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# Zero



## Synopsis

Zero is a big round number. When she looks at herself, she just sees a hole right in her center. Every day she watches the other numbers line up to count: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 . . . !" "Those numbers have value. That's why they count," she thinks. But how could a number worth nothing become something? Zero feels empty inside. She watches One having fun with the other numbers. One has bold strokes and squared corners. Zero is big and round with no corners at all. "If I were like One, then I can count too," she thinks. So she pushes and pulls, stretches and straightens, forces and flattens herself, but in the end she realizes that she can only be Zero. As budding young readers learn about numbers and counting, they are also introduced to accepting different body types, developing social skills and character, and learning what it means to find value in yourself and in others.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 510 (What's this?)

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,168 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Counting](#)

Age Range: 3 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

In this sequel to "One", the author once again proves you can have big discussions with little numbers. This one uses the same techniques as One, this time stressing the importance of being yourself and finding value in who you are. My favorite part of the story is when zero realizes that she's not empty inside, she's just open! It's after she realizes the importance of being open that great things start to happen. That's a great insight for a picture book or any sort of book for that matter. Preschoolers won't get this one. The message isn't quite as clear and straightforward as

"One", but they will enjoy the art and the exciting story even if they don't get the meaning behind it. I feel the real audience for this book lies in the first through third grade age ranges. That's where this book will be able to promote some truly meaningful discussions. I applaud the author for once again showing how minimalism and deep meaning can go hand in hand. This book is beautifully done and not to be missed.

this is a great book! i read it to a 1st grade class and they "got" the message! so many great things about this book....teaches the importance of self respect, finding the positives in yourself and others, and on top of those powerful topics it teaches math! love this book!

This book has an EXCELLENT self esteem message!!!! LOVED IT! Our school administrators also saw this book and liked it so much that they purchased it for all the teachers in our school!

Zero was the second book written in this series, and my favorite of the three. The protagonist of this book is the number Zero. Zero, however, does not like herself. Whenever, she looks at herself, she only sees a big hole in her middle. Like the rest of the numbers, she wants to count! In a sad development, she tries to change her shape. She stretches herself to try and look like the number One. She twists and turns herself to try and look like the number Eight. Eventually, she realizes a way that she can count as well. If you put Zero after a One, it turns into Ten. If you put another Zero after it, you get One Hundred. Thus, Zero is in fact one of the most important numbers there is, and has value like the rest of the numbers. The book like One is gorgeously illustrated and teaches powerful life lessons. For starters, you must learn to find value in yourself and others. I also read somewhere that it teaches lessons about body shapes, and I can see that if I think about it, but I guess as a man, it wasn't the first lesson that popped in my head.

When Zero looked at herself in the mirror she saw a hole right in her middle. How can a number worth absolutely nothing become worth something? Zero sets out to find worth in herself. She felt empty inside. Zero is a wonderful number book that looks at not only the concept of counting, it tackles the social issue of self acceptance and diversity. I liked how Otoshi used feeling words that most children of three or four year old would not know and gives opportunity to extend their vocabulary. I also found it was fun to stay with the fast paced story to see how the number Zero was going to count. If there was a "Grandma's Choice Award" it would certainly be a winner.

She is such a great children's book writer. My boys ages 8 and 6 loved this book, and zero is often such a hard concept it is a good thing to introduce at an early age. Many counting books start at 1, its great to start at zero and work with zero, helps a lot for your children when they are looking at negative numbers and the number line. This is a great way to introduce zero!

Love this series of books. Very creative use of story telling using numbers! This book has counting, story telling, teamwork, and nifty Japanese paintbrush art all wrapped into one. My 2.5 year old loves it and asks for this book almost daily!

This book came to my attention because my nephews, age 4 and 6, loved it. As an adult, I found the story quite moving. Having purchased and given multiple copies as gifts over the years, every parent/child also loved it too. I feel like every home should have a copy, even if you don't have kids.

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