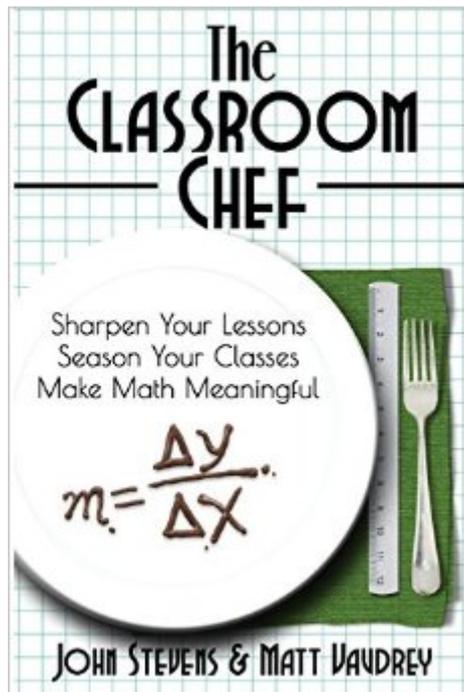


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# The Classroom Chef: Sharpen Your Lessons, Season Your Classes, Make Math Meaningful



## Synopsis

"I just don't get math." If you're a math teacher, you probably can't count the number of times you've heard students, parents, and even fellow teachers make a disparaging statement about your subject. As math teachers and instructional coaches, John Stevens and Matt Vaudrey know how discouraging it feels to look out into a classroom full of disinterested and confused students. But they also know how amazing it feels to see comprehension dawn in their students' eyes - when a concept suddenly makes sense and math becomes meaningful. In *The Classroom Chef*, John and Matt share their secret recipes, ingredients, and tips for serving up lessons that engage students and help them "get" math. You can use these ideas and methods as-is, or better yet, tweak them and create your own enticing educational meals. The message the authors want to convey is that, with imagination and preparation, every teacher can be a Classroom Chef. Far from bland or boring, the lessons and ideas in *The Classroom Chef* spark curiosity-and occasionally bewilderment and awe (yes, in math class). After all, mullets, ziplines, and sharks aren't standard topics for typical math classes. But maybe they should be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Get inside the heads of two of the most effective, creative math teachers anywhere. Stevens and Vaudrey share a manifesto of the right CULTURE and MINDSET to teach math effectively.

Awesome for any grade level and homeschoolers.

Having attended three of their trainings, these amazing chefs always deliver the goods. John and Matt show you amazing ways to cook up something amazing for your students, and they make you want to try it too! They are infinitely encouraging, infinitely talented, and infinitely helpful. I purchased this book on Monday, 4/4 and can't wait to read it on Friday, when it arrives. If you're looking for a way to spice up your instruction (math related or not), if you're looking for great pedagogy, and if you're looking for some great recipes to become better, this is the book and these are the chefs for you.

I am fortunate enough to call Matt and John friends. Their book is a funny and inspiring look at not only teaching math, but teaching in general. Loaded with great ideas for any classroom and all grade levels the book is also a heart-warming reminder of why we all became educators in the first place. If you're looking for a read to start your career or for some summer rejuvenation this is your book. It is also a great appetizer for inviting them to your school for a hands-on workshop.

My copy of *The Classroom Chef* is now a rainbow of post-its. Great websites, fantastic lessons, and funny stories and quotes kept me busy all weekend. Being fairly new to the Math/Tech Twitter world I am amazed at how many ideas are out there to use for FREE! I ran to my principal today waving my copy of *The Classroom Chef* with all sorts of things I want to try next year. Awesome!!

Don't buy this book for some light bedtime reading. It will make you laugh, maybe cry, and then your mind will start racing and the inspiration will be...not restful. It will change how you see your students. It will make you want to teach better tomorrow. *The Classroom Chef* was my energizing, thought-provoking midnight snack. (Apologies for infringing on the theme.)

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Classroom Chef* by John Stevens and Matt Vaudrey! Already a follower of their blogs and Twitter feeds, it was great to get insight around the thinking and the development processes behind some of the great lessons I'd read about online. I also appreciated the stories about how Stevens and Vaudrey got where they are today-- a good reminder that none of us starts as a master teacher, rather it's all about ongoing growth and development of our practice as educators. As a K-5 teacher, I was, at first, concerned that a book written by middle school teachers would pertain more to middle and high school lessons, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that the Stevens' and Vaudrey's lesson design tips were really appropriate for all grade levels!

I had the great pleasure of reading this book and am wondering how long the education system will take to put more teachers like these two young men in our classrooms. I am far too old to be a student or even a teacher but the book was pure joy to read. We need more teachers like Matt and John to capture our students interest in the classroom. My applause to both of them.

Classroom Chef is the best teacher book I've read in a long time. These guys keep it real! They made me laugh often as they talked about their journey from first year teachers and on through their classroom years. I enjoyed, and related to how they changed, evaluated, and took risks with their lessons. They did a great job explaining how they questioned the tasks, assignments, and assessments they put before their students. One of their main tweaks was to give student choice. Yes!! They were both math teachers, but their ideas are applicable to all subject areas, and all grades. They use food analogies to take you from Velveeta, to a five course meal by tweaking, adding, and omitting important pieces. Thanks for sharing your journey, and for helping me to consider mine!

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