

The Animals Would Not Sleep

by Sara Levine and Marta Álvarez Miguéns

AGE LEVEL 3–5 YEARS

About the Story

Marco wants to get his (toy) animals ready for bedtime. He begins by sorting them into three separate baskets, for Flying, Swimming, and Land Animals. But the animals refuse to go to sleep. They jump out and run wildly around the room. What to do? Marco likes to come up with new ideas like a “good scientist,” so he decides on a different way to sort. But that doesn’t work either! How does Marco group the animals to get them to sleep?



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Words to Learn

MATH (SORTING) WORDS

sort, scientist, organized, appropriate, group, medium-sized, thinking outside the box

OTHER WORDS

ruckus, container, menagerie, cramped, cooperating

About the Math

As Marco sorts (classifies) the animals, your child can learn to:

- Put objects into groups according to rules like size: big here, small there.
- Use different rules to sort the same objects into different groups (for example, placing a flamingo into one group because it flies and into another because it is pink).
- Make the rules very clear by describing them in words.
- Think like a scientist, trying out different rules for classifying objects.



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Math Talk During Reading

HOW THE ANIMALS WERE SORTED

“Why are these animals in this basket? What’s the rule?”

HOW THE SAME ANIMALS CAN BE SORTED IN DIFFERENT BASKETS

“Giraffe and dinosaur were both in the Animals That Move on Land basket. But now they are in different baskets. Why?”

SIZES OF ANIMALS

“Why were the animals in the large basket unhappy?”

THINKING LIKE A SCIENTIST

“What does it mean to think outside the box?” (If one solution doesn’t work, you have to think of a new, different approach.)

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

Activity After Reading

SORT THE LAUNDRY INTO CATEGORIES

The category of size could involve small (socks), medium (underwear), and large (shirts) items. Ask your child to decide on a new way to sort and to explain their rules for how to do it.

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

PreK WINNERS:

Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke

Crash! Boom! A Math Tale
by Robie H. Harris

8: An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper

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

1 Smile, 10 Toes by Nelleke Verhoeff

ONE Very Big Bear by Alice Brière-Haquet

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

Uma Wimple Charts Her House
by Reif Larsen and Ben Gibson

PreK HONOR TITLES:

Animal Shapes by Christopher Silas Neal

Circle Under Berry by Carter Higgins

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

Marta! Big and Small by Jen Arena

A Mousy Mess by Laura Driscoll

One Happy Tiger by Catherine Rayner

100 Bugs! A Counting Book by Kate Narita

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

Shape Up, Construction Trucks
by Victoria Allenby

What Will Fit? by Grace Lin

GRADES K-2 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
3x4 by Ivan Brunetti

We Are One: How the World Adds Up
by Susan Hood

When Sophie Thinks She Can't
by Molly Bang

Zero the Hero by Joan Holub

HALL OF FAME TITLES:

Anno's Counting Book, Mitsumasa Anno

Hippos Go Berserk! by Sandra Boynton

One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale
by Demi

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

