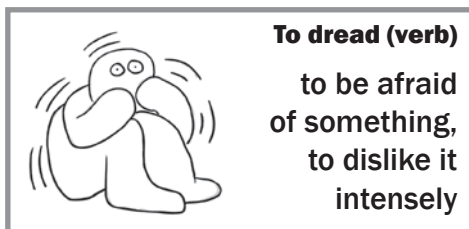


# Yikes! Homework Night!

This mom dreads the nights when her son has math homework. But she has a plan.

Elizabeth Vasquez



**BEFORE YOU READ:** Use the verb “to dread” in several sentences. If you help your kids with their homework, what’s it like for you?

Math! Yikes! When a lot of us hear the word “math” we run for the hills. Math can be such a scary subject with all the signs, symbols, numbers, and rules. And what’s up with the letters? Why the heck does math have to use the alphabet?

As an adult and parent, I find math to be a struggle. There is no denying that today’s math is taught much differently than when I attempted to learn it as a young student over 10 years ago.

I have a 12-year-old son who frequently needs help with his math homework, and boy, do I

dread those nights!

**I ask my son, “Where are your examples?”**

I see all of these equations mocking me, and I have no resources or tools to refer to. I ask my

son, “Where are your examples?” And he tells me he forgot his notes – which all kids do at his age. So I say, “Ok, show me your textbook.” Now, here lies the problem! No textbook!

As a kid, I had textbooks that I could use to look for examples and explanations. In today’s world, if you don’t take notes you will be lost on how to do your work once you leave school. Math is already so difficult for me, and without

these books I feel completely lost as a parent who would like to help her child.

Math is important. We need it for day-to-day living. Even basic errands (such as getting gas and buying groceries) involve simple math. I want my son to understand and do well, but I feel that unless I’m learning alongside him in his classroom, there’s very little I can do. Luckily, there are math support groups at his school, and they have the proper tools to help him.

My goal in this struggle is to enforce the importance of math to my son and to make sure he’s getting the extra help he needs from someone who has more confidence in the subject.

**AFTER YOU READ:** What is the problem Elizabeth faces? How does she solve it?

Elizabeth Vasquez is a student at Norwich Regional Adult Education in Norwich, CT. After earning her high school diploma, Elizabeth plans on attending culinary school in the hopes of one day opening her own bakery. Elizabeth is also a proud mother of two children.

