

BEd4 Subject Leadership in Mathematics Education

MATHEMATICAL STORIES

2023



**FIGHTING
WORDS**

The write to right.

Shapestown

Saja, Michaela, Niamh, Katya, Lynn

There was once a town where all the shapes lived. It was called Shapestown. Many 2D shapes lived there, each having their own street. The triangles lived on Triangle Street, the squares lived on Square Street, and the circles lived on Circle Street. But Poly didn't have anywhere to live.

Poly is a purple kite. Her mum was a square and her dad was a triangle and so Poly ended up as a Kite. Having grown up with squares, she has always felt that she stuck out.

Everyday Poly wakes up and begins her regular workout in the hope of making her shape regular. She does ten jumping jacks, ten squats, and ten minutes of dance. But try as she might, she cannot do a tumble. Despite all this, her shape remains the same.

One day, during her dance routine, everything was going to plan until she fell over her dancing Lego robot, and her long side got pushed in.



In desperation she exclaimed, "I am even more irregular now". She hopped on one corner to her best friend's Bobby's house to see if he could help.

Bobby lived on Regular Street. He rolled out to meet her.

"Poly, it that you? You look kind of weird and more irregular that usual."

Poly burst our crying. Straight tears ran in parallel lines down her face.

"I fell on my dancing Lego robot that I had designed to help me with regular exercise in the hope that it would make me more regular. Please help. Can you try to push me back into shape?"

Bobby agreed to help. First, he pulled and pulled, but her angles were either too acute or too obtuse, they just weren't RIGHT! Then he pushed and pushed but her sides were too short or too long, they just weren't EQUAL! He tried to roll her, but she couldn't roll, and that plan failed too. They were about to give up, when Poly thought she saw a shape she'd never seen before in the distance. She wondered what this shape was, and they decided to follow it.

They turned a corner and went around a bend before they saw the shape disappear down a hole. Poly was intrigued but Bobby was hesitant, "this all seems a bit irregular to me" he said. However, Poly was curious and wanted to go, so she jumping-jacked in.



She fell 5m down before landing in a pile of curvy vines and pointy leaves. When she got up she found herself in a world where all shapes lived together, regular and irregular walking together, hand in hand, vertex in vertex! For the first time, she felt like she fit in. All the shapes were unique and different and that was ok!

She decided to stay, she made new friends who were all different shapes and sizes.

She was happy with herself now. She realised maybe Bobby wasn't such a good friend anyway, a true friend would never make you change and would accept you for who you really are!

Shapestown

Kevin, Laura, Marie, Catherine, Bronagh

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“Don’t worry I know a shapeshifter who lives on Dodgy Lane!” said Bobby. “We’ll roll on over there.” Poly and Bobby arrived at the shapeshifter’s lab. Dr Transformation appears at the door. “Welcome to my lab, how can I help you?”

“I heard you can help me to become a regular shape. I am sick of being misidentified.” Dr Transformation cast the magic spell “Irregularis circumferenco, perpendicularo, rotationlatis.” Poly woke up and she felt the same. “This was a waste of time” she thought. Dr Transformation said the operation was a success. “You are a regular shape.” Poly was thrilled.

Poly and Bobby make their way back to Square Street. On the way she saw her reflection in the window of a shop on Dodgyville. She starts crying straight, parallel tears again. “I am not a square, Bobby look at me!”

Poly saw a purple diamond in the window, and she could not believe the Doctor had lied to her. As she was looking in the window’s reflection, she saw a square and a circle in the distance having a race down the hill. The square was trying to roll down the hill after the circle, but he kept getting stuck. His right angles wouldn’t let him roll. As he kept trying, he got stuck in a hole and was balancing on one of his right angles.

Suddenly, she saw the similarities between herself and the square. “Maybe I’m a normal shape after all!” Poly couldn’t wait to tell everyone in Shapestown. “We’re all normal in our own way!”

