

Life of Fred Dogs

Stanley F. Schmidt, Ph.D.



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First Printing

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A Note Before We Begin the Fourth Book in the Series

The secret is out. Fred is not a Super Hero. 

He can't fly. He doesn't even own a cape.



Not Fred

He has no super powers. He can't see through walls.

He is not big, strong, or handsome.

He is a grossly underpaid (\$500/month) teacher at a poorly run university somewhere in Kansas. He teaches from 8 to 5 every day with a five-minute break at 3.

He has no guile. He is not crafty. Evil men, such as C. C. Coalback, find it easy to take advantage of him.

Fred makes mistakes, but he doesn't get angry. His doll, Kingie, can draw much better than he can, but he doesn't have envy or resentment.



When people mistreat him, he doesn't seek revenge.

In Sunday School, Fred had been told that Mr. Micah (6:8) wrote that God only requires three things: act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly. Fred tries to do that.

He has a *joie de vivre*, a delight in being alive. In the previous book, Fred broke into singing songs of happiness that he had made up. They weren't very good songs, and he sang them off-key with his squeaky five-year-old voice.

In short, Fred looks like a failure in everything—except in those things that really count.

LEARNING MATHEMATICS

Whether there is joy in learning mathematics depends so much on how it is taught.

In the first four chapters of this book, you will see a master teacher at work with his students. He presents $8 + 8 = 16$ in a way that caused his students to break out in applause. Fred puts a lot of work into presenting $8 + 8 = 16$, and his students will remember it for a lifetime.

THREE TYPES OF MATH BOOKS

Almost every math book for pre-college kids falls into one of three categories. Open up a book to somewhere in the middle and start reading. In a half minute, you can tell which category it is in.

Category #1: Drill and Kill

A procedure is presented. The page is decorated with some politically correct picture. And the child has 30 boring problems to do. The problems look like they were produced by a robot and are designed to beat the concept into the child's head.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Here is the procedure. Here are the problems. And the students are rarely given a reason to learn the procedure. Learning math becomes just a part of the pain of being a child.

Category #1: Drill and Kill is the most common math curriculum.

Category #2: Fluff and Giggles

Lots of color. Reading these books is like eating cotton candy. Every page is sunshine. The temperature is always 72° . Get out your crayon and write in the book. No brain strain.

Okay everybody! Which one has wheels?



Category #3: Fred

Who would want a book that is:

- ★ fun to read
- ★ complete*
- ★ inexpensive
- ★ motivating**

daughter Jill, age 3 months



I do!

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

Each chapter is about six pages. At the end of each chapter is a Your Turn to Play.

Have a paper and pencil handy before you sit down to read.

Each Your Turn to Play consists of some interesting questions. Have your child write out the answers—not just orally answer them.

After all the questions are answered, then take a peek at my answers that are given on the next page. At this point your child has *earned* the right to go on to the next chapter.

Don't just allow your child to read the questions and look at the answers. Your child won't learn as much taking that shortcut.

* I know of no other math curriculum that contains more mathematics than the Life of Fred series.

** Every part of mathematics comes from the everyday life of Fred. There is a concrete reason for learning it. It is not just “for college.”

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Chapter One

A Million Jobs

Fred loved to teach. And he had the perfect job: he was a teacher. It was a couple of minutes before his first class of the day was scheduled to begin.

He walked into the Archimedes building, down the hallway, and into his giant classroom. Hundreds of students were taking their seats, taking out their pencils and paper, and getting ready to listen to Fred.

In the years that he had been teaching at KITTENS University, the sight of his students coming into his classroom always excited him. He was like an actor getting ready to go on stage.



There are a million (1,000,000) different jobs to choose among.

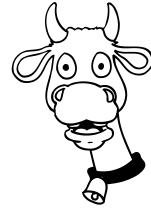
Fred could have been a bus driver, but they don't let five-year-olds get a driver's license.





He could have been a brick layer, except that he was too short. And five-year-old boys have not yet developed muscles to carry a lot of bricks.

Being a bullfighter was out of the question. Fred would not have gotten much pleasure killing (or being killed).



There are people who make perfect bus drivers, brick layers, or bullfighters. Fred wasn't one of them.

We each have a place in the Dance of Life in which to do our dancing. Some will be mothers, some will be moose trainers, and some will be mushroom farmers. Fred is a teacher.



It was eight o'clock. The students became quiet and waited for Fred to begin.

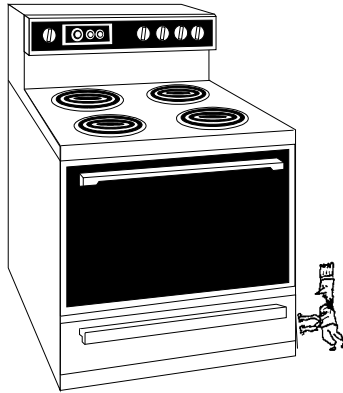
Over the years, Fred had won many awards for his teaching. Students loved attending his classes. He made it fun.



Fred dashed into a back room and put on a chef's hat.

He pushed a large stove out to the front of the class.

It moved easily. It was on rollers.



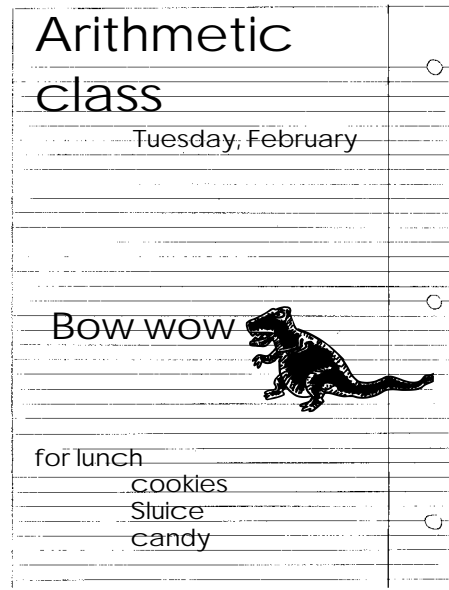
Joe and Darlene were two students in the class. Darlene liked to sit next to Joe.

Joe said, "Look! He's bringing out a stove."


Darlene had already noticed that and so had everyone else in the classroom.

Joe had been the last one to notice it. He had been drawing on his paper.

He liked to draw dinosaurs.



Darlene told Joe it was time to pay attention.

Joe wrote on his paper: ⌚ 2  a 10 shun

Fred climbed up a ladder to the top of the stove and began frying eggs.



Joe wrote 4 in his notes.

Fred took a second pan and fried some more eggs.



Joe wrote ~~2~~ Darlene crossed it out and wrote 3.

“Now,” said Fred, “if I flip the three eggs in the second pan into the first pan, what do I get?”

Joe raised his hand and shouted out, “An omelette!” He smiled and looked at Darlene. He was sure that he had given the right answer.

Fred wrote on the blackboard:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$$

Please take out a piece of paper and write your answers before checking your work on the next page. Please.

Some of these questions are from things you studied in the previous Life of Fred books.

Your Turn to Play

1. There are maybe a million different jobs that adults do. Write down a list of three jobs that you would *not* be interested in doing. Be creative. Don't use any of the jobs mentioned already in this chapter.
2. Copy these on a piece of paper and answer them:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ + 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 7 \\ + 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 5 \\ + 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 0 \\ + 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 9 \\ + 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3. $4 \text{ eggs} + 3 \text{ eggs} = 7 \text{ eggs}.$
 $4 \text{ mice} + 3 \text{ mice} = ?$
 $4x + 3x = ?$
 $4 + 3 = ?$

is a Greek letter.

4. What is the cardinal number associated with the set {Darlene, Joe}?

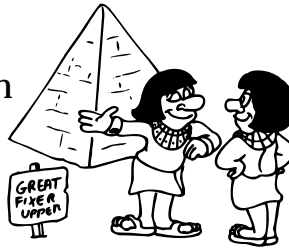
..... ANSWERS

1. Your answers may be different than mine. Here are some jobs that I, myself, would not like to do:

✓ parachute tester (I don't want to jump out of a plane.)



✓ pyramid salesman



✓ piano mover



2. 4 7 5 0 9
 + 9 + 4 + 6 + 3 + 1
 13 11 11 3 10

3. 4 mice + 3 mice = 7 mice

$$4x + 3x = 7x$$

$$4 + 3 = 7$$

4. The cardinal number of a set is the number of members the set has. The cardinality of {Darlene, Joe} is 2.

Chapter Two

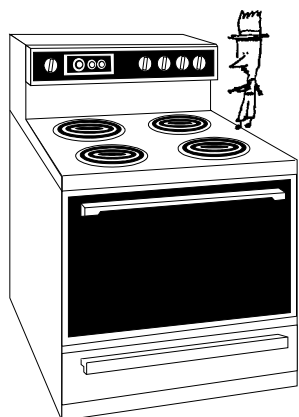
Doubles

Fred gave the fried eggs to some of the students who hadn't had breakfast that morning.

"Today," Fred announced, "we are going to play a game called Doubles."

He pointed to the back two burners on the stove and said, "Two." He pointed to the front two burners and said, "Two."

"How many burners are on the stove?"



Joe carefully counted the burners and held up four fingers.

Fred wrote on the board:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ + 2 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$

Fred began to wash the pans. He poured three ounces of soapy water into each pan and asked, "How many is three plus three?"

He wrote on the board:

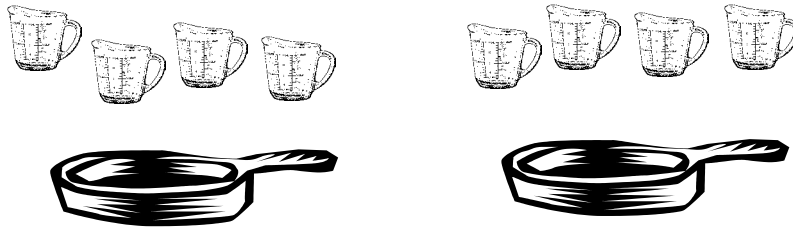
$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$

Darlene wrote in her notes:

Two 2s are 4.

Two 3s are 6.

Fred finished washing the pans. He used four cupfuls of clean water to rinse out each pan.



Fred wrote on the board:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ + 4 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$$

Fred held up his two wet hands and said, "Five fingers on each hand."

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ + 5 \\ \hline 10 \end{array}$$

Darlene wrote in her notes:

Two 2s are 4.

Two 3s are 6.

Two 4s are 8.

Two 5s are 10.

Fred turned off the lights in the classroom.

Joe said to Darlene, "Oh, we get to see movies. I like that."

Joe took out some popcorn that he always carried with him. He couldn't watch a movie without eating popcorn.

Fred showed a picture of the egg carton that he had taken before he had removed the seven (3 + 4) eggs to cook them.



Actual Photograph

Fred said, "There are six eggs in each row. Six plus six equals a dozen."

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ + 6 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

Joe turned to Darlene and asked, "Whenf as der mofkey gonga ztarf?"

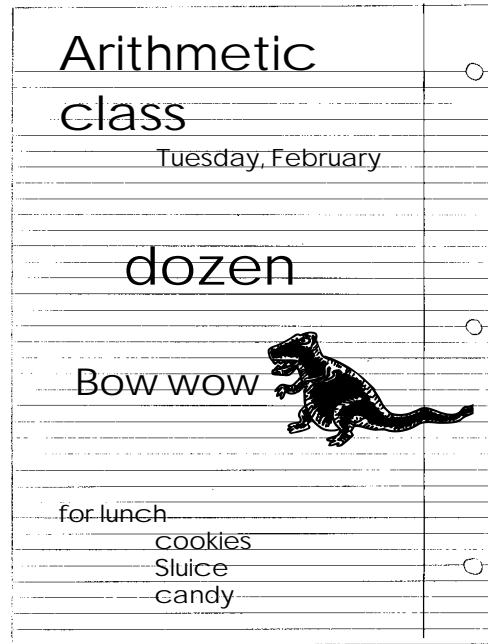
Darlene told him, "Don't talk with your mouth full. It's not polite."

In a couple of minutes, he was able to chew and swallow all the handfuls of popcorn he had stuffed into his mouth. He repeated his question, "When is the movie going to start?"

"There isn't going to be a movie," Darlene explained. "Fred just showed us a picture of a dozen eggs so that we could learn that six and six make a dozen."

"Oh," said Joe. "Why didn't he say that?"
"He did. You weren't listening."

Joe wrote down what he had just learned.



Which was nothing.

Fred had to work harder to illustrate the bigger doubles.

7	8	9	10
<u>+ 7</u>	<u>+ 8</u>	<u>+ 9</u>	<u>+ 10</u>
14	16	18	20

To illustrate that $7 + 7 = 14$, Fred showed pictures that his doll Kingie had drawn of the seven days of the week.



Fred began, “Everyone knows that there are seven days in a week.”

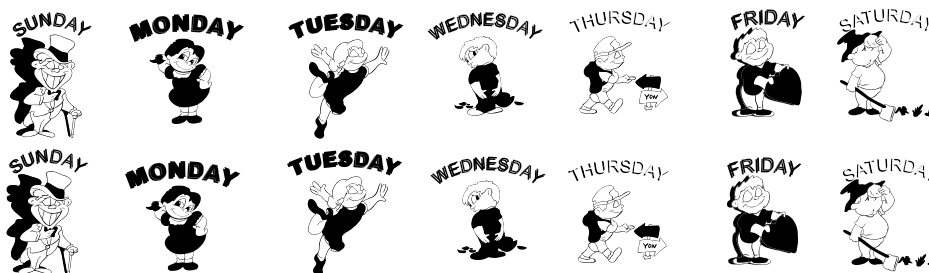
Then he asked, “Does anyone know how long a fortnight is?”

The class was quiet.

Fred continued, “*Fortnight* is from the Middle English word *fourtenight* which came from the Old English words *feowertene niht*.”

The class was still quiet.

“A fortnight is 14 days and nights—two weeks. Here is a fortnight.”



Your Turn to Play

1. Fred started to write this chart on the board.

Finish it up to $10 + 10$.

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array} \quad 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \bullet \\ \bullet \bullet \end{array} \quad 2 + 2 = 4$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \bullet \bullet \\ \bullet \bullet \bullet \end{array} \quad 3 + 3 = 6$$

2. 14 is a number. It has two digits: 1 and 4.

A thousand is a number. It has 4 digits: 1, 0, 0, and 0.

How many digits in the number one million?

3. $<$ means *less than*. Which of these are true:

$$5 < 8 \quad 100 < 1,000 \quad 44 < 6 \quad 0 < 1$$

..... ANSWERS

1.

- 1 + 1 = 2
- 2 + 2 = 4
- 3 + 3 = 6
- 4 + 4 = 8
- 5 + 5 = 10
- 6 + 6 = 12
- 7 + 7 = 14
- 8 + 8 = 16
- 9 + 9 = 18
- 10 + 10 = 20

Did you notice . . .

When you double a number, the answer is always even.

2. One million (1,000,000) has 7 digits.

3. 5 < 8 100 < 1,000 44 < 6 0 < 1
 true true false true

I ndex

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