

Number Words

Companion Text: If You See the Moon, by Zia Wells

Subject Area & Grade Level: Mathematics, 2nd Grade

Materials: Multiple copies of the text

Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Recognize words that connote quantity
- Use comparative language to describe quantities of items

Activity

Read the story once through without stopping. Point out that sometimes in literature, authors use words that indicate “how many” or “how much” of something without using actual numbers. It is important to be able to notice these mathematical references while reading because it can deepen your understanding of the story.

Pass out copies of the book and ask students to work with a partner (or small group depending on how many copies of the text you have) to find as many of the “number words” as they can in the book. Have students make a list of words found, along with the page number of each. Lead students in a discussion about what each word is describing. Is it a length of time, the size of something, or an actual count of objects? Your discussion could include the following:

- long (p. 1), how much time
- days (p. 3), how much time
- years (p. 3), how much time
- both (p. 15), how many people
- so much (p.20), how much fun were they having
- hardly (p.20), how much did they notice the sun
- all (p. 21), how many clouds
- soon (p.21), how much time
- all...day (p.25), how much time
- too much (p.26), how much fun were they having
- fatter, bigger, puffier (p.27), how many water droplets were attracted to them
- half (p.33), how much of the moon

Reflection

Have students write their name and their partner’s name on a piece of paper. Call on individual students to answer the following questions: How many letters does each name have? Are they the same length? If not, which name is longer and which name is shorter? How many letters



would you have to add to the shorter name to make it the same length as the longer name? Can you think of another name that is the same length as your name?



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