Is 2 a Lot? by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans

About the Story
Riding in a car, Joey asks, “Is 2 a lot?” Mom says, “Two is not a lot of pennies, but two is a lot of smelly skunks!” To avoid the skunks, Mom turns onto a magical road where she and Joey encounter 5 freckles and 5 cowboys, 10 dinosaurs and 10 pieces of popcorn, and much more. Are these numbers a lot or not? At the end, Joey gives a deep answer to the question. The illustrations are hilarious.

About the Math
While reading the story, your child can learn:
- Numbers tell us exactly how many there are in a collection.
- But the meaning of the numbers depends on context. For example, 10 pieces of popcorn are not a lot compared with a whole bag of popcorn, but 10 dinosaurs are a lot compared with the amount we see every day (none!).
- To read written numerals (1,000) and number words (one thousand).

Words to Learn
MATH WORDS
two, three, four, five, ten, fifty, one hundred, one thousand, a lot

OTHER WORDS
shelf, broken bones, freckles, chomping, aspen tree, stump, hot air balloons

Talk During Reading
DESCRIBE WHAT’S ON THE PAGE
What’s happening on this page? How many pennies do you see? Do you see two of anything else besides the skunks?

COMPARE THE NUMBERS OF TWO GROUPS
Are there more children in the school bus or more dogs on the street? Are there more dinosaurs or more pieces of popcorn?

JUSTIFY A JUDGMENT
Why are four children on the school bus not a lot of children, but four dogs to walk at once are a lot of dogs?

IMAGINE A LOT AND NOT A LOT
Can you think of something (besides pennies and skunks) for which two things are a lot and two other things are not a lot?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading
DRAWING
Let’s make some drawings of five things that are not a lot and five other things that are a lot.
The Mathical Book Prize recognizes math-inspiring literature for kids ages 2-18. Prize-winning books are selected by a committee of teachers, librarians, mathematicians, and others.

To get the Mathical List, plus reading guides, book reviews, and more, see mathicalbooks.org

### PreK WINNERS:
- One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller by Kate Read
- Crash! Boom! A Math Tale by Robie H. Harris
- Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke
- ONE Very Big Bear by Alice Brière-Haquet
- 8: An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper
- Have You Seen My Dragon? by Steve Light

### PreK HONOR TITLES:
- Animal Shapes by Christopher Silas Neal
- Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett
- Count with Maisy, Cheep, Cheep, Cheep! by Lucy Cousins
- Goodnight, Numbers by Danica McKellar
- I Know Numbers by Taro Gomi
- A Mouisy Mess by Laura Driscoll
- One Happy Tiger by Catherine Rayner
- Over in a River: Flowing Out to the Sea by Marianne Berkes
- Press Here by Hervé Tullet
- Round by Joyce Sidman
- 100 Bugs! A Counting Book by Kate Narita

### GRADES K-2 WINNERS:
- Pigeon Math by Asia Citro
- Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Cheryl Bardoe
- Sheep Won’t Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s by Judy Cox
- Absolutely One Thing: Featuring Charlie and Lola by Lauren Child
- Max’s Math by Kate Bank
- One Big Pair of Underwear by Laura Gehl

### GRADES K-2 HONOR TITLES:
- The Boy Who Loved Math by Deborah Heiligman
- Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant by Songju Ma Daemicke
- Is 2 a Lot?: An Adventure with Numbers by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans
- Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer
- Shapes, Reshape! by Silvia Borando
- When Sophie Thinks She Can’t by Molly Bang
- Zero the Hero by Joan Holub

### HALL OF FAME TITLES:
- Hippos Go Berserk! by Sandra Boynton
- One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale by Demi
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

### COUNTING ON KATHERINE:
- How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Helaine Becker
- Count on Me by Miguel Tanco
- The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca
- Is 2 a Lot?: An Adventure with Numbers by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans
- Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer
- Shapes, Reshape! by Silvia Borando
- When Sophie Thinks She Can’t by Molly Bang
- Zero the Hero by Joan Holub

### COUNT ON ME:
- 3X4 by Ivan Brunetti