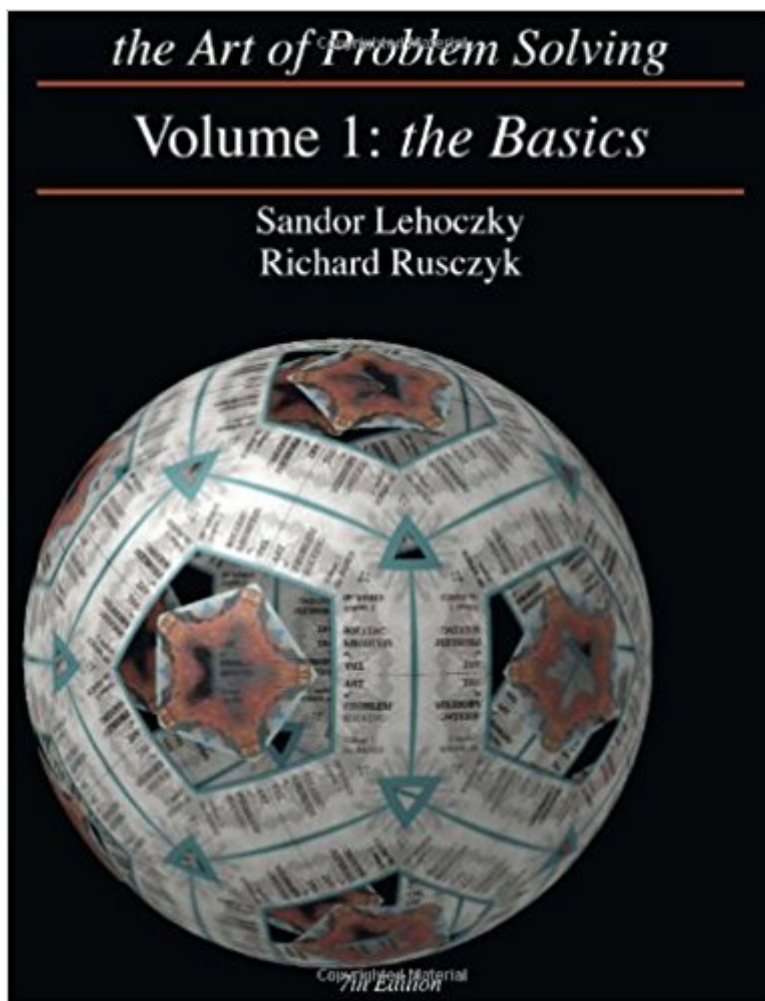The book was found

The Art Of Problem Solving, Vol. 1: The Basics

Synopsis

The Art of Problem Solving, Volume 1, is the classic problem solving textbook used by many successful MATHCOUNTS programs, and have been an important building block for students who, like the authors, performed well enough on the American Mathematics Contest series to qualify for the Math Olympiad Summer Program which trains students for the United States International Math Olympiad team. Volume 1 is appropriate for students just beginning in math contests. MATHCOUNTS and novice high school students particularly have found it invaluable. Although the Art of Problem Solving is widely used by students preparing for mathematics competitions, the book is not just a collection of tricks. The emphasis on learning and understanding methods rather than memorizing formulas enables students to solve large classes of problems beyond those presented in the book. Speaking of problems, the Art of Problem Solving, Volume 1, contains over 500 examples and exercises culled from such contests as MATHCOUNTS, the Mandelbrot Competition, the AMC tests, and ARML. Full solutions (not just answers!) are available for all the problems in the solution manual.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book has been one of my most useful resources to teach math to my children while in middle school/early high school, especially in the context of math competitions. These comments apply even more so to volume 2 of the same series. I'll list below the main characteristics of this book, compared to those of a traditional math text:Assortment of material: It is not a 9th grade algebra or geometry text book; rather, each chapter goes over one interesting concept in math, be it three

dimensional objects or infinite series. What this means is that if one is exhausted with geometry, one can flip the page and discover something interesting about the properties of infinite series, or how repeating decimals can be tamed.Similarly, if a problem in geometry is better solved by the use of algebra or trig, the authors freely do so, highlighting that aspect of the latter that is needed to attack the original problem, rather than referring the user to a book of trigonometry.The material, while going deeper than a typical 9th/10th grade math book, especially in the problem section, maintains a degree of informality, which makes the reading much lighter. eg. there is a chapter describing 'the art of "angle chasing"' which lists a practical systematic way of approaching geometry problems where no obvious strategies stand out.It does not follow a text book style which aims to cover all aspects of a topic, starting from the very basics; rather, the authors rapidly introduce the basics, eg. for trigonometry, it is in a half dozen pages, followed by several solved examples, followed by an assortment of problems where the student is forced to use the concepts explained earlier to solve the problems.

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