



Counting Crocodiles

Judy Sierra , Will Hillenbrand (Illustrations)

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Poor Monkey. All she has to eat are sour lemons. One day she spies a banana tree on a faraway island, but the only way to get there is to navigate the crocodile-infested waters of the Sillabobble Sea. That's no problem when you're a brave and clever monkey who can count to ten and back!

Counting Crocodiles Details

Date : Published October 1st 2001 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9780152163563

Author : Judy Sierra , Will Hillenbrand (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Science, Mathematics, Number, Counting, Animals, Storytime, Fiction, Humor, Juvenile

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From Reader Review Counting Crocodiles for online ebook

XIS Grade 3 says

I liked it. (Champion)

Tiffany Shafapay says

This fun children's book takes place on an island inhabited by lots of animals but surrounded by crocodiles. One day a herd of the crocodiles pull up to shore to attend a lunch with the monkeys. This book then turns into a counting book which focuses on crocodiles by the number doing silly things. This book is great to have kids be involved in as it has them learning and reciting the number but also gets them to laugh as they participate. The fun images will have kids interested along the whole book.

Jessica Murphy says

Title: *Counting Crocodiles*

Author: Judy Sierra

Illustrator: Will Hillenbrand

Genre: Counting Book

Theme(s): Counting and Numbers, Reptiles and Amphibians, Asian and Asian American Fables

Opening line/sentence: On an island in the middle of the Sillabobble Sea lived a clever monkey in a sour lemon tree.

Brief Book Summary: A monkey, sick of eating only lemons, desires to cross the sea to a banana tree. Unfortunately, crocodiles roam the waters. The crocodiles ask to be counted to prove how many of them there are. The clever monkey counts to ten and back to get the crocodiles to line up so the monkeys can cross the sea to retrieve bananas from the banana tree.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Kathleen Squires (Booklist, Sept. 1, 1997 (Vol. 94, No. 1))

Tired of eating lemons from the tree on her island, a monkey longs for fruit from nearby banana island. But how will she cross the Sillabobble Sea, which is filled with crocodiles hoping to have her for lunch? This energetic tropical romp will have children counting along as the clever monkey gets the best of her foes. Hillenbrand's pastel palette conjures an ocean breeze, and his illustrations are full of wonderful detail—from cookware hanging from the monkey's lemon tree to the watching, waiting eyes of the crocs bobbing in the ocean. The whimsical rhyme and repetition and the lively alliteration add to the appeal.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Publishers Weekly, Sept.

Monkey lives on an island occupied by a lone lemon tree ("She ate lemons till she cried, / 'I'm all puckered up inside! '"). Far away, on a second island, a banana tree grows. In between lies the treacherous Sillabobble Sea, where yellow crocodile eyes peer from amid the waves. It's a classic dilemma, and Monkey solves it by

convincing the crocs to line up and be counted. Sierra and Hillenbrand, previously paired for *The House That Drac Built*, turn this Pan-Asian folktale into a cheerfully silly, ""partridge in a pear tree"" game conducted by an unusual menagerie. Monkey and her island-mates, a fox and a snail, gracefully cross the sea on the reptiles' backs and enumerate ""seven crocs juggling clocks,/ Eight clocks in polka-dot socks,/ Nine crocs with chicken pox"" and so on. The travelers reverse the count for the return trip, and the lizards happily cooperate by waving their socks, tickling the fox and dressing ""like Goldilocks."" Advance planning wins the day, too: Monkey and her friends have the foresight to grab not only bananas but a banana-tree sapling. Sierra composes spry limericks and couplets, while Hillenbrand creates a printmaking effect with inky black outlines and repeat images; re-readers will find witty subtleties in the already uproarious mixed-media paintings. Working with traditional materials, author and artist arrive at an altogether fresh presentation.

Response to Two Professional Reviews: Both reviews highlight the very meticulous planning of this story. The book is more than a counting book; it shows children what can happen when you use clever and planned thinking. The reviews touched upon the great illustrations and how repeat readers can enjoy something new each and every time they read the book. There are countless details from the eyes in the waves of the water to the knock knock joke book that appears on a few pages. The second review highlights the playful language and the limericks that create a fun-to-read poem.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: The book uses a poetic form to tell a creative story that incorporates the basics of counting to ten and back. The rhyme, repetition, alliteration, and limerick style create a detailed and well written. The story has a steady beat that children could keep throughout the story. Young readers and old readers can use the illustrations to help guide the telling of the story.

Consideration of Instructional Application: This book can be applied to an instructional setting to help children practice their counting skills. The students can pretend to be crocodiles with their arms and snap and count along as the story is read aloud. The students can also count crocodile cut outs. With the assistance of a teacher, the students can create a crocodile cut out bridge to determine how many crocodiles are needed to cross certain areas of the classroom. The basic counting of one to ten and back would be great for preschool and kindergarten aged children.

Ashlynn Armstrong says

This book is about a monkey who only has lemons to eat. One day the monkey discovers there are bananas on an island nearby. She is trying to figure out a way to get over there when the crocodiles tell her there are too many of them for just her to get across, so the monkey decides to count and see how many crocodiles there actually are. She jumps on there back, and reaches the other island. She tells them to let her count once more. She makes it back, and tells them there were enough, but not enough to outsmart her.

This book was very cute. I loved the way the monkey used her problem solving skills to figure out how to get what she wanted.

This book would be great in a class to work on counting. The children could work on their own problem solving skills to see how many crocodiles the monkey actually counted.

Tara Schloetter says

This is a delightful and humorous children's picture book that would engage children and adults alike. I was so drawn to the text and counting the crocodiles that I did not even notice some of the illustrations where the fox and the monkey were stealing bananas until the very end—I had to go back and look through the pages again to realize that I completely missed some of the details. Not only is this a counting book with an interesting twist, it also includes some advanced vocabulary that typically would not be found in other counting books. Counting Crocodiles follows the adventures of a monkey who lives on a tiny island that only has lemons to eat. The monkey sees another island in the distance with a banana tree, and distracts the crocodiles in the Sillabobble Sea by counting all of them. The monkey uses the crocodiles as a bridge to get to the banana island and back to his own island while remaining uneaten by the crocodiles. This is an entertaining and cute book that I would highly recommend for young readers.

Heidi-Marie says

I thought this would be a counting book. And it could work that way, but I was more engrossed in the rhyme, the silliness, and seeing the monkey's cleverness. Would be a fun addition to storytime--toddler as well as preschool.

2/11/15 Used in my In the Zoo Part 2 storytime theme. A really good book. Unfortunately, I had quite the loud, squirmy group—all of them new and came in late, AFTER the rule reminder at the beginning. The new kids scared all my regulars unfortunately. So even though this book was a hit, it was one that caused the new group to get even more rambunctious and the old group to not get to be as much a part of it. Still, we enjoyed counting and showing numbers on our fingers. And on the return count, I had them call out the rhyming words (clocks, rocks, fox, etc.). The new kids were perfect age for what I've been wanting, just don't know the rules, yet. May have to explain in between books if I keep getting them. Always sad to do that, but until they learn....

Michelle says

Monkey is tired of eating lemons. She is stuck on an island with only a lemon tree but she dreams of making her way across the Sillabobble Sea to reach the far away island on which she spies a “delectable” banana tree. The problem is the overabundance of hungry crocodiles just waiting in the water for the Monkey to make one wrong move so that they can snap her up! Will Hillenbrand's delightfully humorous oil pastel, watercolor and gauche illustrations, and comic style are the perfect complement to Judy Sierra's clever tale of the brilliant and resourceful Monkey, who tricks those hungry crocodiles into providing a bridge for her across the Sillabobble Sea and back. More than just a counting book, Counting Crocodiles has a really wonderful rhyming scheme and many clever visual surprises to delight and entertain the reader, from the creepy effect of the crocodile eyes that blend in with the waves and suggest just how many dangerous crocodiles might be swimming in those waters, to the clever depictions of the “entire crocodilian family” including “crocs with pink Mohawks” playing in an orchestra, and “crocs dressed like Goldilocks” which will make readers giggle. The visual representations of all of the crocodiles are arranged so as to encourage physical counting within the story, and readers young and old will cheer for the clever little monkey as she predictably outsmarts those crocodiles and returns with an abundance of bananas to share with her two friends, as well as the seeds for a new banana tree, ensuring that she will never have to try to trick the

crocodiles again, and will always have as many lemons and bananas as she likes. This book is developmentally appropriate for older preschoolers and kindergartners, but is also entertaining enough to work for older grades as well. Although this book certainly encourages counting from one to ten and back down again, this is not a good book for introducing the concept. I would tend to use this book as a way to review the concept of counting once learned. It would be fun to have the children act this book out in creative dramatic form.

Marcia Campbell says

Sierra, Judy. Counting Crocodiles. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 1977

Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand

Recommended for ages 3-6

Concept Book

This is a story about a clever monkey whose only source of food is lemons. Spying a banana tree on an island across the sea, clever monkey is enticed but knows he must tread dangerous crocodile infested waters to get his prize. Monkey devices a scheme to trick the crocodiles to form a bridge for him to cross to and from the island by saying he wants to count how many of them there are.

This story is interesting and is a great way to teach young children to count. It is written in the form of a poem with repetitions and rhymes to create an engaging rhythm. The illustrations are eye-catching and the colors, mostly pastel shades, work together with the words in the story. The perfect blend of blues and green are authentic to the ocean, and the crocodiles in double page spreads create a great vision of not only the sheer number of crocodiles, but the immensity of the ocean. Children will learn literary elements, and simple sentence pattern while they learn to count and enjoy this fun and engaging story.

The cover is very sturdy. The pages are glossy with a smooth finish that makes it easy on the eyes. The variety of colors and details on many pages makes it an exciting and attention grabbing picture book.

Angela says

Clever monkey counts the crocodiles as she uses them as a bridge to the island with bananas

Amanda Brooke says

Great book for beginning readers because it is predictable and illustrations give context clues to new words and it's not a condescending counting book.

Terry Marzell says

Sierra, Judy. Illustrations by Will Hillenbrand. Counting Crocodiles. San Diego, California: Voyager Books. 1997. Target Audience: Ages 4-8. Reading Level: 2.5. A monkey living in a lemon tree on an island can see

a tree full of delectable bananas on a neighboring island. To get to the bananas, the monkey must cross a crocodile-infested Sillabobble Sea. The monkey is challenged to count the crocodiles, which she does, both forwards and backwards. This double counting reinforces the learning. The bright, colorful illustrations are comically entertaining, and would be very appealing to young readers. I especially liked the six crocs with the pink Mohawks depicted as musicians performing on a piano, in the middle of the ocean, no less. Additional amusement is created by plot suspense and a surprise ending. Some of the vocabulary would be challenging, however. Tag: CSULB Class 2 www.storyplace.org/preschool/other.asp Counting Picturebook.

Melissa Koser says

This book is proof that great art sells. Sure, the wording has good rhythm and rhyme, and is full of descriptive words rather than the dumbed-down text so many children's books use. But the art! So fun to look at, and even after multiple reads with my toddler I'm still finding new little easter eggs. Books like this are a pleasure to read over and over, and I wholeheartedly recommend this one to all parents of young children.

Lynn Davidson says

A monkey wants bananas that are on a tiny island in a sea filled with crocodiles. The monkey finds a way, through clever counting, to trick them.

Danielle Bartelmay says

This is a story about a cunning monkey who wants to get the bananas on the island across the crocodile infested water. He tricks the crocodiles into building a bridge for him to cross by saying he wants to know how many crocodiles there are. He counts his way across and back and the crocodiles never catch on to his game. This book is great way to teach counting to young children. It is very repetitive and the rhyme and illustrations make it more engaging. The children can count along while reading the book. I think it would be great to have crocodiles cut out and laminated that the children can manipulate when counting along. Manipulatives would make it easier for children who are still learning to count and children with special needs to follow along with the story. I like the repetitive nature of the story because it is more engaging and allows children to review the numbers after they go through them once. I also think the humor in the story also helps it be more captivating for young readers.

Kylee Wiyrick says

I loved reading this silly book that involved a brave little monkey who was determined to get a banana. What would you do for a banana? Would you face an encounter with a bunch of crazy crocodiles? Well that is just what the monkey did! By counting by one's up to the number ten, and performing crazy counting tricks, the little monkey comes up with a plan to trick the crocodiles into giving her a free ride across the dangerous waters. Readers of this book follow the monkey on her adventure while following along with the words on each page that rhyme. Not only that, but I love the repetitive aspect of this book because it makes for an easy

way to get children engaged in literature. When children are able to predict what comes next in a book, they tend to get excited and prepare to predict the next page!
