

# Pigeon Math

by Asia Citro and Richard Watson

AGE LEVEL 4–7 YEARS

## About the Story

This hilarious story begins with 10 pigeons on a line. When the page is turned, we see that some are flying upward. The author exclaims that because some pigeons are gone, she needs to begin the story all over again with the correct number of pigeons on the line. But once that is done, some of the pigeons leave (subtraction) and some return (addition), so the number on the line is constantly changing. And what will happen when a cat appears?



Text copyright © 2019 by Asia Citro  
Illustrations copyright © 2019 by the Innovation Press  
Illustrations by Richard Watson

## Words to Learn

### MATH WORDS

one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, minus, plus, circle, square

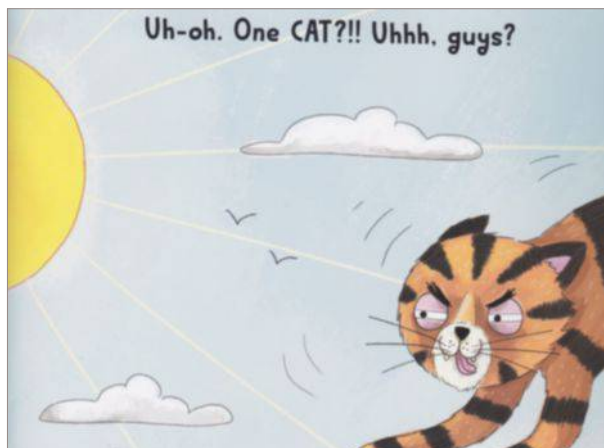
### OTHER WORDS

resourceful, clever

## About the Math

As the pigeons leave and return to the line, children can learn:

- A simple form of addition: Count the number of pigeons on the line and the number returning to get the total.
- A simple form of subtraction: After some pigeons have left, count the number remaining on the line to get the total.
- To read the written number words from *one* to *ten*.
- To read the written numerals from 1 to 10.
- To read simple number sentences like  $10 - 6 = ?$



Text copyright © 2019 by Asia Citro  
Illustrations copyright © 2019 by the Innovation Press  
Illustrations by Richard Watson

## Math Talk During Reading

Because the story often *shows* what is happening but does not *describe* or *explain* it, you may need to help your child understand what is going on.

### TALK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

How many pigeons were on the page all together? How many left? How many returned? How many are on the wire now?

### TALK ABOUT THE MATH AS DESCRIBED IN THE STORY

What does *ten minus six* mean? What does *four plus four* mean?

### TALK ABOUT THE MATH SENTENCES

What does  $8 - 6 = ?$  mean?

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

## Activity After Reading

### HELP YOUR CHILD SOLVE PROBLEMS LIKE THIS ONE

"Let's put five pennies in this cup. Next, we put two pennies in." Cover the cup. "Don't look. Just tell me: How many pennies are in the cup now?" If your child cannot figure it out, let them look in the cup. For subtraction, take some pennies out.

# Mathical

## BOOK PRIZE

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](http://mathicalbooks.org)

### PreK WINNERS:

**Baby Goes to Market** by Atinuke  
**Crash! Boom! A Math Tale** by Robie H. Harris  
**Have You Seen My Dragon?** by Steve Light  
**Lia & Luis: Who Has More?** by Ana Crespo  
**One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller** by Kate Read  
**ONE Very Big Bear** by Alice Brière-Haquet  
**8: An Animal Alphabet** by Elisha Cooper

### GRADES K-2 WINNERS:

**Absolutely One Thing: Featuring Charlie and Lola** by Lauren Child  
**The Animals Would Not Sleep** by Sara Levine  
**Max's Math** by Kate Bank  
**Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain** by Cheryl Bardoe  
**One Big Pair of Underwear** by Laura Gehl  
**Pigeon Math** by Asia Citro  
**Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s** by Judy Cox

### 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 Mousy Mess** by Laura Driscoll  
**One Happy Tiger** by Catherine Rayner  
**One Is a Piñata: A Book of Numbers** by Roseanne Greenfield Thong  
**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 2-K HONOR TITLES:

**Billions of Bricks: A Counting Book about Building** by Kurt Cyrus  
**Bird Count** by Susan Edwards Richmond  
**The Boy Who Loved Math** by Deborah Heiligman  
**Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant** by Songju Ma Daemicke

**Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13** by Helaine Becker  
**Counting the Stars: The Story of Katherine Johnson, NASA Mathematician** by Lesa Cline-Ransom  
**Count on Me** by Miguel Tanco  
**The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague** by Julia Finley Mosca  
**How Many Jelly Beans? A Giant Book of Giant Numbers!** by Andrea Menotti  
**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  
**3x4** by Ivan Brunetti

### 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

