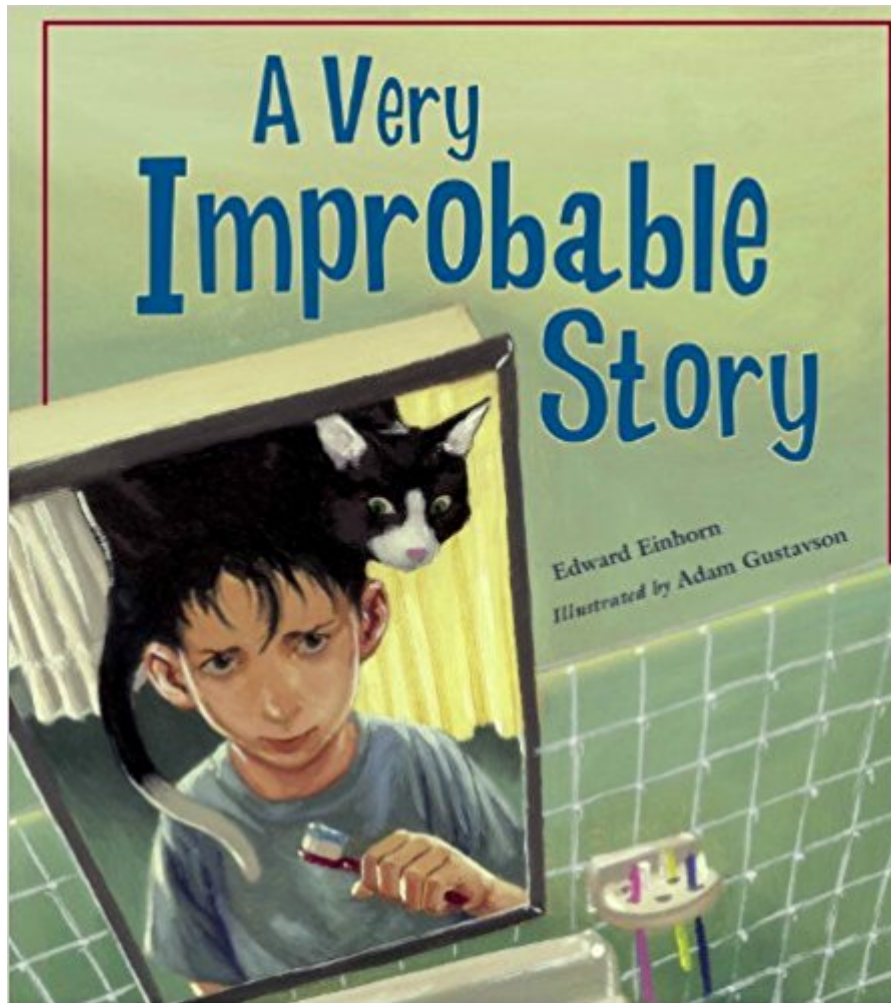




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# A Very Improbable Story



## Synopsis

What are the odds? Ethan wakes up one morning to find a very strange cat stuck on his head. The cat, Odds, refuses to budge until Ethan wins a game of probability. Without looking, Ethan must pick out a dime from his coin collection or two matching socks from his dresser, or do something else improbable. If he doesn't, Odds is there to stay, and Ethan has a 100% chance of missing his big soccer game. A very improbable story about a challenging math concept.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD470L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570918724

ISBN-13: 978-1570918728

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #389,592 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math > Fractions](#) #147 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor > Jokes & Riddles](#) #1088 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

This picture book for older children introduces the idea of probability using a funny, fantastical premise: A boy named Ethan wakes up with a talking cat on the top of his head. The cat informs Ethan that he'll get off his head if Ethan wins a game of probability. After cartwheels, jumping jacks, and a shower don't remove the cat, Ethan decides to play along. The two consider a variety of everyday household groupings—coins, socks, marbles, cereal shapes, and even soccer strategies—and eventually Ethan goes from haphazard guessing to a real sense of odds and outcomes. Einhorn moves this math lesson quickly along, spurring it with Ethan's oft-repeated need to get to his soccer game within the hour—and without the cat. Gustavson's appealing oil paintings, which depict Ethan and his little sister in all their befuddled wonder, match well with

Einhorn's quirky text and premise. They are full of energy, odd angles, and offbeat perspectives, and kids will want to give them more than a passing glance. Grades 1-3. --Abby Nolan  
--This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Edward Einhorn is the author of THE LIVING HOUSE OF OZ (Hungry Tiger Press), and PARADOX IN OZ (Hungry Tiger Press), a centennial sequel to the Wizard of Oz series. He is also a playwright and the artistic director of Untitled Theater Company #61, a theater group producing drama with a philosophical bent. He lives in New York City.

I didn't dig math as a kid, so I'm trying to come up with all sorts of reasons why it's awesome now. At least, I'm trying to convince my kids that it's awesome. This book is a favorite of my 9 year old son, so much so that I had to ask his teachers if they knew what it was, because all he could tell me was that it involved a "cat sitting on a kid's head and not getting off until he answered some math questions". That is my kind of cat. I'm actually deathly allergic to cats, but I like this guy's style if he can get a kid to think about probability and/or want to read a book. So there you go. The probability of your kid liking this book is pretty high, I'd say.

Using literature to introduce mathematical subjects is an excellent technique in classrooms throughout the school years. Almost all people like to be read to. Fortunately, building a library of introductory books is not a great expense and can be done over a number of years. This book is one that belongs in the teacher's resources. A Very Improbable Story is an excellent introduction to probability. I tutor a 1 & 3 grader. We used the book and then worked with dice games. They soon developed a keen sense of what numbers had a greater chance of occurring than others.

great price

I am a new teacher and wanted to build my library; in my opinion, it is important to include books with a math theme so that I can conduct interesting mini-lessons. Having this book helps round out my library. I think the students will enjoy it.

This was an excellent way for young students to learn the concept of probability. It was written on a level through five elementary grade level

Our six year old asks us for word-problems at bedtime. We get silly and creative. Then its his turn to ask us one. This book provides another way for us to share our knowledge without either party getting bored.

I bought this because I was hoping to find them cheaper than they were in the stores. This was just as good as ordering from the company! I would recommend them to anyone.

This book belongs in classroom and school libraries. It's an entertaining problem-solving story which helps to teach probability in the context of a fun plot.

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