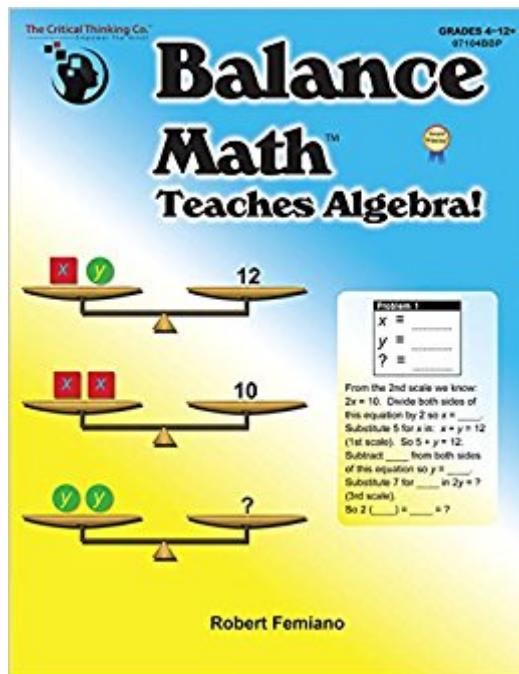


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# Balance Math Teaches Algebra!



## Synopsis

This 64-page book of mind-building algebraic thinking puzzles makes understanding equations and solving word problems easy and fun! Introducing algebra through balanced scales is a natural and exciting way to conceptually master fundamental algebraic ideas. The book's visually-simple approach engages students intuitively in step-by-step thinking. The puzzle-like problems ensure students are cognitively involved while they hone their techniques of simplifying, substituting, and writing proofs to solve simultaneous equations. Balance Math™ Teaches Algebra! is designed to move from simple to complex, with lessons scaffolding on earlier learning. Teaching suggestions and solutions are included. The following concepts are taught:

Equations Word Problems  
Commutative Property Distributive Property  
Associative Property Substitution Property of Equality and Inequality  
Addition Property of Equality and Inequality  
Subtraction Property of Equality and Inequality  
Multiplication Property of Equality and Inequality  
Division Property of Equality and Inequality

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This 64-page book of mind-building algebraic thinking puzzles makes understanding equations and solving word problems easy and fun! Introducing algebra through balanced scales is a natural and exciting way to conceptually master fundamental algebraic ideas. The book's visually-simple

approach engages students intuitively in step-by-step thinking. The puzzle-like problems ensure students are cognitively involved while they hone their techniques of simplifying, substituting, and writing proofs to solve simultaneous equations. Balance Math Teaches Algebra! is designed to move from simple to complex, with lessons scaffolding on earlier learning. Teaching suggestions and solutions are included. The following concepts are taught:

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Fantastic book for introducing the concepts of Algebraic equations. Takes a step-by-step approach, with gradually increasing complexity, at just the right pace. The graphic "balances" establish a much more intuitive understanding of how equations work, as opposed to just putting x's and y's on a paper, which is much more abstract.

Great

We received Balance Math Teaches Algebra, and my son eagerly started going through it with his dad. His father, 'who is a science and math geek, felt that the book was very effective in how it used pictures to demonstrate the algebraic equations, rules, and concepts. The first section of the exercise book graphically demonstrates the basic rules of balancing equations (through step by step problems), then the subsequent pages move in a logical sequence from the simple to more complex problems. He felt this book could be used on a 1-2 exercises per week basis for a few months, or as a good substitution for a regular curriculum if you have a student who is stuck in a rut and needs help out. It would also be great for a creative learner, such as an unschooler, or for a younger student who wants to learn ahead of "schedule", or as a gradual and intriguing introduction before jumping into the meatier concepts in most Algebra curricula. The book is a total of 62 pages long (answers included). Our son enjoyed working through the problems and was able to do them with minimal involvement on my part. He looked at the problems as more "fun" than "work" and I "caught" him several times working on the Balance Math book instead of another subject that had

been assigned (we are homeschoolers). It's hard to get mad when they are so caught up in a book they don't want to quit! The only drawback to these books is that if you, the teacher, do not understand the concepts yourself, you will need to get your own copy and work through it before offering it to your student (or you will have to hope that someone else in your family "gets" Algebra, so they can help if your student gets stuck.) There is no teacher's manual, and the answers are just answers, not explanations. I think that my son's simple words from the other day, "Mom, I really love this book. Can we get more?" say it all. If you can find that a product that incites your student to pursue knowledge and to get excited about learning, something that both challenges them and pleases them, then why would you even consider saying, "No"?

Balance Math Teaches Algebra makes the abstract concepts more concrete. By using various shapes to represent unknowns, students have the opportunity to visualize the problem without being distracted by letters and numbers. The balance scale concept is used throughout the book, but types of exercises are varied. These include matching, picking pairs, and solving. Additionally, students are guided through a series of equations to arrive at a final answer and then fill in a proof to explain how they arrived at their answer. Students also use the balance scale concept to solve algebraic word problems. The book starts out with simple equations and slowly progresses into the more complex. Balance Math Teaches Algebra makes the subject of algebra less intimidating for young students. There are only a few problems per page and the printing is done in black and white with no clutter to distract the student. After learning with Balance Math Teaches Algebra, my 11 year old is no longer scared of Algebra. A tip sheet explaining and demonstrating algebraic concepts on a balance scale is included for student reference.

My son had been struggling with the concept of balancing equations. He just wasn't grasping the concept. When I gave him his first sheet of Balance Math to complete, he immediately knew how to work the problems. In fact, he was working the problems in his head faster than I was. The visual approach helped him make sense of the concepts easier. Balance Math was completely intuitive for my visual learner and it instantly clicked. I recommend this title to anyone looking to supplement their current Algebra studies. \*I was given a free copy of this book for review.

My daughter just flew through Algebra 1, and I used this product as a way to keep her algebra skills sharp while she takes Geometry. Nearly all of the problems can be solved mathematically using the basic associative and commutative properties. They can also be solved with basic logic/thinking

skills. My daughter thinks of them as thinking challenges more than math problems. Whatever she calls them, I'm thrilled to find a product that keeps her thinking about algebraic concepts and solving multiple equations simultaneously.

We love The Critical Thinking Company products and I was very excited to try this book. It is so user friendly and my son (age 10) enjoyed working through the problems. He states: "I really liked this book because it was like I was solving puzzles and it wasn't like I was learning math at all." I highly recommend this and any products from this company!

I highly recommend Balance Math Teaches Algebra for anyone who is introducing the concepts of Algebra, especially if your learner is very visual or needs very practical applications for learning. - Debra, NC (\*I received a free copy of this product for the purpose of a fair review.)

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