correct the wrong answer and provide the right justification.
- Students' role is to find a way to what teachers holds and administers.

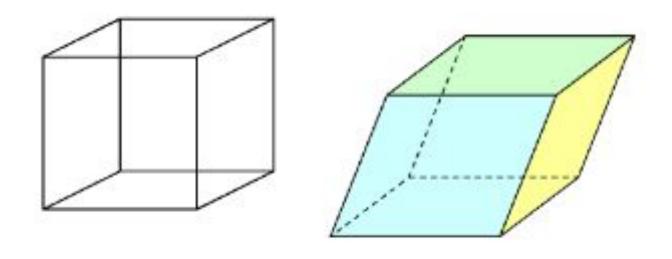
#### If constructed together

• The class finds out together, whether the justification applies in that particular case, whether it applies in other cases and in all cases, and why I why not.

Based on Lerman's (1990) article Alternative Perspectives of the Nature of Mathematics and their Influence on the Teaching of Mathematics

## CUBIC METER WITH STICKS





# MATH CAN BE CONSTRUCTED TOGETHER, IF...

The teacher education aims to give teachers boldness, creativity and trust to co-operate with students, as well as listen to their ideas

The teachers know how to benefit social media, and they share their ideas and utilize others' creations actively

## **OVER TO YOU**

Think of *slope* as a mathematical concept. Discuss with the person next to you

- to which other concepts in maths is slope connected?
- in which grades should/can it be discussed?
- what kind of tasks are there addressing slope?
- how would you make the concept interesting, multilayered and to be constructed collaboratively?

## **DISCUSSING STEEPNESS**

- What does steepness mean?
  - the angle?
  - it's just... steeper?
  - the more it rises by the same amount of reference time *I* distance, the steeper it is
    - $\rightarrow$  delta y *I* delta x



The oldest sibling gets 5 dollars for pocket money, the middle one 3 dollars and the youngest one 2 dollars. After 5 weeks the youngest one gets 40 dollars for a birthday present. How long after that is she the one who has the most money?

## MATHS SHOULD BE

Emotionally triggering to prevent problems of boredom

Multilayered

to diminish problems with self-initiative and prevent struggle with tasks that are not at the appropriate level of difficulty

A shared construction to increase autonomy, joy and purposefulness

Once a week / once a month

What happens on your mathematics classes?	f (%) control group	f (%) intervention group
We focus on the content according to teacher's instructions	10.4	18.1
We focus on the content through discussions and by helping each other	2.6	30.6
The students misbehave and do not engage with the content	3.9	11.1
It is boring	<b>70.1</b>	27.8
It is inspiring	3.9	5.6
It is emotionally ambivalent	9.1	4.2
n	77	72





# **Card magic**



How would you arrange the cards to be able to do the same?

Try it out!







#### math\_hunger

math\_hunger Let's do some conversions.

Dogs are said to be approximately 7 times their age in "human age". That taken as an assumption, how old would the fluffy driver need to be in order to make it legal?

Let your students show off their dog trivia, if they know a better approximation rate!

#math #maths #enjoymaths #mathlearning #mathlesson #mathtask #mathactivity #creativemaths #inspiringmaths #mathteacher #mathstudent #hungryformaths #mathhunger #dogmath #dogs





neighbour\_to\_santa, diffuusiokeksi, sonjalarmo, amansner ja justinbieshaar tvkkäävät tästä

# THANK YOU!



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