



Ten Black Dots

Donald Crews

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What can you do with ten black dots?

One dot can make a sun, two dots can make the eyes of a fox, and three dots can make a snowman's face.

And that's just the beginning in this unique counting book!

Ten Black Dots Details

Date : Published September 21st 1995 by Greenwillow Books (first published 1968)

ISBN : 9780688135744

Author : Donald Crews

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Science, Mathematics, Childrens, Picture Books, Number, Counting

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From Reader Review Ten Black Dots for online ebook

Grace Noto says

Title: Ten Black Dots

Author: Donald Crews

Illustrator: Donald Crews

Genre: counting books

Theme(s): numbers

Opening line/sentence: "One black dot can make a sun or a moon when the day is done."

Brief book summary: A visual book that shows all the different things that can be done with ten black dots.

One can make a sun, two can make a fox's eyes, and eight can make the wheels of a train.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Name of reviewer: Sharon Salluzzo

Name of Source: CLCD

Link: <http://www.clcd.com/#/bookdetail/1/0/...>

Short blurb:

Black circles on simple, bold graphics capture the reader's attention immediately. Crews connects the dots with everyday objects thus making this concept book accessible to young children. One black dot becomes the center of the sun; two are the eyes of a fox. Spacing changes begin to introduce the concept of addition. For example, the eight dots that are the wheels of a train are split with four circles on the engine and then two groupings of two black dots as the wheels on the freight car. There are graphs at the end of the book that correlate the number with the numeral. Originally published in hardcover in 1968, the vibrant, clean layout continues to remain fresh. How nice to have this in a board book edition. For very young children, parents can use this for color and object identification, as well as beginning to introduce the concept of counting. The graphs appropriately present the next step and extend the book into the preschool years.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Name of reviewer: Unknown

Name of Source: Kirkus Reviews

Link: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Short blurb:

Mr. Crews made an auspicious entrance with *We Read: A to Z*, which did things with the alphabet that nobody'd done before; this does the same things with numbers that everybody's done before, and better. Counting black dots, one to ten, makes sense only when the dots themselves make sense-first as the objects named, then as elements in the composition, finally as representing a characteristic quantity. Here they're miscast as enormous seeds, misplaced as portholes on the upper decks of a boat and miscalculated (four) as knobs on a radio (an old-fashioned table model). Count this one out.

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

I found it interesting that these two reviewers had such different opinions of the book. While one found the book's premise to be fun, vibrant, and interesting, the other thought it was contrived and unoriginal.

Evaluation of Literary Elements:

I thought it was interesting that there were some rhyming elements to the book. I also liked how the words corresponded with the illustrations. However, I do agree with the one reviewer that this book is very simple and even non-logical at times. For example, when describing the number 2, the examples he used were fox eyes and then two separate keyholes as opposed to another thing that natural came with two.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

This book could easily be used in any math lesson and I would bet that is why this book was made. I might extend the book after a read aloud by doing different counting games with either magnets on a white board or blocks.

Caitlyn Berkey says

One dot can make a sun, two dots can make the eyes of a fox, and three dots can make a snowman's face. And that's just the beginning in this unique counting book!

1. Number Sense and Numeration
 2. Solving dot equations
 3. Create a cute fox
-

Rachel Smith says

This is one of my favorite Donald Crews' concept books! It is quite creative in the use of 10 black dots on every page, and untraditional in the ideas for what the dots could be used for. I would love to have students come up with their own dot art as part of a counting activity.

Jessie says

Counting book with pages for one through ten dots. Some numbers have multiple examples.

The book is in rhyme. The examples for the numbers early in the book seem more natural/tied to the number than the ones later. (Eyes of a fox is definitely two, but "seven dots can make the spots on a snake" is more arbitrary.)

There's very little arrangement of the dots in groups that make subitizing easy. The six dots are in two groups of three, and the nine dots are split into five, three, and one. Some of the others are maybe grouped (eight might be in six and two?), but it's less clear. The piggy bank image for nine dots could make a fun number talk.

Rocheal Hoffman says

This book is a fun way to introduce counting, graphing, tens frames, and much more. Inside are creative ways to see numbers, opening the door to engaging activities.

Gela says

Five year old likes it.

Janie says

LO didn't take to this. He **adores** ALL Crews' other books.

Amanda says

Solid counting concept book.

Sarah Harper says

This book details how the same amount of an object can be placed differently, or seen differently, yet still equal the same amount. There is an emphasis on Number Talks, and this could be used in sequence with this concept, curriculum activity.

Amara says

Eh, is alright. Some ideas are more clever than others. However, it rhymes and teaches children to count and recognize the dot shape.

Heather says

Big hit with my little number guru! He loves reading it over and over. After the usual pointing out the number and counting all the dots we've moved on to adding dots on facing pages to make the number. There are many ways to use this book for exposure to numbers.

Marisa Taddei says

Title: Ten Black Dots

Author: Donald Crews

Illustrator: N/A

Genre: Concept Book, Counting Book

Theme(s): Counting, rhyming

Opening line/sentence: "What can you do with ten black dots?"

Brief Book Summary: This book uses big black dots imbedded in the illustrations to help the reader count from 1-10. On the first page, the author raises the question: what can you do with ten black dots? Each subsequent page shows what 1,2,3...etc. dots can look like (a sun, two eyes, a snowman's face...). On the final two pages, the dots are lined up in 10 different rows labeled (1-10) with the corresponding number of dots next to each row.

Professional Recommendation #1:

Name of Reviewer: The Horn Book Guide

Name of Source: The Horn Book Guide

Link to Source:

<http://www.hornbookguide.com/cgi-bin/...>

"(3) PS New ed., 1986. "What can you do with ten black dots?" Crews creatively incorporate the dots into everyday objects while providing readers with the opportunity to learn their numbers. Maintaining all the rhyming text and vibrant illustrations from the 1986 version (itself revised from 1968), this slightly smaller, durable new board book edition is the ideal format for multiple readings."

Professional Recommendation #2:

Name of Reviewer: Sharon Salluzzo

Name of Source: Children's Literature

Link to Source: <http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.librarie...>

"Black circles on simple, bold graphics capture the reader's attention immediately. Crews connects the dots with everyday objects thus making this concept book accessible to young children. One black dot becomes the center of the sun; two are the eyes of a fox. Spacing changes begin to introduce the concept of addition. For example, the eight dots that are the wheels of a train are split with four circles on the engine and then two groupings of two black dots as the wheels on the freight car. There are graphs at the end of the book that correlate the number with the numeral. Originally published in hardcover in 1968, the vibrant, clean layout continues to remain fresh. How nice to have this in a board book edition. For very young children, parents can use this for color and object identification, as well as beginning to introduce the concept of counting. The graphs appropriately present the next step and extend the book into the preschool years."

Response to Reviews: I really like that Salluzzo pointed out that this book could not only be used for teaching numbers and counting, but also could be used for color and object identification. I hadn't even thought of that- but it is certainly true, since the audience for this concept book is very young children. I agree that this book has the potential to extend beyond the preschool years because of the use of graphs and it's introduction to basic math skills such as addition and division.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: This book uses rhymes and rhythm on every page- making it slightly more predictable and fun than other basic counting books. The illustrations incorporate the black dots somewhere in the picture (they are very easy to spot), which could be lots of fun for young readers to look for and count. There is a great lack of detail in the illustrations-which I really like in a concept book for very young children. Because of the author's decision to create very simple pictures, the reader is able to spot and count

the black dots very easily.

Consideration of Instructional Application: This is a perfect book to use with very young kids both in school and at home. Not only does this book teach the concept of counting and numerals, but also it briefly introduces the concepts of addition and division. This book could be used as a great model text for students to create their own counting books.

Cheryl says

Only one page is dated (the radio), but otherwise this is great for today's kids. It's a bit like a cross between The Dot and Meta counting books, in that it inspires children to make their own drawings starting with a certain number of dots. The little library hardcover I read is actually a 1968 edition and is cute in that it's the size of a board book, so a small child can 'read' it herself. It's also pretty well worn out, from being oft-circulated.

William says

Title: Ten Black Dots

Author: Donald Crews

Genre: Counting book, Concept Book

Theme: Counting, Numbers

Opening Line/sentence: What can you do with ten black dots?

Brief Book Summary: The book practices counting to ten using black dots as the object the signify the number being taught. For each number, 1-10, the black dots are used to symbolize something reminiscent of their shape, that children would see in their lives.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Hornbook

<http://www.hornbookguide.com/cgi-bin/...>

"What can you do with ten black dots?" Crews creatively incorporates the dots into everyday objects while providing readers with the opportunity to learn their numbers. Maintaining all the rhyming text and vibrant illustrations from the 1986 version (itself revised from 1968), this slightly smaller, durable new board book edition is the ideal format for multiple readings.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Kirkus

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Mr. Crews made an auspicious entrance with *We Read: A to Z*, which did things with the alphabet that nobody'd done before; this does the same things with numbers that everybody's done before, and better. Counting black dots, one to ten, makes sense only when the dots themselves make sense-first as the objects named, then as elements in the composition, finally as representing a characteristic quantity. Here they're miscast as enormous seeds, misplaced as portholes on the upper decks of a boat and miscalculated (four) as knobs on a radio (an old-fashioned table model). Count this one out.

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

The two reviews offer contrasting opinions about the content of the book. I find myself agreeing more so with the Kirkus evaluation, as I agree that the objects the black dots represent don't have much meaning. The

use of the old radio is dated at this point (although it wouldn't have been in 1968, but revised edition released in 1986, old timey radios fairly rare). Additionally, I found the choices of objects fairly arbitrary relative to their number. A snake could have 7 spots, but it could also have 5,4,3, or none. I believe it would've been better if the objects related to items that are actually consistent with those numbers.

Evaluation of Literacy Elements: As a book designed to teach children to count to 10, the book is laid out in an easy-to-read and linear manner. The sentences are straightforward and immediately present the number being taught and the item it relates to. Additionally, each number's explanation spans two pages, with the phrase on the first page rhyming with the second. The illustrations are simple, but colorful and vibrant.

Consideration of Instructional Application: With or without the assistance of physical materials to count with, the book may be read to/with the students. The rhyming nature of the book provides a cadence that can allow the class to read along together.

Shelby Miller says

This was a creative take on counting dots in a children's book. The dots were large and easy to find, but also represented items with each new number. Rhyming was also present throughout the text, which made it an enjoyable read.

Topics: counting, rhyming, numbers 1-10, shapes within everyday objects, colors, reading numbers.
