

# INVESTIGATIONS

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## CHALLENGING TASKS WITH OLIVER JEFFERS

The following series of challenging tasks are built around three wonderful picture story books by author/illustrator Oliver Jeffers. We suggest reading each book and tackling these tasks.

### LOST AND FOUND



Imagine the boy and penguin both set off from opposite sides of the sea to find each other at the same time. The boy

in the boat travelled four times faster than the penguin rowing his umbrella. Can you draw a map of their journeys showing where they passed each other? Can you estimate on your map where exactly they may have finally met? Explain your reasoning.

#### ENABLING PROMPT

Draw a map showing the sea separating the boy's home from the South Pole. On the map, track the journey that the boy and the penguin took during the book.

#### EXTENDING PROMPT

If it is 1,000 kilometres between the boy's home and the South Pole, can you estimate where the two finally met (specifically, the distance from the South Pole)?

#### ADDITIONAL EXTENSION

Using evidence from the book, how long do you think the boy's first return journey to the South Pole may have taken him?

### THE GREAT PAPER CAPER



The bear flew a modified paper aeroplane to victory at the end of the story.

Can you estimate the dimensions of the huge

piece of paper they used? Explain your reasoning.

#### ENABLING PROMPT

Can you estimate how tall the bear in the story might be? Imagine the length of the piece of gigantic paper is about twice the bear's height. Use this information to help estimate the length of the paper.

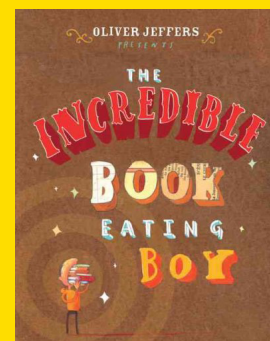
#### EXTENDING PROMPT

How many old paper planes do you estimate were used to make this huge paper plane? Imagine the original planes were made from regular A4 paper.

#### ADDITIONAL EXTENSION

Imagine you wanted to make a paper plane large enough for your whole class to travel on. Estimate the dimensions of this humongous paper plane. Explain your reasoning. How many pieces of A4 paper would you need?

### THE INCREDIBLE BOOK EATING BOY



If it takes Henry one minute to eat a sentence, estimate how long it would take him to eat your favourite book?

#### ENABLING PROMPT

Henry ate his favourite book, *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*. It is 32 pages long and there is an average of 2 sentences on each page. How many minutes did it take for him to eat it?

#### EXTENDING PROMPT

What is the longest book Henry could eat in a day?

#### ADDITIONAL EXTENSION

Henry began eating books at an alarming rate. In fact, he would eat one whole book in a minute, not just a sentence. Estimate how long it would take him to eat your entire school library. What time would he finish eating if he started at 9am on Monday morning?

We would like to acknowledge Caroline and Rubina (cslopak@icloud.com) who attended our MAV conference presentation and contributed some of the ideas that inspired these tasks.

How did students in your class approach the above investigation? Share your class's experience with the *Prime Number* editorial team (office@mav.vic.edu.au), for the opportunity to have it published in *Prime Number* as a resource to share with other teachers and students. If possible, try and include photographs of work samples, as well as students engaging in the task.