



LINKS TO LITERATURE:

In the book, *The Carpet Boy's Gift*, the main character, Nadeem, is a bonded laborer, a child who works in a carpet factory to pay off a loan his family accepted from the factory owner. While reading the book there are opportunities for students to use mathematics to gain a deeper understanding of the problems and choices that Nadeem faces. For example, Nadeem is fined 50 rupees for falling asleep at the loom.

- If the exchange rate is \$0.02 Canadian for 1 rupee, how much is Nadeem's fine in Canadian money?
- How much is Nadeem's fine of 100 rupees in Canadian money?
- It takes Nadeem six months to pay off the 50 rupee fine. At this rate how long will it take him to pay off a fine of 500 rupees?

The book, *Wangari's Trees of Peace*, is based on the true story of Wangari, who left Kenya to study and then returned home six years later to be shocked to see whole forests being cut down. She decides to do something and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard.

- If Wangari planted 9 seedlings a day, how many days will it take for her to plant 425 trees?
 - Wangari asks other women to help her plant seedlings. If each woman plants 9 seedlings, how many trees will 72 women plant?
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