



# Tales, Tasks, Tools, and Talk



Engage children in literature to pique their interest in quantity concepts, develop their fluency in measurement processes, and establish their quantitative literacy.

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**T**he importance of a literacy-based approach to content learning, especially within elementary school grades, is not a new idea. During the past quarter-century, the use of children's literature as an effective teaching tool has gained popularity across all content areas (Thiessen 2004). The definition of literacy has expanded not only to include various print and nonprint media but also to incorporate quantitative literacy through the development of number, number sense, and measurement. As elementary school students engage and interact with text and illustrations and with storylines and characters that stir their imaginations, they enthusiastically blend context and reasoning in their problem solving. In a process of making sense of the world around them, they intrinsically link literacy and mathematics. Yet in many elementary schools throughout the United States, the literacy-mathematics connection is often not made (Altieri 2010).