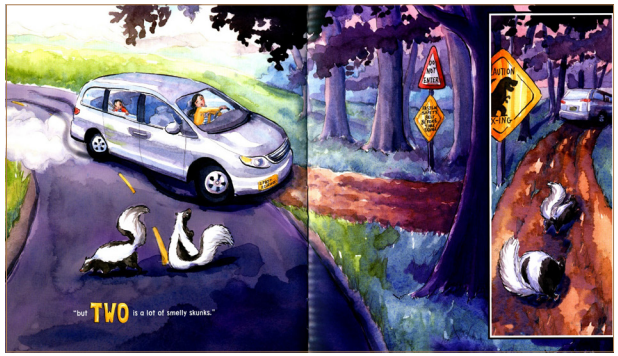
Is 2 a Lot? by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans

AGE LEVEL 5–8 years

About the Story

Riding in a car, Joey asks, "Is 2 a lot?" Mom says, "Two is not a lot of pennies, but two is a lot of smelly skunks!" To avoid the skunks, Mom turns onto a magical road where she and Joey encounter 5 freckles and 5 cowboys, 10 dinosaurs and 10 pieces of popcorn, and much more. Are these numbers a lot or not? At the end, Joey gives a deep answer to the question. The illustrations are hilarious.



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Illustrations © 2019 by Rebecca Evans

Words to Learn

MATH WORDS

two, three, four, five, ten, fifty, one hundred, one thousand, a lot

OTHER WORDS

shelf, broken bones, freckles, chomping, aspen tree, stump, hot air balloons

About the Math

While reading the story, your child can learn:

- Numbers tell us exactly how many there are in a collection.
- But the meaning of the numbers depends on context. For example, 10 pieces of popcorn are not a lot compared with a whole bag of popcorn, but 10 dinosaurs are a lot compared with the amount we see every day (none!).
- To read written numerals (1,000) and number words (one thousand).

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Talk During Reading

DESCRIBE WHAT'S ON THE PAGE

What's happening on this page? How many pennies do you see? Do you see two of anything else besides the skunks?

COMPARE THE NUMBERS OF TWO GROUPS

Are there more children in the school bus or more dogs on the street? Are there more dinosaurs or more pieces of popcorn?

JUSTIFY A JUDGMENT

Why are four children on the school bus not a lot of children, but four dogs to walk at once are a lot of dogs?

IMAGINE A LOT AND NOT A LOT

Can you think of something (besides pennies and skunks) for which two things are a lot and two other things are not a lot?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

DRAWING

Let's make some drawings of five things that are not a lot and five other things that are a lot.

Written by Herbert P. Ginsburg

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Mathical

BOOK PRIZE

The Mathical Book Prize recognizes math-inspiring literature for kids ages 2-18. Prize-winning books are selected by a committee of teachers, librarians, mathematicians, and others. To get the Mathical List, plus reading guides, book reviews, and more, see

mathicalbooks.org

PreK WINNERS:

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller by Kate Read

Crash! Boom! A Math Tale by Robie H. Harris

Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke

ONE Very Big Bear by Alice Brière-Haquet

8: An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper

Have You Seen My Dragon? by Steve Light

GRADES K-2 WINNERS:

Pigeon Math by Asia Citro

Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Cheryl Bardoe

Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s by Judy Cox

Absolutely One Thing: Featuring Charlie and Lola by Lauren Child

Max's Math by Kate Bank

One Big Pair of Underwear by Laura Gehl

PreK HONOR TITLES:

Animal Shapes by Christopher Silas Neal

Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett

Count with Maisy, Cheep, Cheep, Cheep! by Lucy Cousins

Goodnight, Numbers by Danica McKellar

I Know Numbers by Taro Gomi

A Mousy Mess by Laura Driscoll

One Happy Tiger by Catherine Rayner

Over in a River: Flowing Out to the Sea by Marianne Berkes

Press Here by Hervé Tullet

Round by Joyce Sidman

100 Bugs! A Counting Book by Kate Narita

GRADES K-2 HONOR TITLES:

The Boy Who Loved Math by Deborah Heiligman

Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant by Songju Ma Daemicke

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Helaine Becker

Count on Me by Miguel Tanco

The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca

How Many Jelly Beans? A Giant Book of Giant Numbers! by Andrea Menotti

Is 2 a Lot?: An Adventure with Numbers by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans

Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer

Shapes, Reshape! by Silvia Borando

When Sophie Thinks She Can't by Molly Bang

Zero the Hero by Joan Holub

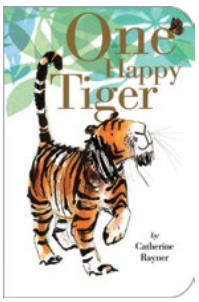
3x4 by Ivan Brunetti

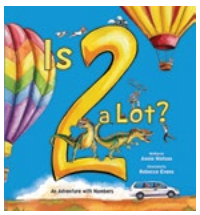
HALL OF FAME TITLES:

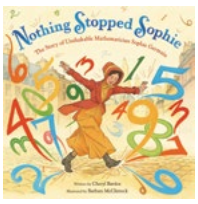
Hippos Go Berserk! by Sandra Boynton

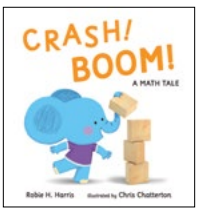
One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale by Demi

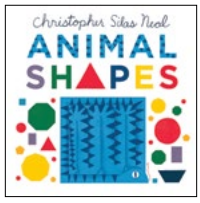
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

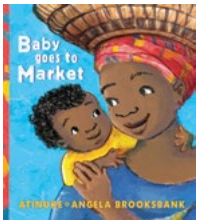


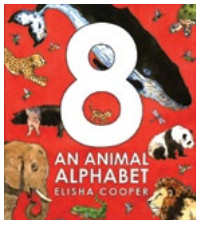


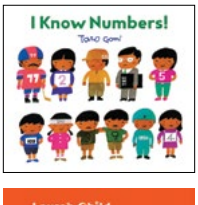


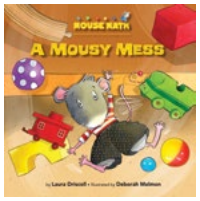


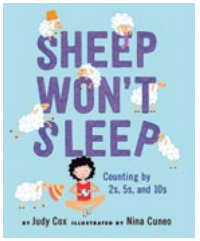


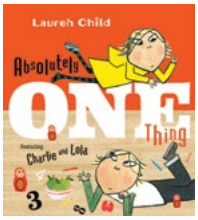


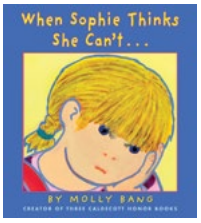


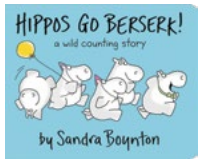


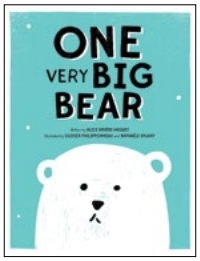


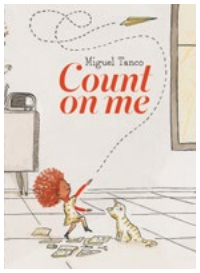


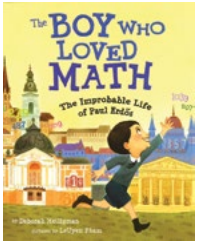


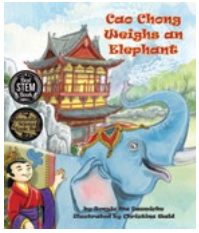


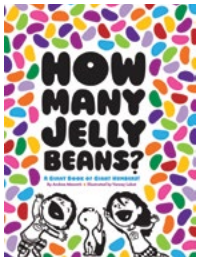


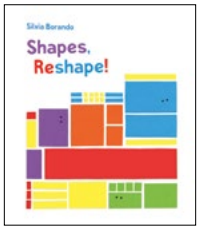


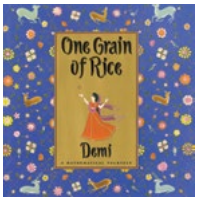


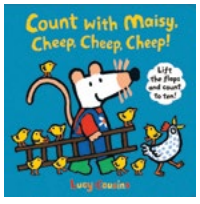


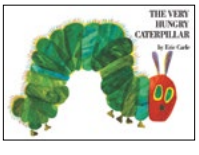












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