



Stuart J. Murphy's  
**MathStart**<sup>®</sup>

**The Grizzly Gazette**  
**Level 3 / Ages 7+**  
**Percentage**



**Learning how to describe a group of 100 in terms of percentages is the first step toward understanding this important concept.**

### Story Description

It's election time at Camp Grizzly. Who will win the race to be the new mascot? Sophie's got the support of the all-important boat club. Daniel hands out flyers and candy bars. But with 50 out of 100 campers—50%—still undecided, Corey decides to throw her hat in the ring. As the race heats up, The Grizzly Gazette publishes polls showing how the percentages break down using a pie graph. Can Corey catch up? Learning how to describe a group of 100 in terms of percentages is the first step toward understanding this important concept.

Illustrated by Steve Björkman.

### Activities

- As you read the story, have your child (or students) find the sum of the percentages shown in each graph. It is important that children understand that percentages represented in a circle graph will always add up to 100.
- Help your child (or students) draw a circle graph that shows one 50% segment and two 25% segments. Draw another circle graph that shows one 25% segment and one 75% segment. Talk about the language used to describe percentages. Equate 50% with one half of the circle, 25% with one quarter of the circle, and 75% with three quarters of the circle.
- Cut a stick of butter or a candy bar in half. Then cut one half into two pieces. Ask your child (or students) to name the fractions (halves and quarters). Then ask which piece is 25% of the whole. Point out the largest piece and ask what percentage of the whole stick it is. Put  $\frac{1}{4}$  stick and  $\frac{1}{4}$  stick together and ask what fraction and percentage the two pieces combined represent.



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