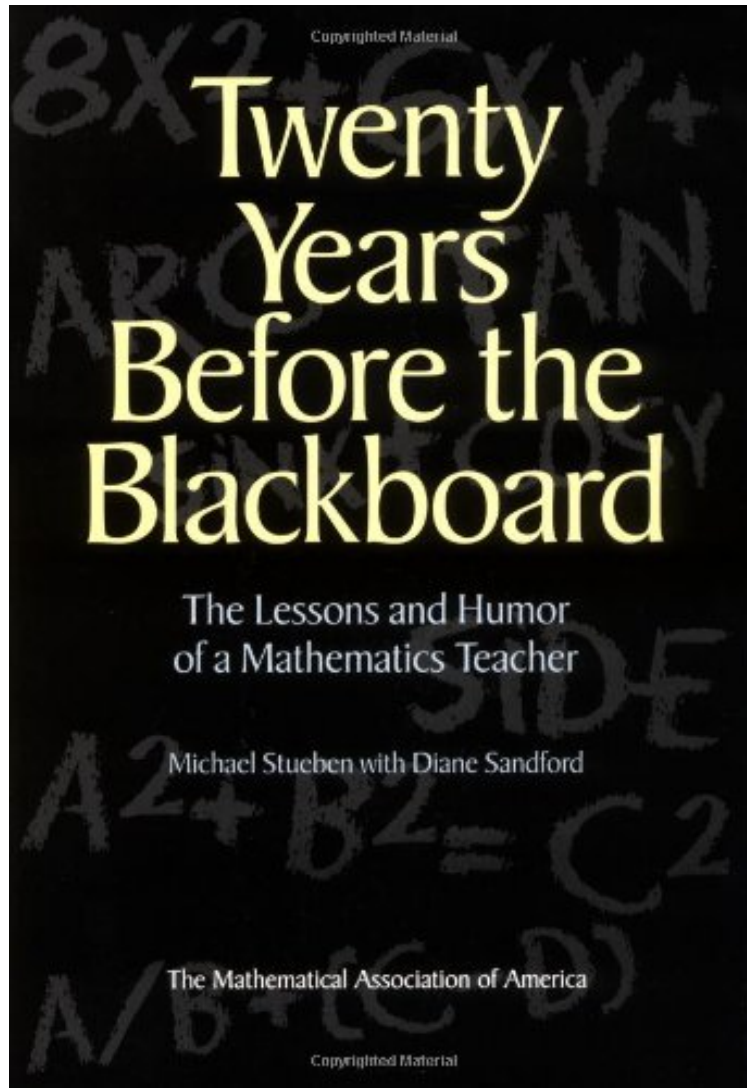


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Michael Stueben, Diane Sandford : *Twenty Years Before the Blackboard: The Lessons and Humor of a Mathematics Teacher (Spectrum)* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Twenty Years Before the Blackboard: The Lessons and Humor of a Mathematics Teacher (Spectrum)*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Know Math, Appreciate WitBy Patricia Althoff BridewellThe book

is definitely for the math expert who enjoys teaching both the subject and the students. Michael's humor (akin to the old "Would I?" "Wood eye!" type of joke) will entertain most readers, but moreso those who can relate to the mathematical background, as most of the witticisms demand math background for understanding. If you are losing your love for the field, this may just tickle your fancy! The methods in this book will not work for every teacher, but obviously work for this talented and gifted man. His insights and observations will give that added oomph to inspire you to a renewed mission of teaching our students to appreciate and love mathematics.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I wish I had had had this book 20 or 30 years ago. By Jerry Guild. Although my wish in my Title could never have been possible, since the book was written only 9 years ago; I have to admit most of the Mathematics I learned and loved so much in school and university, has pretty well left me. It's amazing how much we lose from 50 years of not using something. People often mention how they can lose a language by not using it,....well try Mathematics!!! I have kept up my interest in Mathematical Recreations and Puzzles ever since I developed it in High School; but a great deal of what the author talks about is pretty well lost to me now. However; I still found this book fascinating. It was interesting to look at the World of Mathematics through the eyes of someone who tried to interest his students in it. I have found my interest in Mathematical Recreations and Puzzles over the years has been pretty much of a solitary journey. I credit a High School teacher with encouraging me. In Grade 10, we were introduced to Logarithms. I stayed after class and told him how much they fascinated me and how I liked Puzzles. He reached into his desk drawer and pulled out what looked to me like a ruler with scales and a 'slider' on it. He asked me if I'd ever seen one of these. He told me it was a Slide Rule and the scales were based on Logs and that it could be used to do what the Log tables could do, that we were studying. He got me to try a few things, and saw how much it amazed me. He sent me home with it and a book of instructions and in no time I was using it...the only one in the school at the time. Later on, I studied Engineering, and in many ways it was my love for Math that made Engineering more like solving Puzzles than studying. It seems to me, the author of this book was made of much of the same stuff as my High School teacher. I always felt it was far more important and difficult for a teacher to inspire than correct; and probably because it is harder, few work very hard at it. I discussed this with a retired University President one day while out Birding in the Gulf Stream, on a boat, off Cape Hatteras, N.C. I told him that in all my years as a student in school and University; that I can think of only 2 Teachers, who ever really inspired me. His reply amazed me. "If you had two, consider yourself very lucky". From reading this book; I definitely got the feeling that the author was one of these "Rare Ones". This is a wonderful book on what teaching is all about; and the ideas in it apply to any subject; not only Mathematics.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. One of the most enjoyable books I've read so far! By Dan Tran. You will get sick of hearing this again and again, but here goes: I am currently a student in Mr. Stueben's computer science class. You may think this is a biased opinion, but I assure you that the fact I am in the author's class will not hinder this review. It will strengthen the points I make and disprove some other comments made by other reviewers. As you read this book, you will get a lot of fun out of it. As many people say, his methods may be a bit bizarre, but it has worked magic on his classes. It depends on if you know how to use this information correctly and make your class enjoyable; if you do, then please use it - it will make 99% of your students lean toward your side. Mr. Stueben does not lie ever - and he will not lie in his book. Keep in mind that all the information in the book has been used on his students and has been tested and approved. Read it to enjoy the story of his life as a math and CS teacher, or read it to use it for your teaching career. Either way, in my opinion, this has been one of the most enjoyable books I have read so far!

Quoted from another person below, "It is obvious that the author made up many, if not all of these stories about his successes, because he is obviously a failed teacher. I pity all of the students he has taught." I must respectfully disagree with this statement, as 1) Mr. Steuben never lies, 2) Mr. Stueben is NOT a failed teacher, and 3) As a part of the student body of his class, I must say that this offends me and other students. Authors don't write books to lie - authors write books to benefit the population.

This book is the legacy of twenty years of mathematics teaching. During this time the author searched for motivational techniques, mnemonics, insightful proofs, and serious applications of humour to aid his teaching. The result is an amazing book: part philosophy, part humour, and completely fascinating. This is one of the best 'methods' books ever written in the field of teaching elementary mathematics. Anybody interested in the psychology of learning or teaching mathematics will find this book a treasure.