

Letters to a Young Mathematician


By *Ian Stewart*


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Mathematician Ian Stewart tells readers what he wishes he had known when he was a student. He takes up subjects ranging from the philosophical to the practical-what mathematics is and why it's worth doing, the relationship between logic and proof, the role of beauty in mathematical thinking, the future of mathematics, how to deal with the peculiarities of the mathematical community, and many others.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. This new entry in the Art of Mentoring series takes the form of letters from a fictitious mathematician to his niece. The letters span a period of 20 years, from the time the niece is thinking about studying mathematics in high school through the early years of her academic career. The format works wonderfully to introduce readers to the basics of the discipline of mathematics while providing a sense of what mathematicians actually do. Throughout, the prolific and talented Stewart (*Does God Play Dice?*), a British mathematician, entertains while educating. He explains how mathematics is so much more than mere calculations and how it's used in almost every facet of our lives. He also discusses the beauty mathematicians can find in the natural world, demonstrating that a focus on numbers and patterns can enhance rather than detract from an aesthetic appreciation of the environment. Stewart also does a superb job of examining the nature and value of both applied research and pure research, which, he shows, are not nearly as disparate as many think. Although the book must be read by anyone thinking about a career in mathematics, others simply interested in learning about the field and how mathematicians think will find it compelling reading. (Apr. 17)

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Review

"(This) book's greatest value is its insight into what it is to be a mathematician... His enthusiasm is infectious." The Times "The letter in which Stewart tells Meg how to teach undergraduates should be compulsory reading for all lecturers and tutors". Nature"

About the Author

Ian Stewart is a research mathematician, Fellow at the Royal Society, former *Scientific American* columnist, and author of over sixty books.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Sanchez:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Letters to a Young Mathematician is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Lisa Langlais:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want truly feel

happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The Letters to a Young Mathematician is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Benjamin Deloatch:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book particularly book entitled Letters to a Young Mathematician your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The Letters to a Young Mathematician giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful details for your better life on this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Adam Gutierrez:

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