

Read the Prologue, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 in the book *How to Bake Pi* by Eugenia Cheng.

For part (a) of your reading/listening assignment, please include answers to the following questions.

Don't forget to include parts (b) and (c) (as described in the syllabus) on what you turn in.

1. Which math myths have you heard others claim the most? Have you ever believed any of them? What changed your mind (or why do you think it's not a myth—you're allowed to disagree with Cheng if needed!)?
2. What do you think of the comparisons Cheng makes between math and cooking, art, etc.? How do you think these analogies capture the nature of math and what do they miss?
3. What do you think of the definition of math on page 10? If you would make changes to it, what would they be?
4. Why is abstraction helpful? What drawbacks are there to abstraction?
5. What concept/idea that had to be abstracted to use were you surprised by the most because of how naturally you use the abstraction?
6. On page 36 Cheng says, "bias doesn't come into it either because all you're doing is applying logic." What do you think?
7. How do you think Cheng's views of mathematics as articulated in these chapters relate to views we read about in Kline?
8. What things stood out to you as done well for a general audience?
9. What things would you do differently for a general audience?
10. In what ways do you think things would be discussed differently for a mathematical audience?