



Annika Riz, Math Whiz

Claudia Mills

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Annika Riz loves math more than anything. She's trying to teach her dog, Prime, to count. She's determined to beat fellow math whiz Simon Ellis in a Sudoku contest at the public library. She even sleeps under number-patterned sheets. But Annika's best friends Kelsey and Izzy think math is boring. All they care about is the upcoming school carnival: their principal is going to be dunked in a dunking tank and their class is going to have a booth selling home-baked cookies. But then disaster foils the friends' cookie-baking plans. Can math save the day?

Annika Riz, Math Whiz Details

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From Reader Review Annika Riz, Math Whiz for online ebook

Kristen says

Annika Riz is a math whiz, only her friends cannot stand math class. When a sudoku contest comes to the library, she knows that she can prove to her friends that math can be cool if she wins. I completely connected with Annika, having loved math when I was in elementary and middle school. I also grew up with a math family, only not to the extreme of having numerical decorations all over her house. I love the mix of baking and how it connects to math in this story. I think anyone who has messed up a batch of cookies will laugh at the several attempts the girls make at making them for their school carnival.

I also love the point the teacher makes towards the end of the book, that everyone shows their enthusiasm in different ways. I think this relates to every part of the story as Annika laments that her friends don't appreciate the thing she loves as much as she does. Even worse, they dread learning math.

One of my other favorite parts of this book was when Annika tried to teach her dog how to count with the aide of dog treats. She often gave him the reward even when he did not bark or tap his paw the correct amount of times. Overall, I really loved this story and I think young readers will relate to their own favorite topic of learning, even if it's not math.

Verdict:

The Franklin School Friends is definitely a series I will be recommending to my 3rd graders.

Lynn says

Math lovers will cheer for Annika, just as her friends do.

Good read for intermediate readers.

Now I look forward to reading the book that focuses on the third friend, Izzy. I like that the books each focus on one of the friends, but it's not necessary to read them in any particular order.

Margie says

Claudia Mills really knows how to write a story in the perspective of a middle grade student. She has an awesome way of showing the positive attributes of each student. I am also impressed with her writing of the friendships between the girls. They are supportive of each other, but everything isn't all perfect.

If you have a person in your life who is looking for books to read - Claudia Mills has several that I can recommend. Kelsey Green, Reading Queen and Zero Tolerance are both great! She has written several others too.

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Kristen says

I haven't loved many of these younger-reader books from my most recent Iowa Children's Choice reading list, but this one was pretty great. I love that Annika is a girl who loves (and is good at) math. I love that her best friends love reading and sports, respectively, and that they all get along and appreciate what the others love. It's a pretty simple story, but there are lots of good lessons about friendship, success and failure, and taking chances.

Crystal says

ARC from publisher

I enjoy math, but reading is definitely has more of my heart so I wasn't sure how this book would work for me. I actually enjoyed Annika Riz more than the first in the series though. Again, some of the decisions of the educators in the book had me frowning, but not as much as in Kelsey Green.

Annika's house is filled with math since her father is a high school math teacher and her mother is an accountant. They even have a dog they named Prime after prime numbers, which Annika explains for readers. The salt and pepper shakers in the shape of three and four were also a nice touch.

Another part that I enjoyed was the baking fiascos. I spend a lot of time baking cookies and have had all kinds of disasters over the years. The girls have many chances to make the cookies, but each time they find some new way to mix things up. Like in the first book, readers see plenty of third-grade drama with school, friendship and keeping perspective as main themes.

I am a runner, so I look forward to reading the book that will highlight Izzy. There aren't a whole lot of books out there for younger readers that focus on running. It's nice to have another series for young readers.

This review was originally posted on my blog at <http://readingtl.blogspot.com/2014/06...>

Betsy says

It's refreshing to read a chapter book that lauds MATH. So many books favor the library, the protagonist who loves to read or write, or other literary pursuits. (Of course, most writers WERE those kids who loved to read/write.)

Annika Riz is a likable character and loves math. Her friends demonstrate great friendship as they cheer her on in the city-wide sudoku contest and bake cookies together for their class's booth at the school carnival. Math's importance is woven into the baking fiascos and solutions nicely.

All in all, a solid chapter book.

Lorna says

A shorter chapter book sprinkled with illustrations and a likable math-loving character. I liked this one better than the first Franklin School Friends book where the reading competition left a bad taste in my mouth. Here dueling story lines include a city-wide sudoku contest and the run-up to the beloved school carnival. I look forward to the next book that will focus on Izzy who likes to run.

Heidi says

The Franklin School Friends series focuses on the friendships between three girls, Kelsey, Annika, and Izzy. The first book focuses on Kelsey and her love of reading, the second book, which I'm reviewing here focuses on Annika and her love of math, and the third book, will be about Izzy and her love of running.

Annika loves math and doesn't understand why others have such a hard time with it. When her teacher tells her about a sudoku contest she eagerly starts preparing to face the other third graders in the area. Simon, a boy in her class who is seemingly good at everything, is her special nemesis. In addition, Annika's class is getting ready to host a cookie booth at the upcoming PTA fundraising carnival. But despite their best efforts, the cookies don't turn out quite right and they end up trying lemonade instead. Can Annika's math skills help her class? Can her love of math shine through in the contest?

Another cute book by Mills that highlights the value of math and the fact that kids can be friends even with different interests. I especially liked how Annika's math skills saved the day. A fun read for children who like realistic stories with determined main characters.

The Styling Librarian says

My thoughts on Franklin School Friends book series, Annika Riz, Math Whiz by Claudia Mills, pictures by Rob Shepperson:

I couldn't wait to read this book because I loved Kelsey Green Reading Machine, every minute of it... so getting to go back to school with Kelsey's friend Annika was lovely. It was quite amusing to read about one character who is fixated on math from enjoying math class to working on Sudoku life lessons was perfect. I especially enjoyed how natural math problems were solved throughout the book and also how persistent Annika was trying to train her dog to perform math problems, quite the humorous element... I'd partner this book with the fantastic fantasy Numbed! by David Lubar.

Ricki says

(Grades 2-4) Each of the books in the Franklin School Friends series tells the story of a different third-grade student with a passion for a school subject. I was excited to read Annika Riz's story because she is a math whiz---and I love math! Annika looks at the world through math-tinted glasses, and she wants everyone to love the subject as much as she does. She even attempts to teach her dog, Prime, how to count. I found the story to be so very charming. Annika is an endearing character who will resonate with many kids (and adults). Her energy and enthusiasm is refreshing. I suspect that readers will appreciate math much more by

the end of this book. This series would be a great addition to elementary school classrooms. Series books are a big step in many students' journey to becoming avid readers. Most adult readers list series books as a major part of their reading identities, so I am a strong advocate of having these texts available to students.

Barbara says

Part of the Franklin School Friends series focusing on different characters with their own particular strengths, this one follows Annika Riz who loves math. The third grader can't understand why her friends don't share her fondness for the subject or at least appreciate its importance in daily life. She figures winning a city-wide Sudoku tournament will change their minds. Meanwhile, the girls make mistake after mistake while trying to bake cookies and fix lemonade for the school carnival. I liked how in the end, the need to know math for practical matters is highlighted. This is a good, solid addition to the series that highlights the importance of individuality even with the class's teacher, Mrs. Molina, who demonstrates that there are different ways to enjoy the carnival and make a contribution.

Maggi Rohde says

I love kids' books with math puzzles. How can I fault a chapter book series for promoting sudoku to girls? That's awesome right there. Also included is the importance of measuring. Okay, it's a little too sweet, and the friendships a little too perfect, but... math!

Ms. Yingling says

Annika's family are all interested in numbers, and Annika prefers math to any other subject at school even though her friends don't feel the same way (Kelsey Green, Reading Queen is book one in this series). When she finds out that the public library is having a Sodoku contest, she really wants to enter, but fears that classmate Simon will beat her. The class is also preparing for a school carnival, and the third grade is in charge of cookies. Annika and her friends bake several batches but first don't put in enough baking soda, and then too much, resulting in less than optimal cookies. In the end, though, Annika is able to save the day using her math skills to make sure the group makes money on selling refreshments rather than losing it.

Strengths: This is a fun series for elementary school students; I'm looking forward to taking a peak at Izzy Barr, Running Star to see how big a role running plays in the book!

Weaknesses: This is too young for my middle school students.

Lori Redman says

Annika Riz is a third-grader at Franklin Elementary School. She is in Mrs. Molina's class with her best friends, Kelsey and Izzy. Annika LOVES math, even though her friends hate it! And when her teacher informs her of an upcoming Sudoku contest at the local library, Annika can't wait to compete! She wants to finally prove that math is cool, once and for all! But will her classmate Simon defeat her in the contest? Will

Mrs. Molina allow herself to be dunked at the upcoming school Carnival?

This is such a charming book! I can't wait to read the other books in the series, about Annika's best friends, Kelsey Green (Reading Queen) and Izzy Barr (Running Star). I will be ordering those for the library as well!

There are a few illustrations throughout the book, as well.

Trever says

I'm not sure sudoku puzzles really constitute as math curriculum or doing sudoku puzzles makes you a math wiz, it makes you a game wiz.

The math in the book is glossed over and provides almost no explanation of the math that Annika and her friends encounter. The book provides nothing mathematically with decimals that they encounter relentlessly and provides one scenario at the very end of the book.

Not worth the sloppily written book and definitely not worth the poor poor mathematics that the book should have included.
