



Cool Cats Counting

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Music, Bilingual, Math

Book Brief: A vibrant bilingual picture book that introduces young children to numbers and animals through a lively Latin American lens. Using a mix of English and Spanish, the story features rhythmic text and bold illustrations of animals like salsa-dancing pigs and cats doing the jitterbug.

Author:
Sherry Shahan

Illustrator:
Paula Barragán

Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “How did you first learn about your numbers and counting?”

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the counting rhythm, the English and Spanish words, and the colorful and energetic animals on each page make the story feel alive.”



During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Can you name the animals in the book?
- How many goats were in the book?
- How many dogs were there and all of them have shoes?
- What were the cows doing? (Ask this for each animal)
- What was your favorite animal and why?
- What were some of the dance moves that are listed?

Think Aloud:

“I notice that the numbers and the animals are in both English and Spanish.”

I’m wondering...”Have you previously learned any of the Spanish words in the book?”

After Reading

Our Purpose: “What Spanish words did you learn through the book? How many were new to you?”

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

Cool Cats Counting



Extension Activities

Beginning Sounds

Directions:

Discuss the beginning sounds of the number words (ex: six-“s”, five-“f”).

1. Identify classroom objects that begin with each sound.
2. Identify classroom objects that end with each sound.

Discuss Rhyming Words

Directions:

1. Teacher calls out a word from book
2. Students supply a rhyming word
3. Variation:
 - Teacher calls out a word from the book, and students use magnetic letters to form rhyming words with a partner.
 - Create a list and share/discuss

Create Tongue Twisters

Directions:

1. Ex: Six sheep sell shells on Saturday.
2. Discuss alliteration
3. Students write or type and illustrate using KidPix, Paint, or Microsoft Word.
4. Label each illustration with a tongue twister.
5. Share aloud, bind, and add to class library.