

# BAKER'S DOZEN SELECTIONS

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## COUNTING MINI LESSONS

***One Fox: a Counting Book Thriller*** by Kate Read (2020 selection) Peachtree Publishing Company, 2019  
***1 2 3 Dream*** by Kim Krans (2017 selection) Random House, 2016  
***Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives*** by Lola M. Schaefer (2014 selection) Chronicle Books, 2013  
***Flight 1-2-3*** by Maria van Lieshout (2014 selection) Chronicle Books, 2013  
***Everything I Need to Know Before I'm Five*** by Valorie Fisher (2012 selection) Schwartz & Wade Books, 2011  
***Frankie Works the Night Shift*** by Lisa Westberg Peters (2011 selection) Greenwillow, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2010  
***One*** by Kathryn Otoshi (2009 selection) KO Books, 2009  
***Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash!: Counting Round and Round*** by Suse MacDonald (2008 selection) Little Simon, 2007  
***Heave Ho!*** By Heinz Janisch and Carola Holland (2007 selection) North-South Books, 2006  
***Construction Countdown*** by K.C. Olson (2005 selection) Holt, 2004  
***Teeth, Tails & Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book*** by Christopher Wormell (2005 selection) Running, 2004  
***Ten Puppies*** by Lynn Reise (2004 selection) Greenwillow, 2003

### Library Information Concepts:

Evaluating Diverse Media  
Identifying Literary Elements

### PA Common Core Standards:

ELA CC 1.1.B	ELA CC 1.2.J
ELA CC 1.1.C	ELA CC 1.3.B
ELA CC 1.2.B	ELA CC 1.5.B
ELA CC 1.2.G	

the Model Curriculum for Pennsylvania School Library Programs (2014)  
Pennsylvania Department of Education. Academic Standards for English Language Arts: Grades PreK-5 (2014)



***One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller***  
by Kate Read

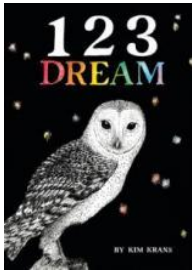
This book calls itself a thriller, and it is indeed. Through use of engaging text and alliteration, enticing illustrations, and a suspenseful storyline, this is much more than a counting book. Anticipation increases (along with the numbers) as readers watch a sly, famished fox creep its way toward three unsuspecting hens. Once he arrives, both the excitement (and counting) hit an all-time high. The author assures readers at the end of this thrilling tale that "no hens or foxes were harmed in the making of this book." That is one big relief.

### Tips for Using with Children

Invite children to read and count along during the sharing of this thrilling tale. Point to the numeral, the words, and each picture as you read them. For example, the reader will say and point to "2" and the children will repeat "two" while looking at the number 2; then the reader will say, "Two sly eyes," tracking each word as you say it and again as the children repeat it. Ask one of the children near you to point to the two eyes of the fox on the page. Continue this method with the reading of the story and the numbers to the end. Finger pointing helps an emergent reader and viewer learn to look carefully at print while supporting two important early reading behaviors—directional movement and voice-print match. Eventually, children will begin to track with their eyes as they become stronger in their literacy skills.

### Tips for Using with Families

*One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller* is a terrific title to explain some of the components of picture books and how they enhance a child's beginning literacy. First talk to adults about the front and back endpapers of a book. In this case, many-colored fox paw prints illustrate the front endpapers, while the back endpapers show multi-colored chickens. It's an opportunity to discuss the idea of predicting what the story might be about. Predicting helps children prepare for reading and begin to make meaning. You might ask children to start thinking about what might happen between the fox prints in the beginning and chickens at the end. Another component of this picture book is that all of the pages are double-page spreads. A double-page spread means that the text or the image crosses over the binding in the middle to create one page. Some picture books will have a combination of double-page spreads and single pages of text and images. These page distinctions influence how a reader's eyes move when reading and looking at the illustrations. When adults point and count objects from left to right or top to bottom they are teaching their children an important tracking skill in learning to read.



**123 Dream**  
by Kim Krans

Do you ever wake from a dream and pause to think about its meaning? **123 Dream** is a book about counting from one to twenty, with a twist. Each object being counted begins with the same first letter as its corresponding number. From one owl to twenty toes, each page features a numeral paired with an otherwise wordless image, and readers must determine which element in the image is to be counted. Highlighted with watercolor, the beautiful pen and ink illustrations balance simple scenes with more challenging ones that open doors for conversation between adults and children. Correctly predicting that readers will enjoy this literary seek-and-find, the author has included a double-page spread at the end of the book with more objects that eager detectives will relish.

#### Tips for Using with Children

Children enjoy being active, and adding movement to story time is a wonderful way to engage young readers. After children have had the opportunity to connect the first letter of each object and number on each page, add some movement as you count together. For example, adults and children can stick their tongues out six times like a snake, bend to plant ten trees, or tiptoe to the count of twenty. Adults can also extend counting into daily routines with children. How many steps does it take to walk to the lunch area? How many squirts of soap are used to wash hands? Adults can encourage children to count the number of carrots on their plate at snack time. Modeling these practices encourages children to seek, find, and count objects in their everyday environment.

#### Tips for Using with Families

By previewing the book ahead of time, adults can recognize the author's intentional matching of the first letter of each number and object to be counted. With this knowledge, adults can allow children to explore each page in their own way and help them problem-solve when a page contains more than meets the eye. **123 Dream** combines counting with the game of "I Spy," which is something that can extend beyond the book. For example, after counting "two turtles" in the book, an adult can ask a child to look around their environment for something else that begins with letter "t." Or, while waiting at the doctor's office, an adult could ask a child to find something red. When the child discovers the object, the adult can add a new challenge by asking the child to count the number of red objects they can find in the room.



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

This is not your typical counting book, though its clear and interesting illustrations invite children to count to—10, 20, 40, 50, 100, even 1,000. These opportunities to count and recognize numbers are accompanied by fascinating number facts about eleven various animals depicted within the book. End notes provide further intriguing information such as the fact that a newborn joey weighs about the same as two raisins. A great book for number and animal lovers alike.

#### Tips for Using with Children

Encouraging children to count and talk about the items in this book will strengthen their understanding about numbers. For example, they can count their own teeth and compare them to the dolphin's 100, or their own height in inches to the giraffe's 200. Build children's number memory by asking questions such as, "Who gives birth to 1,000 babies in a lifetime?" This will make for fun and lively snack time conversations. Where developmentally appropriate, help children organize their counting on the page as the numbers of items grow larger. For instance, show them how to count the woodpecker's holes in vertical rows, to count the rattlesnake's rattles by twos, and to count the dolphin's teeth in four sets of twenty-five.

#### Tips for Using with Families

This book is a perfect vehicle for introducing families to the importance of incorporating "math talk" into children's daily lives, thereby making mathematics and numbers more familiar when children begin formal schooling. Activities could include: measuring and recording children's height and weight regularly, counting items while setting the table, making certain to find all eight crayons at clean-up time. These activities help children understand numbers and their usefulness. Discuss other ways in which families can incorporate "math talk" into their children's lives..



### ***Flight 1-2-3***

by Maria van Lieshout

When taking a flight, what do you see? This counting concept book takes young readers on a tour of an airport and the in-flight signs that can be found around the world. There are named items to count on each page (1 airport, 2 luggage carts, 3 check-in desks, etc...). This helps preschoolers build their number sense. There are also other items and multiples of the same number to count on each double-page spread. For example, on the 5 trash cans page there are also 5 items in each trash can.

#### **Tips for Using with Children**

This is the perfect story to share with young travelers preparing for an airplane trip. In a classroom setting, it's the perfect book to help instigate a "pretend" airport visit, and imagining an airplane ride to another destination. It's also a terrific counting book that introduces young people to the signs that can be found at an airport. Airport signs can be created to imitate those in the book. After "picture talking" the book, children can be invited to "act out" the trip to the airport with adult guidance.

#### **Tips for Using with Families**

This book can help demonstrate to families the importance of sign and symbol recognition in early emergent literacy. Share the book and discuss with families other known signs that children often recognize in their environment. One behavior that can help develop a child's reading ability is to identify signs and labels in their environment. Parents can encourage early literacy by pointing out environmental print in the child's world. A fun activity at a parent meeting might be creating an airplane travel prop box for children to use in the classroom. The prop box could include signs, passports, luggage, paper money, and so on.



### ***Everything I Need to Know Before I'm Five***

By Valorie Fisher

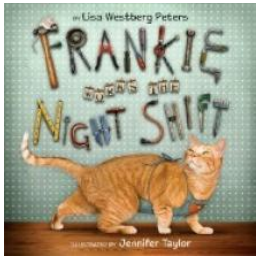
Through its realistic illustrations of toys from different eras, this concept book will engage children in learning about numbers from 1-20, opposites, shapes, colors, seasons, the weather, and the upper- and lower-case letters of the alphabet. Children will be enthralled by the large pictures, brilliant colors, and arrangements and actions of the toys. What a playful way to learn or practice everything you need to know.

#### **Tips for Using with Children**

The illustrations on each page of this book are large enough for children to easily point and touch while exploring the concepts. They can count toys and trace the numerals on the number pages. Encourage them to act out or find examples of the opposites and to think of other words that are opposites. Children could trace letters and name the toys that begin with the letters. On every page, there are opportunities for children to learn new vocabulary through the many categories of toys and their actions. Ask the children to choose and tell about their favorite pages.

#### **Tips for Using with Families**

Encourage parents to let children explore this book at their own pace. Some will want to hear you read and talk about the whole book, while others may only want to read a few sections at a time. Children will like sitting with family members and taking turns naming letters, counting, naming colors, etc., with them. They would enjoy extensions to the book such as mixing colors, finding their own toys that begin with certain letters, or counting groups of toys. Children can learn new vocabulary if parents encourage them to tell about the toys and what they are doing on many of the pages.



**Frankie Works the Night Shift**  
by Lisa Westberg Peters

When the lights go out at the hardware store, Frankie the cat is hard at work. "He empties one wastebasket, he cleans two counters, he calls three meetings" and when he finds an intruder in the store, he knows exactly what to do! Digital illustrations and concise, bold text makes this thrilling adventure a great choice for young children's participation and offers a unique change to traditional counting books.

#### Tips for Using with Children

Read the story to children and have them look closely at the illustrations in this book. Children may notice that some look like real photographs. Have children create their own illustrations like the ones in this book. Using markers, crayons, paper, photographs, and magazine clippings, allow children to make a picture and come up with a story. If a child has a pet, let them use a photograph of the animal and incorporate it into a funny illustration.

#### Tips for Using with Families

Explain to families that the digital photography in this book offers many opportunities for children to interact with the illustrations. Read the story to children and have them count specific items mentioned on each page (i.e., one wastebasket, two counters, etc.). Some of the illustrations resemble "I Spy" books and can be used for additional activities that incorporate counting. For example, on the first double-spread, ask, "Can you find three lamp posts?" or "How many windows do you see on this building? Can you find a building with more windows?"



**One** by Kathryn Otoshi

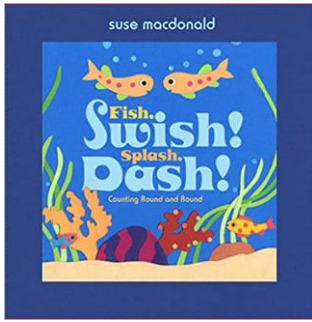
Personalities come in many colors, and this book celebrates them! Children will learn about numbers, counting, and primary and secondary colors, as well as about bullying, healthy assertiveness, forgiveness, and cooperation.

#### Tips for Using with Children

While reading the story with children, pause to talk about feelings. After reading the story, talk about the importance of standing up for somebody using brave talk. You might want to include examples from children's everyday life (e.g., sharing and turn-taking). Ask each child to paint him/herself as a spot of color. Ask the children to describe some of their personality traits. Are you quiet, loud, energetic, still, cheerful, a leader or a follower? Print those words beside their painted spot. Make a display and encourage children to look at and read their classmate's pictures.

#### Tips for Using with Families

Suggest parents involve the children in color and number naming while they share the book. Discuss with parents the message of this book, and how we can build empathy with children through story. Help parents construct questions they might ask while they read the story. For example: How did Blue feel? Why didn't Yellow say anything? Was that fair? Encourage parents to model statements about feelings on everyday life. For Example, "I'll bet that hurt Ethan's feelings."



***Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash!: Counting Round*** by Suse MacDonald

There is something fishy about this book—it is actually two books in one! Readers will enjoy this colorful, creative, concept book that counts from one to ten, and then back again! With each turn of the page, readers will be treated to die-cut underwater wonders that they can count. When readers arrive at what they think is the "end" of the book (number ten), they are delightfully surprised when asked to turn the book around and count back down to where they began. This is a great way to introduce counting to ten, and as the book says, readers can "follow the leader and do it again!"

#### Tips for Using with Children

Before reading, point out the front and back of the book. Open the book, and look at the pages together. Guide children as they follow the text and count the sea life on each page. At the end of the book, follow the little fish and turn the book around. After reading, involve children in a game of follow the leader. Try to find objects to count as you travel!

#### Tips for Using with Families

Encourage families to build fun counting games into everyday activities. While reading the story, adults and children can count together. What other objects can they count at home? Using a stamp pad, children can make fingerprint designs on paper. Add to the picture using markers or crayons to turn these prints into creatures. After the artwork is completed, count the creatures created.



***Heave Ho!***  
by Heinz Janisch and Carola Holland

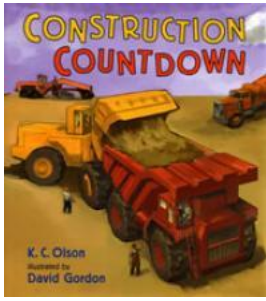
Personalities come in many colors, and this book celebrates them! Children will learn about numbers, counting, and primary and secondary colors, as well as about bullying, healthy assertiveness, forgiveness, and cooperation.

#### Tips for Using with Children

Help your child look for and identify the 'number' words on each page spread (twelve, first, second, etc.). For each 'number' word, write out its numeric equivalent (12, 1, 2, etc.) and discuss with your child.

#### Tips for Using with Families

Involve family members in encouraging children to invent their own stories in sentences, and in writing down each sentence for the children. Then, help the children count the number of sentences in their stories. Talk about the basic elements of a story and ask children to help identify the beginning, middle, and end of their tales.



***Construction Countdown***  
by K.C. Olson

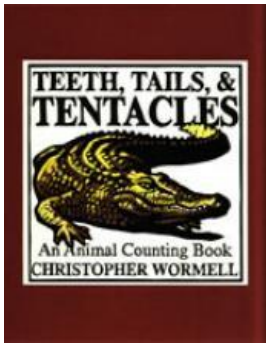
Children will enjoy pointing to every colorful truck as they count down from "Ten mighty dump trucks." The name of each of the trucks is presented in large print and the truck's function is told in a rhyming couplet. The final double-page spread provides a creative surprise when the construction site is revealed as "One gigantic sandbox with room to drive them all."

**Tips for Using with Children**

Read this book before taking children to the sandbox to play with their trucks, or before taking a field trip to a construction site. Prompt them to use words and phrases from the book as they participate in the activity. Make a lotto game with cut-outs of the various construction vehicles to help children learn the specific names and thereby expand their vocabularies.

**Tips for Using with Families**

Read this book aloud, modeling how to read it to children. Drop your voice on the rhyming words, point to them, and ask parents to fill in the word. Explain that this is one of the ways children learn to read, and that it is a good technique to use with similar books. This book is also a good example of a topic that is often interesting to even the busiest of preschoolers. Finding the right book is a great way to develop readers. Point out that counting down is related to learning to subtract.



***Teeth, Tails & Tentacles:***  
***An Animal Counting Book***  
by Christopher Wormell

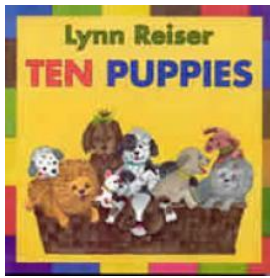
Count from one rhinoceros horn up to twenty whale barnacle shells! This unique book celebrates (and enumerates) different parts and characteristics of animals (e.g., 13 caterpillar segments, 8 octopus tentacles, 7 black ladybug spots). Vibrantly colored linoleum block prints provide close-up views of each featured animal, and invite fun in pointing and counting. There's more information on each featured creature at the back of the book.

**Tips for Using with Children**

The large text and vivid illustrations provide a perfect math activity. Youngest counters can count along and point to colors, while older children will enjoy the fun of counting various parts of animals. Having children point to the number "2" and also to the word "two" will help them differentiate those two kinds of print.

**Tips for Using with Families**

Share information about the importance of math literacy: reciting numbers in sequence, rational counting using one-to-one correspondence, recognizing number symbols, etc. Remind families that children need lots of time and practice to really acquire this knowledge, and that enjoying this book together over repeated readings is a perfect way to practice. Teach your families how to encourage these two skills as they share this book: counting on from a given number, and counting objects that are not in a neat or linear array (e.g., the spots on the leopard).



***Ten Puppies***  
by Lynn Reiser

In a book that celebrates uniqueness, Mother Dog has ten puppies that are all different from one another. The simple watercolor pictures show that some of the puppies have pointed noses, others have flat ones, some of them have blue eyes, and others have brown ones. With the lively exuberance of a basketful of puppies, this book introduces the concepts of shapes and colors, as well as the different number combinations that make ten.

#### Tips for Using with Children

After reading this book, follow up with a nonfiction book about dogs, such as *Dog* by Matthew VanFleet (2008 Baker's Dozen). Use the photographs to help children identify characteristics of dogs (e.g., plain, spotted, pointy nose, flat nose, curly hair, straight hair, etc.). This will help extend the characteristics of dogs discussed in *Ten Puppies*.

#### Tips for Using with Families

Explain to families how to use this book as a learning tool for shapes, colors, and combinations of ten. Reinforce colors by having children identify colors on each page. Help children understand combinations of ten by having them count objects on the page and add the numbers together. For example: "Six plain dogs + four spotted dogs = 10 dogs." Use the final page of the book to create number sentence flash cards. Suggest that families match the number sentence flash cards with the pictures in the book that depict the number sentence displayed. (e.g., Nine pink tongues + one blue tongue = 10 or  $9+1=10$ ).

