



One Was Johnny: A Counting Book

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‘One was Johnny -- but that's not all, count all the others who came to call.’

One Was Johnny: A Counting Book Details

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Author : Maurice Sendak

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From Reader Review One Was Johnny: A Counting Book for online ebook

Min says

The sequence reminded me a rhyming, The House That Jack Built, for the introvert. This can be a fun counting game between reader, and listener. It counts up to 10, then back down to one, in the classic Sendak style of a humorously preposterous situation.

Mario Flores says

I thought that this was a very funny and witty way to learn how to count. The little boy in the book, (Johnny) lives by himself, and gets invited by a variety of animals and a human, all equaling to a total number of 10 visitors. I would use this book to teach Pre-K and Kindergarten-aged students how to count to 10, and how to count backwards with it as well. I really enjoyed Maurice Sendak's illustrations and found them to be innocent and age appropriate.

Ronyell says

“One Was Johnny” is another classic book from Maurice Sendak’s popular Nutshell Library and it is about how a young boy named Johnny wanted to be alone, but he gets some uninvited guests while the book counts down on how many guests come into his house. “One Was Johnny” is the perfect counting book for children who want to learn how to count in a creative and fun way.

Maurice Sendak’s illustrations are simply simplistic yet hilarious and creative at the same time. Maurice Sendak used mainly black, yellow, white, blue and green colors to emphasize the simplicity of the book’s counting theme and Maurice Sendak uses the same little boy that he uses for his other Nutshell Library book “Pierre” as the boy also has a blue jacket and blue pants on. Maurice Sendak’s verses are simply creative as he describes the various kinds of guests in his house by using numbers one through ten to explain the numbering system and the way that he makes each verse with each number rhyme with each other is extremely creative. Another great thing about this book is that it was transformed into a TV special that was sung by Carole King, which is extremely catchy to listen to and children will definitely take a true liking to this book if they watch the Carole King version of this book.

Parents should know that there are some images that show the characters biting each other such as the turtle biting the dog’s tail and a blackbird pecking Johnny’s nose. Parents should tell their children that it is not nice to bite other people and if parents are worried about the images being too graphic for small children, they do not have to worry much since the images are not graphic as it just shows the characters bite each other but there is no blood.

“One Was Johnny” is a brilliant book for children who want to learn how to count in a hilarious and unique way and also for children who are true fans of Maurice Sendak’s brilliant works. I would recommend this

book to children ages four and up since smaller children might be a bit unsettled by the images of the characters biting each other.

Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog

Sylvester says

3* art

3* numbers concept

Katie Fitzgerald says

This review also appears on my blog, Read-at-Home Mom.

A few weeks ago, Elizabeth Bird posed a question on her blog: Which Maurice Sendak book are you? Though I never had the chance to reply to her post, I knew my answer almost immediately. *One Was Johnny*, about a little boy who lives by himself and likes it like that, perfectly describes my introverted personality, and much of my behavior during childhood.

Johnny becomes overwhelmed as more and more creatures invade his house, coming in uninvited and making themselves at home. A rat and a cat are bad enough, but things reach fever pitch when a blackbird pecks Johnny's nose, a tiger comes in selling clothes, and a robber steals his shoe. "What should Johnny do?" the text questions. His solution? He threatens to eat every last one of his guests if they don't leave before he finishes counting backwards from ten.

This book represents everything I love about Maurice Sendak's work. He understands that somewhat darker side of childhood, filled with frustrations, annoyances, and worst of all, other, more obnoxious kids. So many children's books promote sharing, togetherness, and community. I can think of very few that sing the praises of solitude, and which demonstrate an understanding that sometimes other people are pushy and annoying, and we just want them to go away. This book rings so true because it doesn't force Johnny to share with his pushy houseguests, or to make room for them, or to apologize for wanting to be left alone. Rather, Johnny is the master of his domain and he throws all of those obnoxious creatures right out on the street! In my experience, well-meaning adults panic when kids show signs of wanting to be alone. They assume it means the child is dysfunctional in some way, or not a team player, but for the introverted child, and even introverted adults like me, the notion of all of those people in your space can be extremely overwhelming, and I think it's important to teach kids how to protect that personal space, and that it's okay to like being alone.

As a counting book, this book doesn't work so well, since there aren't necessarily the correct number of countable objects on each page. It does work as a lesson in counting to ten, but I don't know that it really strongly illustrates the meaning of each number. Still, though, the illustrations, which are all drawn against

the same background of Johnny's kitchen table, are greatly entertaining as the chaos of the scene increases, and the changes in Johnny's expressions could almost tell the entire story on their own.

Gabriela says

I have a lot of complaints about this book. Starting off with;

1 was Johnny who lived by himself though obviously pre pubescent.

2 was the presence of a known robber and Johnny's apparent REFUSAL to call the police, as one obviously should do when one is a prepubescent in the presence of a robber.

3 was the BLATANT murder depicted in a children's book by suspect The Cat.

4 was the Tiger chasing the robber out of the house where Johnny lived alone and leaving the Murder Cat, the banana thieving monkey, and of course Johnny who lived alone as a unsupervised minor.

5 was the monkey who did not deliver any mail, instead choosing to READ OTHER PEOPLES MAIL which is a federal offense in the presence of a minor, while also dropping mail on Johnny's carpet whilst hanging from a light.

These problems I'm afraid had cause to make me leave off the last star. When one of these grown adult animals (and robber) finally gives in and adopts Johnny and cooks him Some soup with rice I will consider giving in with that last star but until then I must withhold it.

Shannon Connors says

In his humorous counting book *One Was Johnny*, Maurice Sendak uses rhymes and whimsical illustrations to tell a silly tale while teaching kids about numbers at the same time.

The book is small enough for little hands to enjoy with ease. Sendak uses a palette of mainly grays and blues with a little black and yellow splashed in. The open door is always in the same spot on the right side of the page. So is Johnny and his furniture. This allows the reader to focus on the only difference between pages: the next thing that enters Johnny's house (the next number in the counting sequence. When the numbers reach 10, the pattern abruptly stops with a spread containing only text on a white background. From there, the sequence repeats itself backwards!

I found myself laughing at this fun little story. Kids and adults both will enjoy the facial expressions depicted in the illustrations. Some may even notice striking similarities between Johnny and Max (from *Where The Wild Things Are*).

Benja says

It's a counting book. It goes from 1 to 10 and then back to 1 like nobody's business.

Alex Melnick says

A favorite when I was very young. Nice to find it holds up.

Alexandria says

Classic Sendak illustrations, a fun rhyming scheme, silly animals, and a bit of a story to go along with your counting lesson. What more could you want from a counting book? I can't wait for my son to be old enough to count along with me.

Gloriamarie says

Loved. Wish it had been written when I needed to learn to count.

Lynn Davidson says

An enjoyable counting book - from 1 - 10, then 10 - 1, of Johnny and each intruder in his house. Funny.

JINA YU says

This is a counting book as each page number increases so does the amount of characters in the story. The setting is Johnny's room and it does not change throughout the book. Johnny is reading a book in a blue shirt and he looks happy. His shirt is the brightest color in this book. The rest of the picture is drawn by black lines and light colors. The picture spreads on both pages and is symmetrical although Johnny positions on the left side. Suddenly, animals and a robber come into his room one by one so the room is crowded when its page is 10. When counting backwards from ten to one, the robber and the animals go out of the room one after another. After all of them disappear, Johnny regains his happiness. It is not easy to make a story according to numbers in order but this story is well organized.

The story line is simple but it has consonant closure. Things become complicated when a rat jumps onto his shelf. As more animals come, it leads the story to a climax. When the number reaches 10, this story reaches its climax. The problem is solved in the resolution part when the intruders go out of the room one after another. This story ends with a combination of structural and psychological closure when Johnny leaves his room by himself.

David says

One Was Johnny: A Counting Book by Maurice Sendak is a humorous, unique counting book featuring animals, and counting up and down from ten.

Sendak's illustrations depict physical action well, while using mostly subdued shades of white, blue, black, yellow and green. The memorable characters show lots of expression, especially somewhat cranky Johnny. Animals who appear are rat, cat, dog, turtle, monkey, blackbird, and tiger. My favorite images are chased rat,

turtle bit, blackbird pecked, pale, tiger chased, rat left, and final picture.

Sendak's short, simple, yet imaginative rhymes are appealing. While this may not be the book to use to learn numbers, it's a very fun way to practice counting up and down from ten. The illustrations should keep a child's attention. A fun choice to read aloud, this is recommended for preschool and public library collections.

For ages 3 to 6, counting, animals, rhymes, humor, satire, song, Nutshell Library, series, and fans of Maurice Sendak.

Luisa Knight says

A cleverly fun numerical tale!

Ages: 3 - 6

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