

1014-V1-666      **Mike Pinter\*** ([pinterm@mail.belmont.edu](mailto:pinterm@mail.belmont.edu)), Department of Mathematics and Comp. Science,  
1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212. *Mathematics in Popular Texts for a First-Year  
Seminar.*

During Fall 2005 I am teaching a First-Year Seminar (FYS) as part of the general education program at Belmont University. Although all sections of FYS are required to have some common elements (most notably a "ways of knowing" theme and Life of Pi as a common book), each instructor has significant latitude in developing a specific topic. For my section, the course readings include The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and "The Case for Quantitative Literacy." In this talk, I will focus on assignments and readings I used that offered some tastes of mathematics as part of the course. In particular, in my section we explored several mathematical components of The Curious Incident, considered "quantitative knowing" as part of critical thinking, discussed the ramifications of the irrationality of pi in the story contained in Life of Pi, and attended a production of the play The Proof. (Received September 22, 2005)