

## Mita and Ploydao - Women in Math Day Speech

**Ploydao:** Think of a mathematician. Have you got one? I am sure most of your answers are probably Einstein, Newton or Fibonacci. There's one thing in common with all of these renowned mathematicians: they are all male!

I can name quite a few female mathematicians: Ada Lovelace, Florence Nightingale, Mary Cartwright, Julia Robinson and Sophie Germain. I'm certain that there are many more out there that haven't been mentioned. And for those names that haven't been mentioned, who are they and why don't we know them? Well that's why Women in Maths Day is important.

For instance, I'm sure that most of you didn't even know that Einstein needed help from a girl. Yes, some say that without Emmy Noether's theorem about symmetry and conservation laws, Einstein would've never created the theory of relativity. But when he did, he was highly praised and received awards whilst not as many people have heard of Emmy Noether.

And I know what you must be thinking, "Then what about the men?", "Why are only women celebrated?", "This is basically gender inequality all over again, but vice versa, how is this fair?".

**Mita:** But that's the thing you see. Women have been oppressed, shown as lower and always just a side character in history: his-story. For countless years women were told "You can't!", "You won't", "You know you're nothing because you're a girl.". Obviously nowadays, things have changed as women can drive a car or get a job. But most girls are still getting paid *less* than men for doing the exact same job to the exact same levels of standards. When will women get **equal pay**?!

'Women in Maths Day' isn't about saying that women are more superior than men, that only women should be celebrated and men aren't deserving of their own 'Maths Day'. No! This day is about empowering and inspiring women of all backgrounds to pursue their dreams, succeed in their lives and to show that women can be just as *important* as men, just as *worthy*, just as *smart* and **definitely** just as **capable** as men at Maths!