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Five Creatures



Synopsis

Three humans and two catsFive creatures live in our house. Three humans, and two cats. Three short, and two tall. Four grownups, and one child (that's me!). In this book of lighthearted comparisons, simple text and warm pictures work together to depict various scenes in a happy household where each member is distinct but also has something in common with one or more of the others. The fun comes from sorting out the similarities and the differences. Five Creatures is a 2001 Boston Globe - Horn Book Award Honor Book for Picture Books.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

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Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

Customer Reviews

Three people and two cats form a cozy quintet in this volume, in which Jenkins (The Secret Life of Billie's Uncle Myron) playfully appraises a family's varied talents and tastes just the way a child learning to count might do. A girl, the diminutive version of her red-haired mother, does the accounting. She notices that of the "five creatures" in her family, there are "Four who like to eat fish.... Two who like to eat mice. Only one who likes to eat beets." A dinnertime image reveals each individual's preferences; purple vegetables fill the narrator's white plate, while the cats monitor a telltale hole in the wall. Round-the-clock glimpses of the household show "One who sings loud late at night" (a charcoal-gray cat in a moonlit window) and "one who sings in the morning" (the girl's father, standing over the sink in his striped pajamas). When her father falls asleep on the couch with

the cats, the girl lists "Three who nap with the Sunday newspaper." She sits nearby, imitating her bookworm mother by flipping through a picture book: "Two who can read, and one who is learning." Bogacki (*The Bird, the Monkey, and the Snake in the Jungle*) suggests contentment with a subdued palette of autumn orange, sea green and creamy, pale yellow. His tranquil illustrations provide clues to Jenkins's narrative, which encourages deductive reasoning. Jenkins smoothly weaves logical analysis into a narrative that exudes warmth, and the book concludes with a gentle scene of togetherness: "Five who sit together in the evening by the fire." Ages 3-6. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr 1-3-A lighthearted look at a family from different viewpoints. The five members of the household, both human and feline, share many traits with one another while maintaining their individuality. The narrator (and only child in the group) sorts the five by their various commonalities from hair color to leisure activities to food preferences. "Three who like to hide in boxes./Four who have a knack with yarn." Although the illustrations in pastel colors seem a little lackluster at first, readers will be drawn in by their soft, gentle flow from scene to scene and the portrait they combine to create of a warm and loving family. Primary-grade teachers will find this a wonderful accompaniment when teaching grouping and Venn diagrams as it will allow them to assist students in making real-life connections to mathematical concepts. Children will simply enjoy it for the good story that it is.-Sheryl L. Shipley, North Central Local Schools, Pioneer, OH Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have no idea why, but I was prepared to not like this book, despite its great reviews. On my first reading, I was blown away. This is a wonderful book, one that engages children, helps them think, sees the similarities between animals of all types (in this case mammals both human and feline), sees humor in life and situations, and observes what is happening in the immediate vicinity. I enjoyed reading the other reviews about this book, seeing how teachers use it for fractions and sentence structure. If Venn diagrams were introduced in grades two or three, this would be a wonderful book to Venn-diagram. Reading this book is a warm, positive experience.

Part of my job requires we do home visits, I took this book along and we re-created creature books with families based off their families. So fun! Great math, sorting, counting, self awareness, awareness of their surroundings, comparing, measuring....i could go on and on.

I love love love this book. It is rhythmical and mathematical. It is also good length for my 3 year old son. I really recommend this!

Love it! This book helped to teach comparing numbers to my kindergarten class!!! The comparisons between humans and animals helped to keep my students attention!

Wonderful book for teaching early numeracy (different ways to make 5) in a way that young children can relate to.

good

It was an o.k. book but not for my kindergarten kiddos.

I used this book for my kindergarten class to accompany a number sense book by Chris Confer. This book can also be useful for teaching about fractions in the upper grade.

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