

Seven Golden Rings: A Tale of Music and Math

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Synopsis: In ancient India, a boy named Bhagat travels to the Rajah's city, hoping to ensure his family's prosperity by winning a place at court as a singer.

Suggested Reading Date: January 14 – World Logic Day or January 29 – National Puzzle Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Explore binary numbers. There is information in the book's backmatter and links to a video below. Discuss their use in computers and electronics.
- Discuss the connections between music and math in the text. Share musical notation. Point out the connection to music and the solution to the chain problem.
- Use the book as a jump off point to explore India through maps, books, and databases
- Recreate the chain puzzle as you read the book to see if students can figure out the solution. (you could use paper chains or wire) Also available on the activity sheet below.
- Math in everyday life. Where do your students see it in the book? Where do they see it in their lives? You might discuss the importance of a budget for Baghat and his mother.
- Have students give their opinion on whether they think it would be better to become a musician for the rajah or the job he ended up with and why they think one would be better than the other.
- Explore the problems that Baghat faced and what problem-solving steps he followed to find solutions.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website - <https://www.rajaniarocca.com>
- Illustrator's Website - <https://archanasreenivasan.com>
- Publisher Lesson Plan - https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/952/SevenGoldenRings_TeachersGuide.pdf
- Activity guide from Lee and Low -includes a coloring sheet with the ring puzzle and picture - https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/866/SEVEN_GOLDEN_RINGS.activity-guide.fa.pdf
- Video explaining the binary system (computer focused) It is long, but one could easily show just the first half which shows how to count to ten in binary - <https://youtu.be/hvteVokz7jE>

Text to Text Connections:

One Grain of Rice by Demi, *A Feast of Peas* by Kashmiri Sheth, *Two of Everything* by Lilly Toy Hong, *The Elephant's Friend and other tales from Ancient India* by Marcia Williams.

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