

Poems for Storytelling and Numeracy

Area and volume poem. By Steve Way

"Area" is how we measure flat space,
In any kind of shape or place.

The area of a square or rectangle,
Shouldn't get you in a tangle.
If you multiply its width by its height,
Buddy you have done it right!

Any kind of shape triangle,
Is basically half of a rectangle.
Think of this when you work it out,
Then you need not scream and shout!
Width times height then shared by two,
Is what you clearly have to do.

A parallelogram that on its side is laid,
You can calculate area of, don't be afraid!
It's width times the height it's off the floor,
Simplicity like that you must adore!

For a circle you must be prepared
To work out good old πr^2 .

"Volume" measures solid 3D space -
The formula for this is really ACE!
Multiply all the space dimensions,
To fulfil your maths intentions.
That's the width times the height,
Then times the depth of it too.
Then it's over - are you tired? PHEW!

We measure area as centimetres squared,
To write 2 after cm you must be prepared.
Volume is measured as centimetres cubed,
So stick a 3 after cm to be fully approved.

If we bought some carpet for St Peter's,
We'd measure the area in squared metres.
Kilometres squared measures very large spaces,
Like factories, fields and market places.

Centimetres cubed measures the volume of a can,
Drunk at half-time by a football fan.
But if you're a hard-working woman or man,
Metres cubed measures volume of your van.

I promise it will really pay,
To learn the different formulae,
For to you I can clearly say,
They'll come in useful some fine day!

Grooving with great gradients. By Steve Way

This poem has been heaven sent,
To help you work out gradient.

A slope is up from left to right,
Right to left is down, to be polite.

You can see gradient would be small I hope,
When you imagine a gentle slope,
But should you have the need of rope,

You're looking at a steeper slope!
On a slope you go both up and along,
Remember that and you won't go wrong.
Divide the up by the a-long figure,
The steeper the slope, the bigger the figure!
Down is negative, as we all know,
So a minus-result is what you show,
When down and along is how you go.

That was simple as you see,
So how about a cheer for me!

Ratio poem. By Steve Way

Please listen while I have a go,
At explaining ratio.
[Don't believe the mad delusion,
That this causes much confusion.]
Ratios compare different quantities,
Like the number of flowers to bumble bees.
For example it might be two to one,
So plenty of flowers for every one!
If instead it was only one to two,
Then there could be a big to-do!
The bees might fight for the nectar sweet,
To fill the pouches on their feet.
The bees might start a stinging spree,
(So ratios are important as you see!)

The numbers in a ratio if you add them up together,
Turn it into a fraction, whatever the weather.
So two to one is really out of three,
So two for me and only one for thee!
Three to one is really out of four,

I'm sure by now you've got the score!
(And that ratios you now adore!)

Metric Measures Poem. By Steve Way

This poem is about lengths and weight,
And also volume I aim to put straight.
Many have been baffled by measurement,
'Cos they didn't know what a prefix meant.

The prefix kilo - it does mean,
A thousand units there have been,
So if a kilometre you should walk,
Of a thousand covered metres you could talk.
If you can lift a kilogramme of jam,
You must be a strong woman or man.
For in that mass are *one thousand* grammes,
My muscular *Monsieurs et Mesdames*.

Like a hundred years make a cent-ury,
Centi- means "a hundred" as you'll see.
A centimetre is one hundredth of a metre,
A hundredth of a litre is a centilitre.

A thousand legs help a milli-pede,
So milli- for "a thousand" is what we need.
A thousand millilitres make a litre,
This type of measure couldn't be neater!
A thousand millimetres make a metre complete,
I think that just can't be beat!

Just a little tip before I'm gone,
To give you something to be chewing on.
Ten millimetres a centimetre make.

To watch for that you'd better stay awake!
Ten millilitres make up a centilitre too,
Learning this well you need to do!

Seven Times Table in verse. By Steve Way

One times seven it is seven,
Knowing that is maths heaven,
Two times seven is fourteen,
The age Jack was when he found his bean!
Three times seven is twenty-One -
A special age for everyone!
Four times seven is twenty-eight,
Knowing that is really great!
Five times seven is thirty-five,
To master this it's good to strive.
Six times seven is forty-two,
I'm always ready for tea too!
Seven times seven is for-ty-nine*,
That's lots for tea! We'll need more wine!
Eight times seven is fifty-six,
You'll learn this with this poem's tricks!
Nine times seven is sixty-three,

Success we now can nearly see!
Ten times seven is seventy,
You've learnt this table entirely!

*("For-tea-nine")

Imperial v. Metric poem. By Steve Way

Imperial Measures were used in the past,
In 1969 they were changed at last.

Imperial measures were completely daft!
Understanding them was quite a craft.

As metric measures use powers of tens,
They're far easier to use my friends.

"Imperial's" still used though, I have to say,
It's like it just won't go away.

Let me tell you how those measures compare,
So how to use them you will be aware.

An "inch" is over centimetres two,
Remembering that is what you need to do.

A "foot" is exactly twelve inches long -
Remember that and you won't go wrong.

Three Feet is a yard - a metre *almost*,
Remember that and you can really boast!

A "pound" in weight is nearly half a kilogramme,
Remember that Sir and Madam.

A litre to... two pints is near,
Remember that and all will be clear!

A "mile" is about a km and a half,
Remember that and you can have a laugh.

Km means "kilometre" by the way.
Now my poem's done - I've had my say.

Shapes poem. By Steve Way

To understand quadrilaterals,
You don't need headache pills,
To find an imperfection in a square,
Is impossible! - It isn't there,
Equal sides,
In it resides,
And in each corner there does dangle,
Nothing other than a right angle!
A rectangle is not quite a square,
For unequal sides, in pairs, are there.
A rhombus is like a square that's drunk,
And fallen to one side - bump, clunk,
A parallelogram is like that too,
These shapes drink too much - what shall we do?
A kite is like the one you're used to see in flight,
But a trapezium for recognition has to fight,

To recognise one is hard to do,
For it only has parallel lines of number two.

If you look at a triangle,
From every available angle,
An equilateral is a delight,
For every angle is 60 degrees - all right!?

An isosceles,
Brings me to my knees,
For it has two angles of equal degrees,
Two sides they also are the same -
That is the reason for its fame.
I would be mean and failing,
If I didn't tell you 'bout a triangle called Scalene.
None of its angles or sides are equal -
They're all unique, Just like people!
A right-angled triangle has a side
 Called hypotenuse,
When you study Pythagoras
 You'll find it's a useful thing to use.

A circle has a radius -
That means from the centre to
 The outside to all of us,
The diameter goes right across the middle,
Twice the radius - it's not a fiddle!
The circumference is linked with it

By a number called Pi,
I'm only a teacher don't ask me why.

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Fractions, Percentages and Decimals Poem. By Steve Way

I want to give you a useful start,
In dealing with a piece or a part.
We'll look at in a mathematical way,
"That's exciting!" I hear you say!

As usual with maths we've several choices,
Just like a choir has several voices.
In this case you have choices three,
If you'd kindly listen to me.

The choice includes fractions as you'll see,
Or percentage your choice could be.
Decimals they are useful too,
If shopping's what you like to do.

Fractions occur in real life,
As we face life's joy and strife.
A shop it might do very well,

If three out of four drinks it did sell.

That would mean it sold three quarters,

Of its stock of wines or waters.

But the shopkeeper might be intent,

On changing that fraction to a percent.

Here's a trick that she could use,

To alter her retailing news.

By one hundred multiply the fraction,

To change to percent - in one action!

Seventy Five percent would be her figure,

By only twenty five could it be bigger!

If she wished to go back the other way,

It needn't have to take all day.

Share the figure by a hundred,

Is what you do - if you wondered.

The fraction you may have to simplify,

But you could do that by and by.

Customers shopping in the Mall,

They would use a decimal.

If they pay in pounds and pence,
Or even in Euros and cents.

A hundred pence they make a pound -
At least they do when I'm around.
Less is only a pound in part,
That's where decimals play their part.

If you've a pound plus a little bit,
Then you've no need to have a fit.
The pound goes in front of the decimal place,
The rest comes after it - see, it's ace!

It's like a fraction put a different way,
In tenths or hundredths to help our day.
Now let me give you some motivation,
To change a fraction to decimal notation.

Divide its top number (called numerator),
By its bottom (the denominator).
Then the number is in decimal form,
Which for currency is the norm.

So these types of maths all have their uses,

Learn them all, don't give excuses!
Be part of that fraction of people who say,
"I'll learn more about these every day!"

Decimal columns come below units,

AVERAGES POEM. By Steve Way

I hope you will not wish to curse,
As I explain averages with my verse.
You'd think one type of average would be enough,
Just learning *that* would be pretty tough.
But I must tell you there are THREE!
That must be learned, by you and me.

Now you must not overload,
When you consider the mode.
No, your brain needn't roast,
It's simply what happens the most.
Also please try if you can,
Not to *panic* about the median.
For isn't a fiddle, or a difficult riddle,
It's just the result that comes in the middle!

Fans for the average called mean,
Can often be seen,
For many feel it's the best,
When average views they are aiming to test.
To work it out is harder to do,
But that needn't frighten you!
Don't run screaming out the doors!
Just add up the sum of the all scores.
Then have a rest for a second or two,
For there is one more thing to do.
Share that sum by the sum of events.
That's you answer – it wasn't too intense!

Finally it helps our thoughts to arrange,
To also be aware to the range.
Please let me this small point enlarge,
First seek out the score most large.
Then look for the result most small,
Then subtract them – that is all!

The range shows the results are spread,
Just like butter on your bread!
Averages show us what to mostly expect,
That is why they deserve respect!

So as I hope that you can see,
That despite those averages three,
There does not really have to be,

Too many problems for you and me!

Bearings. By Steve Way

**If you're a sailor at sea –
A good place for a sailor to be,**

**When you set forth,
Measure bearings from North,**

**Then use your eyes,
As you turn round clockwise,**

**Three figures in degrees are needed,
Then you've fully succeeded!**

**Now you can find your location,
And head off for any nation!**

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