

# Vector

Journal of the BC Association of Mathematics Teachers

Summer 2004



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*The Official Journal of the  
British Columbia  
Association of Mathematics  
Teachers*

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to introduce/read aloud about concepts or to introduce a math glossary or dictionary project to younger students.

### **Jayden's Rescue**

by Vladimir Tumanov

ISBN 0439988640

2002 by Scholastic Canada

Recommended for Grades 4 to 7

Tumanov is a professor of language and literature at the University of Western Ontario. He moved to Canada from the Soviet Union when he was thirteen.

Alex finds a mysterious pencil and then a magical book that takes him on a math adventure. The main character in the magical book, Jayden, is trapped in a castle's dungeon and needs help to be rescued. To escape, she must solve a math problem presented by a monstrous guard in order to pass through each room in the dungeon: there are 400 rooms in all. Alex and his friends help her solve the problems and then experience some suspenseful twists and turns.

An example of a problem from the novel:

Chapter 4, p. 30

I eat berries soft and juicy-they're my favourite chow.  
Keep in mind: five hundred kilos is my weight right now.  
I've just finished having supper. What a berry feast!  
But I think I overdid it – I'm a greedy beast.  
Right before the meal, I was a slimmer, lighter bear:  
Just four hundred fifty kilos. This is true, I swear!  
Each delicious berry weighs ten grams-no more, no less.  
Count the berries I have eaten. Be precise, don't guess.

The problems are ideal for partners or small group work. Problems involve Canadian measuring units and may be approached in a variety of ways.

