**Where can studying Mathematics take you?**

Once upon a time there was a little girl, Red. Although red was little she had already reached when she had to go to school. That is where she first met Mathematics. And she saw the numbers. She didn’t know what they were good for, but knew they would become good friends.

And so they did. First together they explored how many dolls did Red have. And then they felt joy together when, for the first time, Red went to the shops alone, and was able to count the price of three crescent rolls. The two grew up together: RED and MATHEMATICS.

They learned more and more of each other. Red learned that maths was not only about numbers, but much more: numbers, sets, cubes, functions and many more. Maths learned how smart and clever Red was and they could talk about things nobody would’ve thought.

Red noticed the great effect Maths was having on her. She always looked for its friendship. But then suddenly Maths became an adult. They could talk less and less, Red felt that Maths no longer treated her as an equal, it rather spent its time with its new friends Sine Cosine. She needed some time to get to know them but in the end they also became good friends.

Soon the time came when Red had to decide what her path would be. What should she study what should she become? She pondered long about this. She had many options on her mind, but one thing was certain: she would not leave Maths.

Red was very curious about what Maths was doing when it wasn’t with her. After school when they said their goodbyes instead of starting for home Red followed her friend. She saw places that she had never before, and met many strange characters. At one point Maths went into a run-down old building. Red just waited, waited, waited and waited some more. When Maths finally came out of the building she was so curious that she pushed down her fear and pushed the doorbell of the house. A grey-haired old man answered, looked at her with a warm smile and invited her in for some hot-coco. Without waiting for a question the old man started talking. He told her that he and Maths had also been friends ever since his childhood. They explored the world together and Maths was there when it was time to make a decision about his future. Without Maths he could never have become what he really wanted to be: an architect. It was the best decision of his life. It was starting to grow dark so Red said goodbye and left for home, but before she left the old man gave her a book. The book was as old as the house, which Red liked very much, she knew it without opening that it was more than an ordinary book.

When she got home she immediately sat down on the couch and started to read. She was reading the second chapter when suddenly everything vanished and she found herself at the run-down old house, but it wasn’t run-down anymore. It took her quite some time before she realized that she was in the past and she could see the old man as a young boy together with Maths. When Maths went home the boy started towards a place unknown to Red. She followed him and wondered at the beauty of the never before seen place. Along his way the boy stopped by a man. They exchanged friendly greetings although it was obvious that they didn’t know each other. The man invited him into his home and they started talking about very interesting things. In one of the rooms there were all sorts of liquids. The whole chamber was brimming with colour. The man’s job was to provide the people of the village with medicine. Red thought this was a very grateful vocation but she was surprised to learn that he was also a good friend of Maths. Without it he would never be able to decide how much to take from which liquid in order to get something useful. He remembered that before he had known Maths oftentimes things would blow up.

Continuing their journey they found a plethora of people and professions: baker, physicist, gymnast, economist, and many more. One thing was common in all of them: Maths was all friends with them. Maths is ageless and always there when needed.

And then Red woke up and found herself in her armchair, a little woozy, but after her thoughts cleared she knew: she would become a mathematics teacher!

After a few years she was again in the schools corridor. All around her enthusiastic children were about. After the bell rang finally she wasn’t sitting in silence and paying attention but quite the opposite: everyone was paying attention to her with eyes wide open, waiting to see what would happen next. She did not know how things would turn out exactly but one thing was certain: Maths would be every-bodies friend.

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