



Zero the Hero

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Zero. Zip. Zilch. Nada. That's what all the other numbers think of Zero. He doesn't add anything in addition. He's of no use in division. And don't even ask what he does in multiplication. (Hint: *Poof!*) But Zero knows he's worth a lot, and when the other numbers get into trouble, he swoops in to prove that his talents are innumerable.

Zero the Hero Details

Date : Published February 28th 2012 by Henry Holt & Company (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780805093841

Author : Joan Holub , Tom Lichtenheld

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

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

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Donalyn says

Excellent book about zero and its role in mathematics. Playful puns and math concepts woven throughout the book.

Cheri says

Okay, any kid with a sense of humor will like this book. Some of the jokes make it more accessible to middle grades, but it would be a good story even for a kid who just needs to get a good sense of numbers and the way math works. 1st through 7th graders and maybe even older would enjoy it, so long as the older kids could get over the "picture book" thing.

Joella www.cinjoella.com says

Have you read Emergency yet? It is this brilliant book about the alphabet letters and what happens when the letter "E" gets injured. Well, if you haven't read that...consider it added to your to-read list. Seriously. It is hilarious! Anyway, this particular book is that level of comedy but with numbers. Oh yeah, numbers are just as important as letters.

So all the various numbers are gathered around and are talking about this or that. And Zero says, "From now on, call me Zero the Hero!" because he wants to be a super-number...or hero rather. All the other numbers laugh or disregard him and go on to prove just how "worth-less" zero is. Of course when Zero is told over and over again how insignificant he is, there is nothing to do but disappear. Then along comes (dun dun dah!) the evil Roman Numerals. They are taking all numbers captive and forcing them to become Gladiators in their giant gladiator (clock) ring. Who will save them? Who can conquer the evil Roman Numerals? Zero the Hero! With his amazing ability to do times tables he is able to save all numbers everywhere! (Huzzah!) Where would we be without this magnificent number? And where would we be without this superb book? Seriously, why haven't you checked the book out of the library already? 5 stars (but don't tell Zero, he doesn't understand why zero stars is the epitome of perfection).

Laura says

I really liked this predictable but still fun book about the number Zero. Zero, who fancies himself a hero and wears an awesome cape, ends up feeling useless after all the other numbers brag about themselves. He leaves his friends, who end up in a battle with Roman numerals. (The Roman numerals wear togas, yay!) Zero returns to help save the day and prove his worth.

Packed with math jokes, this is a book that will appeal to younger and older listeners. Recommended for grades 1 - 4. The third graders at my school do 'Wanted' number posters as a math project in the second quarter. I know their teacher will get a kick out of this book!

Maddypictures says

Humorous math book - not quite about counting. Loved the little decorations adding funny details on nearly all the pages - for example, the tiny cop explaining that 0 does not equal donuts. Each number is imbued with his or her own personality which stays consistent through the book - 1 is a pickle-green winner, 2 is a frou-frou girly-girl, 7 is a surfer, 5 is a pocket-protector, bow-tie wearing nerd. The roman numerals who attack are shown as fierce, toga-wearing barbarians, and I liked the moment when 8 says to VIII, "So, it takes four of you to do my job?"

A welcome addition in any STEM classroom!

Teresa Moreland says

Zero the Hero is a book about zero. Zero feels useless, and is not appreciated by the other numbers. He runs away, leaving the other numbers unable to defend themselves against the Roman numeral soldiers. Zero must return to save his friends by showing the Roman numerals that anything times zero is zero, and that he could defeat them if he wanted to.

I think this would be a good book to read before a math lesson. There are many math terms and fun play on words. This could be read before any lesson in addition, subtraction, division, or multiplication. The book is a little cluttered, and holds a lot of math rules, so it would be good to focus a discussion around one rule at a time. If the students liked the book, this could be one that is re-read before a few lessons throughout the year.

SantosGray says

As a former math teacher, I think this just looks perfect for my son! I can't wait to read it with him!

Maxwell Peter says

I like the the dog hidden in the book on page xxviii

Dolly says

This is a fun book about numbers, specifically the importance of zero in our number system. The concept of adding, subtracting, multiplying and the impossibility of dividing by zero are all discussed in a dialogue-heavy format. With many word balloons all over the page, the book is a bit distracting to read aloud, but we still enjoyed reading it together.

I like that it reinforced the properties and importance of this number, substantially making our arabic

numerals different from the Roman numerals. The interaction between the two systems was comical. This book has the charm of a comic book, but is educational, too.

Summer says

Clever story, but the puns and wry humor are a bit lost on a K-1st audience, which is who I read it to! It would be a winner with 8-12 year-olds, though! Also, this book is better to read to yourself than as a read-aloud, because there are lots of random little speech bubbles all over each page in addition to the story.

Heidi-Marie says

The numbers take the stage in this fun book (with illustrator Tom Lichtenheld!). I enjoyed the humor in the illustrations. And I loved the twist with the Roman numerals! So happy to have my own copy now, autographed by the illustrator--who is totally awesome (and posed with Bob the Turtle!).

Barbara says

I love the subtitle of this book: A Book about Nothing. And that's exactly the focus of this book about Zero, the place holder. But wait! Zero is so much more than a place holder, and this book tells why. Although Zero considers himself important, the other numbers taunt him because he is not useful when counting, and he has a self-identity crisis, often being mistaken for other round objects and being useless when it comes to addition, subtraction, and division. After the other numbers recognize that multiplying by Zero makes them equal to nothing, they run away, and in shame, so does Zero. Once the numbers realize that they need Zero and are captured by Roman numerals, Zero races to save them. As in the earlier E-Mergency!, the book contains delightful word play and ink, pastel, and colored pencil illustrations that allow the numbers's personalities to shine through. What a clever and amusing way to learn about math concepts!

Debra says

A fun book about the importance of ZERO. If you are a kid who likes numbers, you will enjoy the story of Zero the Hero. His number friends have no respect for him and think he is useless and boring, BUT one day they realize that their number multiplied by 0 equals ZERO. They have been eliminated. In panic they run from him. In sorrow, Zero decides to go away - "to infinity or oblivion" whichever comes first. At first, his number friends don't even notice he is gone, but soon they realize that they can't add up or round off. When his friends are captured by Roman numerals, Zero hears their cries for help and "faster than a speeding donut" speeds to the rescue. When Zero demonstrates his amazing power of multiplication, the Roman numerals skedaddle... and the numbers celebrate Zero for the hero he has always been.

Alena says

Joan Holub successfully captures the young readers attention and also subtlety teaches the reader math skills along the way in this heroic tale of the underestimated number Zero. The story follows the number Zero and his problem; being under appreciated and undervalued but his fellow numbers. Joan Holub uses basic mathematical facts throughout the book to show how Zero is easily forgotten about; in topics like addition, subtraction, and division. However, the story takes a turn for the better when Zero has the chance to be the hero and save his fellow numbers from a foe! Through basic multiplication facts, Joan Holub shows the reader why Zero is important and should not be taken for granted. The light-hearted story has beautiful illustrations that help bring the story to life!

In this book, one thing that caught my attention was the fact that Joan Holub included anthropomorphized numbers. Instead of the typical animal being used, numbers are being used instead and taking on human-like characteristics in a numerical world. This is a unique spin on anthropomorphism that will catch the readers eye and entice them to discover the world of numbers just waiting for them. Another thing that I noticed from the book was the theme of Identity. Even though this book is geared towards math and number sense, the book also addresses Zero trying to discover himself and his responsibilities as a number. He has to "grow" into himself and accept himself. Joan Holub even goes the extra mile to further develop the secondary characters and briefly show the other numbers describing their own issues within their own identity. This book has many levels of understanding and many activities can be done using this book across different subjects.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book because this book could be used during a math lesson and the children would be extremely motivated to pay attention. I enjoyed how Joan Holub created a sense of unity within the family of numbers by the end of the story. The author also has bits of light humor sprinkled through the book which help bring it all together. This is a well written story that I would love to have in my classroom someday!

<http://www.joanholub.com>

<http://inspiredbykindergarten.blogspot.com>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-tools/teaching-math-with-zero>

Mary Lee says

I didn't love it as much as E-Mergency, but there's no denying the importance of zero now. He took out those evil Roman numerals and saved the day for big numbers!!
