

Passion For Teaching and Learning
Grade 1: The Brownie Dilemma
Creating Math Thinkers

SPEAKER 1: We've all heard about math anxiety, and we all have friends who always say things like, oh, when I was growing up, I hated math. And you know, I don't, I feel really lucky to be in this situation where I get students who come in, and they don't really have that anxiety yet. That hasn't been built. They haven't heard, they haven't had parents saying to them, oh, I hated math when I was growing up. Or I struggled with math when I was growing up. They haven't heard that yet, which is fantastic. Because then I get to get in there and show them how they're all math thinkers. And I love taking the opportunity to, when a student comes up with a big idea, you know, you take that moment and you say, wow, we've got to stop and we've got to hear this. This is a big idea. This is what mathematicians do. They think things through, and they come up with these big ideas. By the end of the year, I hope my students actually think of themselves as math thinkers and mathematicians, because we really all can be. I want every student to walk out of this classroom not just thinking, oh, you know, I learned how to read this year so well, and look at the writing I can do. No, these students need to know that they're math thinkers, too, and take that math thinking with them through every grade. I don't want any student to ever walk into another grade and feel anxious about doing math. Because quite frankly, and you probably saw from today, math is one of the most amazing things we can do every day. We solve real-world problems, you know? We're doing things that really count in our daily lives.