

**Title of Book:**        **The Fly on The Ceiling**  
**Author:**               **Dr. Julie Glass**  
**Publisher/Year:**    **Random House/1998**  
**ISBN:**                 **9780679886075**

**Grade Levels for Recommended Use:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**TEKS:**

6.11 Measurement and data, the student applies mathematical process standards to use co-ordinate geometry to identify locations on a plane. The student is expected to

(A) graph points in all four quadrants using ordered pair of rational numbers.

**Brief Summary:** The book narrates the story of Rene Descartes, a French mathematician and philosopher, and how he invented a cartesian plane when he was watching a fly on the ceiling and wondered how to best describe the fly's location and decided that one of the corners of the ceiling could be used as a reference.

**Materials needed:**

- Worksheets of Cartesian Plane Problems

**Suggested Activity:**

1. Show video to introduce topic
2. Give PowerPoint presentation:
  - A. Brief background on Rene Descartes
  - B. Explain how to describe a fly's location on a ceiling using a corner as reference
  - C. Introduce Cartesian coordinate plane and its properties
3. Distribute worksheets with Cartesian plane:
  - A. One shows location of a fly
  - B. One shows geometric figures
4. Have students work on worksheets to identify:
  - A. The coordinates of the fly
  - B. The coordinates of the vertices of the geometric figures

5. Review the worksheets and answers as a class when finished
6. Address any remaining student questions about the Cartesian coordinate plane

**References:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0k1rCzwX9Y>

**Adapted By:** Habeeb Ur Rehman (2023)