



Counting Crows

Kathi Appelt, Rob Dunlavey (Illustrator)

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Help hungry crows avoid a feline foe in this clever concept book from the author of *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp* and *The Underneath*.

One, two, three, crows in a tree, bedecked in red scarves and hungry as can be. So they fly out of their nest with snacking in mind, and snack they do. Snack one, snack two, snack three—all the way to a dozen! But before they have time to complain about bellyaches, they have a bigger problem: a cat has been eyeing them...as potential snacks! Can these well-fed crows become well-FLED crows? Read and find out in this counting book from Newbery Finalist and two-time National Book Award Nominee Kathi Appelt, with spot-on illustrations from Rob Dunlavey. It's the cat's meow!

Counting Crows Details

Date : Published March 3rd 2015 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9781442423275

Author : Kathi Appelt , Rob Dunlavey (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Number, Counting, Animals, Birds, Storytime

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From Reader Review Counting Crows for online ebook

Carolyn Roys says

What is black and white and red (read) all over and over and over?
I love the contrast of the red on the pages to make the crows and then the cat pop.
The rhyme moves swiftly.
I see this as a Seuss award contender....

Amy Miller says

Brilliant red, white and black illustrations coupled with perfect counting rhymes. Perfect for storytimes!

Beth says

Nothing about this book is anything I will remember a few hours from now

Tasha says

This playful picture book comes from the author of *The Underneath* and other novels for older children. This counting book does not move from one to twelve, but instead starts at three and allows a merry amount of counting along the way. Throughout the action is led by the crows who climb around on trees, sit on lines and find all sorts of treats to eat, including spicy ants. The story moves forward with counting until there are twelve crows who then discover one cat!

Appelt proves that she can be a very successful writer for any age of child with her first picture book. Her rhyme reads aloud so well that it's impossible to read it silently to yourself. It has a great rhythm and buoyancy to it, giving the book a really dynamic energy and feel. I also enjoy a book that has counting in it, but isn't solely a counting book. This one tells a full story in a cheery way and allows you to share it either as a story book or a concept book.

The illustrations truly make the book unique. Using light drawings with touches of red, the book pops. Readers may notice the one scarf-wearing crow who appears in each scene and then they can see what happens to the scarf after the cat appears. It's a nice touch that may have some readers turning back to trace the scarf from the beginning of the book.

Bouncy, rhyming, fun and jaunty, this picture book has its own unique tone and feel that readers will appreciate. Appropriate for ages 2-4.

Shelley says

I don't get it. Weird.

Sarah says

W+
I+
Has some rhyme

Vanessa says

I really like this "unconventional" counting book; the rhythms of the spoken word were super neat! The illustrations are super cute; I liked the juxtaposition of the crows being very basic, while their world was rather detailed.

Carol Royce Owen says

Oh how I enjoy reading this book aloud. You can't read this book, you almost have to sing it, as the words (lyrics) have a rhythm all their own. Twelve crows, whimsically drawn by Rob Dunlavey in red and white striped sweaters, count and caw their way through the book until a cat shows up.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Just when you think all the books that reinforce kids counting skills have been written in every conceivable way possible, along comes Kathi Appelt and proves you wrong. Counting Crows does presume that young readers have learned to count at least up to 12 and are ready to have some fun with numbers 1-12.

Here we find twelve crows, all wearing bright red and white striped sweaters and, because there's one fashion rebel in every crowd, one crow accentuates his with a red polka-dot scarf. The twelve black crows frolic across the pages, playing with each other, hanging from trees, sitting on telephone lines, and looking for something to eat, all of it accompanied by humorous rhyming couplets and quatrains in an ABCB rhyme scheme.

Of course, the crows may be the hunt for a tasty lunch, but they aren't the only ones:

Twelve crows hop,
twelve crows sing,
twelve on a park bench,
wing by wing.

Twelve chewy chips
twelve slimy snails...
One cat counts
twelve crows' twelve tails!

The brief appearance of a calculating gray kitty wearing a red polka-dot scarf will surely get kids counting crows in the end, but they can also count each thing the crows find to eat, and, as kids will discover, they will eat ANYTHING. For instance, if you look closely at the image below, you will be able to count nine spicy ants, and nine round crackers. But be warned, as the numbers go up, it gets more and more difficult to find their tasty(?) treats. So the book not only is fun with counting but also helps build observation skills.

I loved the illustrations done in marker, pencil and watercolor. The vivid black crows in bold red sweaters are placed against a bright white background while the other features, like the telephone line, the bench, the edible tidbits are all done with light pencil lines (making them harder to find while seeking and counting them).

This is a fun book that will definitely delight young readers, especially those who are comfortable with their numbers already.

Kids can find some fun Counting Crows activities [HERE](#)

This book is recommended for readers age 3+
This book was purchased for my personal library

This review was originally posted on Randomly Reading

Benji Martin says

Me while reading this book: Ants aren't spicy. Wait. How do I know? I've never eaten an ant. I bet fire ants are spicy. Are ants spicy? Yeppers! Ha! I like that word, yeppers!

Viviane Elbee says

The crows in this book are amusing.

Good counting book for preschoolers and young elementary students who are working on counting by threes.

Kids voted to give 4 stars.

Erin says

The counting and rhyming text make for a fun rhythmic read that easily lends itself to singing. It also breaks

down sounds in words making it easier to sound out words for children. The lovely black and white with touches of red illustrations are expressive and funny. These are crows I want to hang out with and so will kids!

Karen says

This is not a counting book. A counting book should not confuse the reader. Yes, you can count the crows, the stripes on the sweaters and even the polka dots. However, for those like me who think mathematically, this book gives me a seizure. I find myself counting the lines on the tree. Why do some crows have four tail feathers and others have three? Where are the actual numerals - if this really is a counting book!!! Although I like the red, white and black lines, please just read this for pleasure and NOT AS A COUNTING BOOK!!!

Adrienne Pettinelli says

Explores the concept of a dozen by cumulatively counting to it by threes, so it slyly hits counting, counting by threes, multiplication, and the concept of a dozen. Appelt's language is lilting fun to read aloud, and I love the combination of Dunlavey's pencil work with the birds' red striped shirts and polka-dot scarves. The crows are goofy-looking, in the best kind of way, and I love how he contrasts that with these beautifully rendered realistic images, like the telephone poles and the cat. Really great design--shifting perspectives, moving in and out of the scene, trying different page layouts. I keep looking at it and feeling more impressed.

Cheryl says

Oh! A new book by Appelt! With crows!! :grab: Start reading, start grinning. start reading 'aloud under breath' and grin bigger. Oh my. So fun. Plot, rhythm, rhyme, intriguing art style, and the count goes up to 12 (not just 10). Yep, it's another winner from Appelt!

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Reread. Wait, what? Picked up again, not remembering it, didn't read my previous review. This time I'm not particularly liking it. Thinking it might be a rollicking read-aloud but also thinking that the crows would be more likely to mob the cat instead of flee from it, and wishing each had a bit of personality (or that there were more than 12 of them).

Rating reflects average impression.
