Everyone Counts
by Judy Sierra
Illustrated by Marc Brown
EDUCATORS’ GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK
From the bestselling creators of WILD ABOUT BOOKS comes a rhyming picture book about counting, teamwork, and the beginnings of a new zoo!

When Takoda happens upon a tumbleweed rail, the tiniest tiger cub imagines a zoo. All Takoda needs is a capable crew to lead a polar or two or three, or four, or more.

Two rhinos, three llamas, four foxes, and two enormous two-crocs turn up to help. Soon the animals are planting flowers to pitch in their bears are carving out burrows, butterflies are building a playground, and crocodiles are sculpting a waterslide. It seems everyone’s got something to do—everyone, that is, except for ten eager bugs. Will they be underestimated because of their size? Or will this be a new kind of zoo where everyone counts?

Judy Sierra’s rhymes and Marc Brown’s colorful, full-illustrated art lend themselves to themes of counting and teamwork. This new picture book all about how a tiger cub and a whole lot of friends can band together on a walk to create a wonderful zoo.

LESSON 1
CLASS ACTIVITY (TEAMWORK): Build your own zoo, just like the animals in the book! First invent-your-own materials to your classroom can be used to create the zoo. This may include books, Magna-Tiles, house furniture, craft supplies, and anything else you have on hand. Create a list of habitats that are commonly found in a zoo. Break your students into small groups and give each group a list to choose one habitat from the list. Have your students work as a team to build their habitat, using the teamwork skills they learned during your discussion. When they are finished, groups may present their habitats to the class, explaining how they built it. How is it similar to how they worked together as a team?

ENRICHMENT: Students can research the animals that live in their chosen habitats and focus on building structures and elements that are specific to their species.

LESSON 2
CLASS ACTIVITY (RESPECT & INCLUSION): During the discussion, write the key words or phrases that make an impact and include on the board for example: The Golden Rule • Fair manners • Share the consequences of unfair feeling • No physical aggression • Listen to others’ opinions • Be understanding • Make eye contact • Recognize uniqueness • Be inclusive

Ask students that they are going to make a collage showing that “everyone counts” in your classroom. Pass out a variety of magazines and a large piece of white construction paper. Have them look through the magazines and cut out letters, words, and images that illustrate the phrases on the board. They should also include in their collage the name of every student in the class. When finished, hang them on a bulletin board with the title “Everyone Counts.”

ENRICHMENT: Ask students to write a story about a time they did not feel included. They should explain what happened and what could have been done differently.

LESSON 3
CLASS ACTIVITY (ART): Ask students to imagine what Sam would do if he lived in the zoo with the animals. What do Sam and the zoo animals have in common? What do they both love to do?

Ask students to write a story about a time they did not do what they wanted to do. What was the punch line to their joke? If they think they do, they should raise their hand and say it out loud for all to hear! Matching joke cards can be stapled together and keep a file for students to read through (and laugh at) later.

ENRICHMENT: Students can use their own original joke cards to share with the class.

MORE ACTIVITIES FOR BOOKS BY JUDY SIERRA AND MARC BROWN

MORE BOOKS BY JUDY SIERRA

MORE BOOKS BY MARC BROWN

Using these companion books together

CLASS ACTIVITY (RETEACH SKILLS): Read aloud a story from one of the books. Create a Memory-like game that matches the animal to its favorite book or activity. Students can play in pairs and test their memory skills. Model good reading practices by going back to the story to check their matches.

ENRICHMENT: Students can research the animals that live in their chosen habitats and focus on building structures and elements that are specific to their species.

CHALLENGE! Build a model of your insect using materials you find in the classroom, at home, or outside.

ENRICHMENT: Reproduce this activity sheet to use with your students.

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