

## Mathematics and childrens literature – Primary school

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In the working group we will introduce the *International Survey Study on Teachers' Beliefs concerning the Integration of Children's Literature in Mathematics Learning and Teaching*, led by Natthapoj Vincent Trakulphadetkrai (University of Reading, UK). This study is part of the *MathsThroughStories.org* initiative, which sets out to explore various aspects of integrating children's literature (e.g. picture books, chapter books, graphic novels) and imaginative story writing in mathematics instruction. The overall aim is to make mathematics teaching more accessible and more enjoyable for learners everywhere through the power of story telling and children's imagination.

Researchers from several countries currently participate in the study. Among them are researchers from Nordic and Baltic countries, including Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Estonia. Key findings of the study are to be drawn from data gathered through the study's open-ended questionnaire, which has been constructed and developed by Trakulphadetkrai in his pilot study in England, and it is now being translated into other relevant languages, in our case Icelandic. The intention is to gather responses from around 100 in-service and 100 pre-service primary teachers from each of the participating countries. The findings will be used to inform mathematics teaching nationally and internationally.

The goal of this working group is to introduce the *MathsThroughStories.org* initiative, and its international survey study to researchers from the Nordic and Baltic region; to give them an update on the current status of the work done by the team in Iceland; and to invite them to discuss how we could collaborate in this study, for instance, when analysing the data and in presenting the findings. We also want to address possibilities for further research in this area as well as working towards the goal to make it more accessible to use stories in mathematics teaching and learning.

Additionally, we will also give other participants in the study an opportunity to present their work. We also want to discuss the methodology of a joint study like this where data from many countries is gathered and used both at the national and international levels. The final objective of this working group is to foster discussions on how we can use this study to continue the work in this field and to make the results accessible not only for researchers, but also for teachers.

In summary, the structure of the working group's programme will be as follows:

- Introduction of the MathsThroughStories.org initiative, and its international survey study;
- Presentation of the study in Iceland and England;
- Discussion of research methodology: what are some of the key strengths and weaknesses of the study's adopted data collection method and its analytical approach?;
- Discussion of research implications: what this research bring to the development of mathematics teaching and learning;

- Discussion of research disseminations: should we work towards a joint publication for instance a thematic issue in *Nomad* or a book?; and
- Invitation for researchers from other Nordic and Baltic countries to participate in the study, or work on this focus, but with a different approach.