

Aritmathick

The toughs get going...

By Tygo Lee
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Hey, here comes my good friend Katy the Kid up the street.

Hi ya, Katy. What's up?

"Aritmathick, Tygo, Aritmathick!"

Huh? Oh, okay. It's *Arithmetic*, Katy.

"Yeah, that's what I said, *Aritmathick!*"

Well, I'll just go with that then. So?

"I've gotta study this in my elementary school, and I don't understand it. It's some kind of Matt Class"
Math class, Katy.

"Are your *ears* okay today, Tygo! That's what I said, *Matt Class.*"

Yeah, yeah. Sorry, Katy. My fault. So, uh...

"I don't understand it!"

Nobody understands Matt, Katy. Gee whiz. *Math*, Katy.

Nobody?

Well, okay, a lot of people do, I guess, but I was always bad at Math.

"But if *you* are bad at Matt, then it's no big thing if *I'm* bad at Aritmathick."

Uh, hmmm. If I say, yes, her mommy will be mad at me, so I have to say, *no*, right?

"Huh? *Yes* or *no*, Tygo!"

Uh, okay. *No*, Katy.

So what am I supposed to do, huh?

There's a good old saying for this: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

"Huh? Who are the *toughs*, and where do they go to?"

Tough, Katy. *Tough*.

"Then there's just one."

No, there's a bunch.

“Then it’s *toughs*, Tygo, because my teacher told us that you put on a “s” when there’s a bunch.”

An “s,” Katy.

What?

Uh, forget that. And yeah, well, *toughs* is okay too. How did I get myself into this conversation anyway!

Okay, let’s see. The *toughs* are the people who never give up. They meet all their challenges head on. They are strong-willed, and persevering. They are those who...

“Are you feeling okay, Tygo? That doesn’t make no sense. At least tell me *where* the toughs got to go to when there’s a bunch and they get going.”

Well, actually, they don’t *go* anywhere. You see, this means that...

“That’s a *dumb* saying, Tygo. And I just wanna know how to do this Aritmathick stuff, that’s all.”

Yeah, got ya. Okay. Uh, but I sort of like that saying because...

“*Tygo!*”

Sorry, Katy. Okay, I know. Hey, have you got your Matt book, I mean *Math* book with ya?

“Nope. I *hate* that book!”

Well, that won’t help much. Run to your house and go get it, okay. And bring your notebook too.

“What for?”

I’ll help you do your, well, your *Aritmathick*.

“But you said you were *bad* at Matt.”

Yeah, I *hate* it. Uh, no! I mean, it’s *good* stuff to learn, Katy. Yeah, and maybe you and I can figure it out together, okay?

“Cool! Then you can help me *all* school year, and *all* elementary school, and *all* junior high, and *all* high school with my Matt stuff, right!”

Oops. I think I’m in trouble. You see, Katy, like I said, I’m *really* bad at...

“Hooray! I’m gonna go tell my mommy that you’re gonna be my Matt teacher in the neighborhood.”

Hey, Katy. That’s not a good idea. You see, I really hate, I mean, I’m not good at...

“See ya, Tygo. I’ll be right back in a few minutes.”

Katy, come back. Hey, Katy, come back please!

Oops. I’m *definitely* in a lot of trouble.

Okay, I got it. Yeah. “When the going gets tough, like for me right now, then the...

Hey, that *is* a dumb saying. I *hate* Matt! I mean, I hate *Math*!

Katy? Katy!

Help!!!!!!!!