

ONE WAS JOHNNY

One Was Johnny

By Maurice Sendak (Harper)

Theme: Counting/Humor/Music

Level: Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 3

Length: 3 minutes, animated

Summary

One Was Johnny is a lively story, told in song, about a boy named Johnny who is peacefully reading a book until he is intruded upon by one creature after another. After the ninth visitor, Johnny loses his patience and decides he must do something. Johnny decides to count backwards until each and every one of his visitors is gone.

This delightful story in song will help children learn to count as well as engage them in a silly, engaging tale.

Objectives

- Children will reinforce counting skills
- Children will enjoy a story set to music
- Children will learn to follow a sequence of events

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book One Was Johnny with children. Then ask: If you were Johnny which visitor would you like best/least? Why? What other things could Johnny have done, besides counting backward, to make his visitors go away? Which visitor do you think Johnny will miss most? What if this visitor decided to stay? Have children write a short story imagining Johnny and this visitor who came to stay.

Talk with children about their pets. If children do not have pets, ask them to describe the kind of pet they would like to have. Then ask: If you could have any kind of animal in the world for a pet, including a tiger, elephant, mouse, or any other animal you might think of, what would it be? Why would you enjoy having this animal for a pet? Where would you keep it? What would you do with your pet for fun?

After Viewing Activities

Make numeral posters. For each poster, print the numerals one through ten in a vertical column on a piece of poster board. Make one poster for each child in your class. Then have children draw animals, or cut out pictures of animals and attach them, beside each numeral. Children will draw one animal beside the numeral 1, two animals beside the numeral 2, etc. Tell children that the animals they draw can be animals that actually exist or imaginary animals. Later, have children share their animal posters with one another and display them on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Have children invent a silly story involving groups of objects/animals. Begin by offering a story starter such as "Once upon a time there was one tiny (peanut)". Have children fill in the blank by naming one object/animal. Then say, "This tiny (peanut) was joined by two interesting (elephants)." Again, have children fill in the blank. Continue the story until you reach the numeral ten. Print children's stories on a large piece of kraft paper as they dictate it.

Then say: "When it was time to go home, the ten () left, followed by the nine (), the eight ()," etc. Have children follow along with the printed story and try to recall the objects/animals they used to fill in the blanks.

Provide each child with numeral cards (1 through 10). Staple a small plastic bag to each card. Then take a walk outdoors with children and have them hunt for objects. Have children put one object in the bag attached to the card with the numeral 1 printed on it, two objects in the bag attached to the card with the numeral 2 printed on it, etc. Later, when you return to the classroom, have children count the objects in their bags to be sure that they contain the correct number of objects. Then have children share these objects that they discovered outdoors with their classmates.

Other book based films and videos by Maurice Sendak are available from Weston Woods. These include:

CHICKEN SOUP WITH RICE
IN THE NIGHT KITCHEN
PIERRE

REALLY ROSIE
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction