



Ten, Nine, Eight

Molly Bang

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Bedtime! A happy game to lure the most persistent sleep evader. A warm and reassuring countdown to the land of dreams.

Ten, Nine, Eight Details

Date : Published September 20th 1996 by Greenwillow Books (first published May 9th 1983)

ISBN : 9780688149017

Author : Molly Bang

Format : Board Book 16 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Number, Counting, Science, Mathematics

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From Reader Review Ten, Nine, Eight for online ebook

Kathryn says

Ten, Nine, Eight A sweet bedtime story and counting book. I actually wasn't a big fan of the illustration style though I really loved what the illustrations depicted -- I hope that makes sense. I think my favorite illustration was of the cuddly creatures in the room (plush animals and a very real kitty cat); I, too, appreciated the fact that the book featured an African American family and that the father is in the nurturing role, putting the daughter to bed. Nice to see that any time, but I imagine it was an especially welcome addition to the picture book set in the '80s.

Manybooks says

A gentle rhyming bedtime/counting book, with colourfully expressive illustrations, Molly Bang's Ten, Nine, Eight is a soothing lullaby for young children (about their various bedtime routines), whilst also counting down from the numbers ten to one. For an adult, the author's presented and featured text might feel a bit lacking in substance (and the first rhyme sequence really does not seem to work all that well either), but for the intended audience, for toddlers just learning their numbers, it sweetly and soothingly hits the proverbial spot.

What I (as an adult and generally rather critical, academically inclined reader) actually most appreciate about Ten, Nine, Eight is that while the presented characters are clearly African American, that fact is never belaboured by the author (and neither is the fact that it is the father who readies his young daughter for bedtime). Ten, Nine, Eight is simply a tender bedtime story (with gender and ethnicity demonstrated through the illustrations, but fortunately never really specifically pointed out via the narrative, just existing as a natural, a given).

Debbie Reiber says

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang is a picture book. It is a Caldecott honor book of 1984. The age group this book is intended for is nursery. The book is a countdown to bedtime.

I thought this was a good bedtime story and I like that each time you look at the pictures there is more to find. If the child is a little older, he/she can count the number of items on each page, some more difficult to spot than others. The good thing is the numbers go down so as you are trying to get them to sleep they don't have to search or think as hard as they may have at the beginning of the book. Or, after several times of flipping through, the next page may have something from the prior pages to notice. The pictures are soft and many outlines were done in a color other than black. The page with the writing is white and the only color on that page is the number; the words are in black print. I would recommend this for young readers because the beginning makes you think more to get you tired and ready for bed.

Niki Marion says

I'm obsessed. Why is Molly Bang the greatest woke white lady in kidlit? This book--FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1983--features a black dad and his daughter at bedtime (!!!). That's an amazing dismantling of the stereotype that black fathers are "absent" and "unsupportive" right there.

It's also a great counting and going-to-bed book for toddlers, really it's a countdown to bedtime book. There are so many easy-to-name items (shoes, cat, ball, etc) to look at, name, and track throughout the spreads. Coupled with Bang's use of zooming in and out of perspective to reveal more parts of the little girl's bedroom, these repeated items really help young minds piece together the fragmented space. I understand why it received a Caldecott honor.

Kudos to HarperCollins for publishing this 20+ years ago!

Beverly says

A very short phrase on the left-hand page is accompanied by a lovely painting on the right-hand page, with a black cat in several of the pictures. Another nice feature is that it is Dad putting the child to bed, thus acknowledging the importance of dads in a child's life.

Jenny says

A short, sweet counting book (counting down from 10 to 1) perfect for bedtime for little ones.

It's hard to believe that this is written and illustrated by the same woman that wrote and illustrated *The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher*. The two books are completely different in tone, length, illustration style, etc.

midnightfaerie says

We've tried to pick up some Caldecott books, because I've heard good things about them, and this was our first. Although I wasn't that impressed, it did have some merit. The counting goes backwards, like the title suggests, which is an important skill to learn when learning numbers. Many books just focus on counting forwards and not backwards. The reading level probably wasn't even a level 1, not enough words. My 5 yr old who is doing first grade work wasn't interested, but it held the attention of my preschoolers somewhat. The illustrations are it's redeeming quality I think.

Jenna Bailin says

Reading Log

Title: Ten, Nine, Eight

Author/Illustrator: Molly Bang

Genre: Counting Book

Theme(s): Counting, Family/family relationships, nighttime/getting ready for bed

Opening line/sentence (type directly from text):

“10 small toes all washed and warm.”

Brief Book Summary (2-3 sentences in your own words):

This book features a young girl getting ready for bed, but does so very subtly. The book counts down from 10 and shows the girl putting her stuffed animals away, reading with her dad, and giving goodnight kisses. The book is really calming, and would make a great bedtime story.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1 (cut & paste, details below):

“No tricks, nothing fancy--just (in a welcome departure for Bang) a simple, reverberating bedtime countdown. The full-color, flatly-painted illustrations have in fact something of a primitivist Goodnight Moon feel (and somewhat the same coloration). “10 small toes all washed and warm,” we begin; “9 soft friends in a quiet room.” The feet are brown (with pink-rimmed toes against a red ground); the “soft friends” are stuffed animals and dolls, and a Siamese cat; the one unobtrusive pictorial device is the repetition of motifs from one illustration to the next--the toes poke into the stuffed animal picture, the cat does various cat-like things further on. But there is also of course a natural progression, not only numerically but in-point-of-time. At “5 round buttons on a yellow gown,” we narrow in on the father-and-child we saw at the outset--and then proceed, via “3 sleepy kisses,” to “1 big girl all ready for bed.” Counting-down, from counting toes, is an inspired approach to bedtime. The pictures don’t exhaust themselves, and neither does the experience.”

From Kirkus Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Professional Recommendation/Review #2 (cut & paste, details below):

Jill Bennett (Books for Keeps No. 33, July 1985)

“A short, gentle mood poem which counts the reader down to bedtime with a black dad and his small daughter. The warmth and leisurely together time is perfectly caught both in the words and the glowing pictures. A lovely book for sharing with the very young. Category: Nursery/Infant., Picture Puffin, 1.50. Ages 2 to 4.

(PUBLISHER: Puffin (Harmondsworth:), PUBLISHED: 1985 c1983.)”

From CLCD: <http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.librarie...>

Response to Two Professional Reviews (3-4 sentences in your own words)

Like the review states, this book perfectly captures the warmth between father and daughter as he tucks her into bed. Until I read the first professional review, I didn't even notice that each picture foreshadowed what was to come. Both reviews are positive, and after reading this book, I would have written a positive review as well.

Evaluation of Literary Elements (3-4 sentences in your own words):

This book would not be one I would introduce into my classroom, even though I really enjoyed it. I think I would suggest this book to parents as a way to promote literacy skills at home before bed. The book is quick to read, and features simple text that would be great for a parent and a child to read together or even for the child to read to their parents.

SamZ says

1984 Caldecott Honor - Favorite Illustration: 3 kisses on the cheeks and nose - it is so sweet!

This is a tender little bedtime story as well as a counting book. I love the way each page is illustrated with a daddy tucking his kiddo into bed.

Elizabeth Gonzalez says

I like the book because it is promoting number sense. The ability to understand quantity of a set of objects and numbers to name quantiles. The story of this book is illustrating the process of sleeping time between an African American father and he's daughter. The father helps he's daughter before sleeping the both bond by doing a process of number naming with numerical objects. The author does not only write the number the author illustrated using different objects that represent the number value. For example, for number ten (10) there was an image of "ten toes all washed and cleaned" the toes are representing an amount. The book is encouraging children to have an idea and start to learning how much or how many a number name can represent and to learn to count. Something that was really impressing was the stereotype of always having a mother and the daughter relationship this book changes that an African American father can have a great relationship with he's daughter. I think younger children would really enjoy listing to the book aloud because while reading the book I can emphasize the number names and make sure I encourage them to count with me the ten toes. I can provide an activity with numbers I can have different objects and I can ask them to represent the amount of a number with the objects.

Wilmarie says

One of the 1984 Caldecott Honor books is this bedtime story. In it we see a countdown, that is shown backwards, beginning in ten and ending in one. This backwards countdown takes place in the room of a little girl, whose father is preparing her for bed. First shown are ten toes; second come nine toys; third come eight squares on the window panes; fourth come seven shoes; fifth come six seashells; sixth come five buttons; seventh come four eyes; eighth come three kisses; ninth come two arms; lastly comes one big girl.

The story is intended for pre-schoolers. You can tell because it counts with very basic vocabulary. It is perfect to be read to a child before bedtime. The child can easily follow the words without distractions, for they are in a separate page and written in black. In the page of the words, the only color is of the number, making it pop out from the text. And on the page on the right, you see what the text described in vivid and brightly colored illustrations. The pages also end in a rhyme with the next page that catches the children's attention too.

I consider this to be an excellent bedtime story. It gives you a serene and mellow text to accompany realistic pictures to let the child unwind. I also appreciate the fact that it is counting backwards since this is somewhat neglected with always counting forward. And also, the more complicated pictures, or the ones with the most drawings, are in the beginning when the child is wide awake. And the text being simpler, and also the pictures, with each passed page helps get to the point of falling asleep.

Sara Lynn says

Ten, Nine, Eight
by: Molly Bang

1. Genre: Picture Book/Counting

2. Summary: A young girl gets ready for bed by helping her father count all of her cherished items that can be found in her bedroom.

3. Critique:

a. One of the greatest strengths of this book is the use of adjectives by the author.

b. Molly Bang helps her readers get ready for bedtime by taking them through a young girl's bedtime routine of counting the items she loves in descending order.

"10 small toes all washed and warm" (p. 1). Each item or noun that Bang presents is accompanied by a descriptive adjective that accurately compliments her illustrations. Not only are the toes described as being small, but they are also warm. Any child reading this book with his/her parent will naturally feel a warm feeling wash over their own ten little toes.

c. In addition to the wonderfully descriptive language throughout the story's entirety, Bang also incorporates a rhyming scheme for every two pages. "8 square windowpanes with falling snow" (p. 5) and "7 empty shoes in a short straight row" (p. 7). Children are not only learning the numbers one through ten, they are also being introduced to descriptive words, or adjectives, as well as rhyming words.

4. Curriculum Content: Ten, Night, Eight is a great story for teachers to use in the primary grades. Molly Bang has written a story that can be used for many different topics including: rhyming words, counting (in descending order), descriptive words, and even the primary colors. Bang uses a vibrant yellow for the young girl's nightgown, a strong red for the carpet, and a bold blue for the night sky.

Laura says

A very sweet bedtime story featuring counting. Recommended for bedtime reading!

Alexis Caudill says

1. Book summary, in your own words (3 pts)

Ten, Nine, Eight is a Caldecott Honor Book. It is a poem that the author wrote for her daughter while she was away. It is a counting book and it is about a child getting ready for bed.

2. Grade level, interest level, lexile (1 pt)

This would be a great book for Pre-K, maybe Kindergarten, students. It is a really cute book and is super easy to read.

3. Appropriate classroom use (subject area) (1 pt)

I would use this book when teaching counting in class.

4. Individual students who might benefit from reading (1 pt)

I think all Pre-K students would like this book. They would be able to relate since the child in the book is about the same age.

5. Small group use (literature circles) (1 pt)

I would use this book in groups with my students to go over the words in the book. Pronouncing them and maybe the rhyming of them.

6. Whole class use (read aloud) (1 pt)

I would read this book aloud to go over counting and have the students write their own counting story.

7. Related books in genre/subject or content area (1 pt)

When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang

Yellow Ball by Molly Bang

In My Heart by Molly Bang

8. Multimedia connections (audio books, movie) available (1 pt)

This book has an audio cassette.

Kathryn says

A simple little story, a great read to a little girl before going to bed.
