



Bear Counts

Karma Wilson , Jane Chapman (Illustrations)

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Numbers and counting are so much fun with Bear in the second of a concept picture book series from the *New York Times* bestselling creators of *Bear's New Friend*.

Numbers, numbers everywhere.

Can you count along with Bear?

Karma Wilson's spirited text and Jane Chapman's inviting illustrations make for a delightful introduction to numbers, perfect for young Bear fans.

Bear Counts Details

Date : Published May 12th 2015 by Margaret K. McElderry Books

ISBN : 9781442480926

Author : Karma Wilson , Jane Chapman (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

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

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From Reader Review Bear Counts for online ebook

Bailey Gulley says

Title: Bear Counts

Author: Karma Wilson

Illustrator: Jane Chapman

Genre: Counting

Theme(s): Stories in rhyme, bears, friendship

Opening line/sentence:

Mouse and Bear share breakfast,

Basking in the morning sun.

Bear looks up and points,

And the bear counts....

Brief Book Summary:

Bear along with his friend Mouse travel through the forest and encounter other woodland creatures along the way. Each time he runs into a friend, he counts different objects or other creatures that are in the forest. He counts from 1-5.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, March 1, 2015 (Vol. 83, No. 5)) Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, March 1, 2015 (Vol. 83, No. 5)) Having tackled one concept in Bear Sees Colors (2014), Bear and his charming woodland friends now address the numbers from one through five. Buddies Mouse and Bear start their day together, sharing breakfast and counting: "One sun floating high. / One giant dragonfly. / One robin on her nest. / Only ONE berry left!" These counting spreads begin with a page turn that will have kids yelling out the next number and end with more opportunities for them to participate: "Numbers, numbers everywhere. / Can you count along with Bear?" The friends soon run into Hare, who has two apples to share, and the friends and numbers increase up to five, a perfect amount for new counters. As in the previous book, the rhythms and rhymes are not always spot-on: "Bear cries, 'Look, it's Badger, / Mole, and Gopher by the shore! / Badger has his fishin' pole.' / And the bear counts...." (Confusingly, this spread introduces four, which rhymes with "shore" but doesn't match the number of friends met.) Chapman's acrylic illustrations offer lots of opportunities for children to count, and not just the items named in the text—look carefully for the tiny animals. Bear's fans may get practice counting the number of times they ask for this again.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Carolyn Phelan (Booklist, May 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 17)) Carolyn Phelan (Booklist, May 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 17)) Bear and Mouse enjoy breakfast in a forest clearing while, all around them, they find things to count: One sun floating high. / One giant dragonfly . . . The list goes on, interspersed with the repeated refrain, Numbers, numbers everywhere. / Can you count along with bear? Young children will want to try, and since the number of countable objects rises slowly, many will succeed. Throughout the book, friendly, lightly anthropomorphized animals lark about together in trees, meadow, and pond. Each four-page section features a number from one to five, depicted in two double-page spreads. The first presents a broad scene that includes groups of creatures and objects representing the number, while the next isolates each group against a white background. Well designed for its purpose, this counting book offers a lively, rhyming text along with appealing acrylic paintings. A cheerful addition to Wilson's popular Bear series of picture books.

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

Both reviews gave the book a good review that will keep children engaged for the entire length. In both reviews, there are quotes from the book to give an insight to what sort of lines are expected. Neither review had a bad thing to say other than the Kirkus review pointed to a few parts where the rhyming was confusingly. Overall, both reviews said that they book was kid friendly and would keep the kids interests.

Evaluation of Literary Elements:

This book is easy for younger readers to read. The plot is simple about walking through the forest with the main point being to learn how to count. The counting only goes up to 5 so early learning readers will be able to participate in counting the objects and creatures in the book. There is plenty of color that makes the book bright and colorful which makes it inviting to read.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

With this book kids can be instructed to go outside, if applicable, and collect a certain number of objects found in nature like Bear found in the forest. Students can also draw their own forest that shows Bear counting the certain number of fish, clouds, geese, bees, etc. that was found in the book. Or instead of drawing what exactly happened in the book, they could draw their own forest with themselves in it and have guidelines to include an animals/objects that count 1-5.

Rossy says

Cute book but I think some of the words may be a little difficult for a child to understand.

Annie Cheesman says

I love how simple the cover is because it demonstrates how the bear is the main character and the little details such as the butterflies, ladybug, and bird with flowers add to the story is set outside in the forest. I also really like how the word "counts" is in different colors, which makes it stand out very much so on the white background and it shows how that is the focus on the cover and throughout the book. The back cover is very colorful with the different shades of the blues and greens like in a forest. This page is so important because after the children read the story they can turn and start practicing their counting with all the animals on the back cover which is so beneficial for them. I really enjoy the illustrations on each page due to the detailed drawings that seem so lively, as you are present in this story. The grass really is a good plain aspect on both of the first pages laying out more focus on the bear and the words in the middle of the page. I also really like how the counting pages have a white background because you as a reader put more attention and focus on the colored areas on that white background, which is exactly where the reader is supposed to count and read along with each page. Each number is a different color of the rainbow, which really grabs my attention because each number has its unique color and as a reader will remember and understand it better when they are presented differently. It is awesome how the story starts off with smaller creatures they are picking out of the forest and then throughout the story they are progressing to larger animals you can see. I think it is very well done as a whole because the counting pages are broken up and not all in one row. The full colored pages between each counting page(s) break up the pages by telling a story and make the reader more interested overall than just counting the whole book. The ending was so cute and influential for the young readers who now know how to read and can practice by using the back cover.

Mackenzie Ford says

Title: *Bear Counts*

Author: Karma Wilson

Illustrator: Jane Chapman

Genre: Counting Book, Concept Book, Fiction

Theme(s): Counting, Cooperation, Animals, Friends, Engagement, Rhymes

Opening Line/ sentence:

One!

One sun floating high.

Brief Book Summary:

The book's main character Bear goes through counting from one to five. Each number has about four examples of real life items that the bear points out to count to the certain number. At the end of the examples for the specific number the phrase "numbers, numbers everywhere. Can you count along with bear?" is repeated after every number 1 through 5. At this point the bear poses a question to his audience for the reader to count along with bear but the numbers to count are presented on the page for a reference for the reader.

Professional Recommendation/ Review #1:

Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, March 1, 2015 (Vol. 83, No. 5))

Having tackled one concept in *Bear Sees Colors* (2014), Bear and his charming woodland friends now address the numbers from one through five. Buddies Mouse and Bear start their day together, sharing breakfast and counting: "One sun floating high. / One giant dragonfly. / One robin on her nest. / Only ONE berry left!" These counting spreads begin with a page turn that will have kids yelling out the next number and end with more opportunities for them to participate: "Numbers, numbers everywhere. / Can you count along with Bear?" The friends soon run into Hare, who has two apples to share, and the friends and numbers increase up to five, a perfect amount for new counters. As in the previous book, the rhythms and rhymes are not always spot-on: "Bear cries, 'Look, it's Badger, / Mole, and Gopher by the shore! / Badger has his fishin' pole.' / And the bear counts...." (Confusingly, this spread introduces four, which rhymes with "shore" but doesn't match the number of friends met.) Chapman's acrylic illustrations offer lots of opportunities for children to count, and not just the items named in the text—look carefully for the tiny animals. Bear's fans may get practice counting the number of times they ask for this again. 2015, McElderry, 32 pp., \$16.99. Category: Picture book. Ages 2 to 5. © 2015 Kirkus Reviews/VNU eMedia, Inc. All rights reserved.

Professional Recommendation/ Review #2:

Carolyn Phelan (Booklist, May 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 17))

Bear and Mouse enjoy breakfast in a forest clearing while, all around them, they find things to count: One sun floating high. / One giant dragonfly . . . The list goes on, interspersed with the repeated refrain, Numbers, numbers everywhere. / Can you count along with bear? Young children will want to try, and since the number of countable objects rises slowly, many will succeed. Throughout the book, friendly, lightly anthropomorphized animals lark about together in trees, meadow, and pond. Each four-page section features a number from one to five, depicted in two double-page spreads. The first presents a broad scene that includes groups of creatures and objects representing the number, while the next isolates each group against a white background. Well designed for its purpose, this counting book offers a lively, rhyming text along with appealing acrylic paintings. A cheerful addition to Wilson's popular Bear series of picture books. Preschool-Kindergarten

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

Both reviews state the importance of the book's idea to engage the reader to count along with bear. I liked this idea and agree with the two reviews about the engagement that this book offers to young children. I think young readers will pay more attention to the story if they are involved and can participate in some way throughout the story. The rhyming in this story also can engage young readers and the repetition for them to easily follow along and catch on to the phrase. This book also gives the children an opportunity to count more than what the main character Bear is counting because the illustrations are very detailed. I agree with the two responses that this is a good counting book for young children to read and engage with.

Evaluation of Literary Elements:

The illustrations in this book are very well drawn and very detailed. These images will catch the attention of a young reader because they are very interesting. Also along with this book the rhyming words and catchy phrase at the end of each number are catchy and easy for children to catch on to and soon repeat on their own or with an adult. This book is also very easy for young readers to understand and follow along with. The plot of this book is good concerning that the idea of this text is to help young children to learn how to count, and there are many opportunities provided for that in this book. The setting in this book is easily described to the viewer through the illustrations this book offers.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

This book integrates with the subject of math to teach young learners to count. An activity to go along with this book could be providing the students with a worksheet with a specific number already on the paper and giving them gummy bears to complete the specific amount given to the student on the worksheet so they are mastering their knowledge to count. And at the end of this lesson the children can eat their gummy bears because that's always exciting for young children. This counting opportunity can be done with many other options to engage the students in the idea of learning how to count.

Alice says

3.5 stars Counting books...I was worried it was going to go on forever! But it only went to 5. If I had to go to 10 I would have to rate it lower. Nice rhymes and river otters so it is all good! Can you count with me 1 2 3!

Jo Oehrlein says

Bear counts 1-5. For each number, there's a two page spread where you look at the picture, then another two page spread that gives you the number and points out several instances of it from the prior pages.

One thing nice for beginning counters is that it counts up on every number page.

Bonus points for river otters and crawdads.

Emma Zvonar says

Cute counting book. Simple as it only counts to five but the illustrations and story make it more than a

counting book. The illustrations are detailed, then on the counting pages it singles out what is being counted within the original detailed illustration. Everything counted is in nature, which could also be connected to science or outdoor play.

The Library Lady says

I just spent a week reading Bear Snores On to groups, and in doing so I marveled at the incredible use of onomatopoeic words---words that sound like the sounds they represent. Add to that perfect rhyme and rhythm and great pictures, and you've got a classic.

This one? The rhymes DON'T rhyme. They are awkward to read.

And what a pity since the pictures are, as usual, wonderful, and the concept of using the "Bear" characters for a counting book is just great.

Doesn't someone read these aloud before they're published?

Matt says

How can you not enjoy a good counting game in nature? Add some rhymes and Neo's excited as can be!

Scott Jackson says

I love the Bear Series so much. Every story is a must have.

<https://mobile.twitter.com/wscottjack...>

Kristi Brent says

This would be a great book to read to a preschool class who is learning their numbers and different animals. It was cute and I'm sure it would hold the attention of preschool age. Cute pictures also. I like how it shows the different animals interacting with each other.

Courtney says

My children love these little books. They thoroughly enjoy each and every story, as if they are all unique and individual without any cause for similarity among them. Even though sometimes, they might seem tedious and repetitive to me as a parent, I do enjoy being able to read short-stories to my children that are clean and respective.

Dana Altman says

Title: Bear Counts

Author: Karma Wilson

Illustrator: Jane Chapman

Genre: Concept Book, Counting

Theme: Friendship

Opening line: Mouse and Bear share breakfast, basking in the morning sun. Bear looks up and point, and the Bear counts...

Summary: Bear and Mouse are walking through the woods, and as the story goes on, they have multiple encounters with different types of animals you would see in the woods. As they encounter their different animal friends, they practice counting together everything they see in a rhyming pattern. The story goes from numbers 1-5 and the reader is encouraged to count along for after every number is introduced in the text and illustration, the story goes, "number numbers everywhere, can you count along with bear?"

Professional Recommendations #1:

Carolyn Phelan

CLCD

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

Bear and Mouse enjoy breakfast in a forest clearing while, all around them, they find things to count: One sun floating high. / One giant dragonfly . . . The list goes on, interspersed with the repeated refrain, Numbers, numbers everywhere. / Can you count along with bear? Young children will want to try, and since the number of countable objects rises slowly, many will succeed. Throughout the book, friendly, lightly anthropomorphized animals lark about together in trees, meadow, and pond. Each four-page section features a number from one to five, depicted in two double-page spreads. The first presents a broad scene that includes groups of creatures and objects representing the number, while the next isolates each group against a white background. Well designed for its purpose, this counting book offers a lively, rhyming text along with appealing acrylic paintings. A cheerful addition to Wilson's popular Bear series of picture books. Preschool-Kindergarten

Professional Recommendations #2:

Kirkus

CLCD

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

Having tackled one concept in *Bear Sees Colors* (2014), Bear and his charming woodland friends now address the numbers from one through five. Buddies Mouse and Bear start their day together, sharing breakfast and counting: "One sun floating high. / One giant dragonfly. / One robin on her nest. / Only ONE berry left!" These counting spreads begin with a page turn that will have kids yelling out the next number and end with more opportunities for them to participate: "Numbers, numbers everywhere. / Can you count along with Bear?" The friends soon run into Hare, who has two apples to share, and the friends and numbers

increase up to five, a perfect amount for new counters. As in the previous book, the rhythms and rhymes are not always spot-on: "Bear cries, 'Look, it's Badger, / Mole, and Gopher by the shore! / Badger has his fishin' pole.' / And the bear counts...." (Confusingly, this spread introduces four, which rhymes with "shore" but doesn't match the number of friends met.) Chapman's acrylic illustrations offer lots of opportunities for children to count, and not just the items named in the text—look carefully for the tiny animals. Bear's fans may get practice counting the number of times they ask for this again. 2015, McElderry, 32 pp., \$16.99. Category: Picture book. Ages 2 to 5. © 2015 Kirkus Reviews/VNU eMedia, Inc. All rights reserved.

Response to professional reviews:

I agree with the first review in that it is lively and appealing, however the second review brings up the thought that some of the rhymes may read kind of awkwardly. It reads fluidly, up until the number four, so other than that I wouldn't consider this to have low literacy merit. The story is engaging and not only will readers learn about counting, but the types of animals you would see in the woods.

Evaluation of Literacy Elements: I thought this counting concept book was well written and the characters were drawn in a way that would be engaging and friendly to young kids. "Bear" is illustrated in such a way that he is portrayed as much larger than the other animals, but his shape and posture is soothing and comforting to the reader's eye, kind of like the mother figure of little red riding hood, in Molly Bang's *Picture This*.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

A consideration of instructional application could be turning this book into a "big book" in which pictures and text could be followed during a read aloud in the classroom. Then to continue practicing counting, students could come up with the rest of the story, thinking of what other things you might find outside in the woods and how many of them there would be. Or an activity after the book could be, the children could pretend they are bear and mouse and are provided with small cut out of things from the story such as one dragonfly or 2 apples to practice counting in some sort of a puzzle.

A Allen says

I didn't like this one as much as *Bear Sees Colors* or *Big Bear, Small Mouse*. This just isn't my favorite counting book. There are a lot of things to get distracted by on the pages between counting, I think. However, this book has river otters so it gets extra points for that! I will introduce this book into my classroom while it is checked out from the library but I won't be purchasing this one.

Isabella Santana says

Bear Counts is a really good counting book. I love this book because Bear counts a lot of different animals, and I like the animals. Bear counts 1-5. He sees all kinds of things like the sun, a bunny rabbit, and muskrats to name a few. I really like the pictures in this book. Some of them show Bear in funny situations like when fish are slapping him in the face. I think that kids should read this book because it can help them learn to count from 1-5, and it's a good way to spend time with their moms and dads.
