



YOUNG ARCHER

Maths teacher turns tables on learning by rote

By Diana Cormack

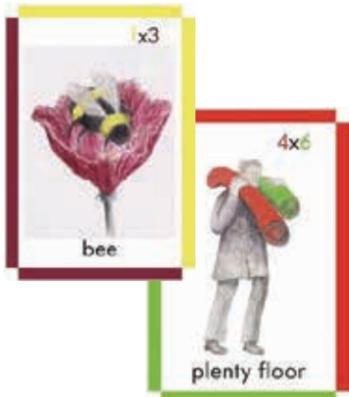
Former maths teacher Gill Steiner has devised an innovative way to help children with their number skills. Times Table Bee features short, readable rhymes and appealing pictures on 90 playing cards. Each has a numerical question on one side and a captioned picture on the other which rhymes with the answer.



Noah, Dani and Abi enjoy learning with Gill Steiner's cards. Photo Mike Coles.

Following the principle that a visual prompt sticks in the mind, the resource makes a refreshing change to the traditional rote learning of tables. If it rhymes, the answer is right; if not, the rhyme should help to work out the answer.

Helpfully, each number is colour coded so is recognisable wherever it appears. The characters and creatures pictured in amusing and intriguing situations stick in the memory and the colours they wear provide clues too.



Rhyme and reason: Two of Gill's illustrations for her card system.

The design of this game could be helpful to youngsters who need a little more support with their learning and act as a confidence builder too. It can be played as a self-help game or in a group of family or friends.

Building knowledge and confidence

Gill, of Woodside Avenue, told *The Archer* that, having learned through her experience as a teacher at both primary and secondary levels, she recognised that students' incomplete knowledge of their tables handicapped progress, self-confidence and success in maths.

She got the idea for this resource many years ago following an art course at Barnet College where she had to design and make a book. As a self-confessed 'art nut' who loved card games as a child, she has since devoted untold hours to creating the right characters and captions which will appeal to parents as well as children.

This fun game could become a family favourite as well as serving a useful purpose. It costs £9 and is available at Securebase, 112 High Road. Visit www.times-tablebee.com to find out more.

Nazareth House summer fete

On Saturday 7 July from 2-5pm there will be a Summer Fete in the garden and main hall of Nazareth House, a fun event for all the family with music, a barbecue, strawberries and cream, teas, a tombola and raffle with stalls selling bric-a-brac, plants, good quality clothes, cakes and books. Entry is £1 for adults; children are free.

Nazareth House at 162 East End Road, N2, is a residential home to 84 elderly residents. It is run by not-for-profit Nazareth Care Charitable Trust and is open to all faiths. The Friends of Nazareth House is a voluntary group which raises funds to provide extras and luxuries for residents such as outings, entertainments and treats.



Bucket collection: Maya, centre with bucket, and friends who took part in the water-carrying challenge.

A bucket of fun for Maya and friends

Thirteen-year-old Maya Wiseman persuaded her friends at the Archer Academy in East Finchley to walk around their playground with buckets of water on their head to raise funds for poor communities in Tanzania.

Maya told us: "I was trying to figure out how I could do something meaningful for my Bat Mitzvah, which marks me becoming a Jewish adult responsible for my actions and role in community life. I wanted to put some action behind my words.

"I decided to take part in the Walk in Her Shoes project with CARE International to help

girls and women in the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities work their way out of poverty. I've now raised over £4,500 which will be match funded by the government under UK Aid match.

"I'm really pleased with how well it's gone and am so grateful for all the support from donors and my school, the Archer

Academy. It is only a small contribution of course but hopefully we've enabled at least one girl to have a brighter future."

Maya spent the first nine years of her life in Tanzania and India before coming to London. She still welcomes donations on her fundraising page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mayas-miles-and-miles.



Special delivery: Coaches Gaya Gole and Emma Albery, centre front, with the North Middlesex Girls.

Tortoise found in street

On Saturday 5 May a tortoise was found on the High Road in the vicinity of the Phoenix Cinema.

One of its rescuers told *The Archer* it was given into the care of the RSPCA. If you lost this tortoise, did you get it back? We'd love to know. Tortoises are a protected species. For more information visit www.tortoise-protection-group.org.uk.

Father's Day

Here are some jokes that might bring a smile to your dad's face on Sunday 17 June.

Boy: Dad, can I have £5 for being good?
Dad: When I was a boy I was good for nothing.

Girl: Daddy, do you think I'm vain?
Dad: No, you're not vain dear. Why do you ask?

Girl: Because most girls as pretty as me are.

Girl: Dad, there's a man at the door collecting for the new swimming pool.

Dad: Give him a glass of water.

Son: Could you put my shoes on, Dad?

Dad: I don't think they'll fit me.

Top-quality coaches open the cricket season

North Middlesex girls' teams were coached by Gaya Gole and Emma Albery from Middlesex Women's First Team on Saturday 21 April, giving them a great start to their playing season. North Middlesex CC has Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 girls' teams who practise every weekend and play matches most weeks. New members are welcome and anyone interested in joining can email nmcc.colts@gmail.com.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(11.00 a.m. on Wednesdays)

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a *flourishing* social life.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

New singers are always welcome.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>