



The Numberlys

William Joyce , Christina Ellis (Illustrations)

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From the team who brought you *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* comes an alphabet tale extraordinaire!

Once upon a time there was no alphabet, only numbers

Life was fine. Orderly. Dull as gray paint. Very numberly. But our five jaunty heroes weren't willing to accept that this was all there could be. They knew there had to be more.

So they broke out hard hats and welders, hammers and glue guns, and they started knocking some numbers together. Removing a piece here. Adding a piece there. At first, it was awful. But the five kept at it, and soon it was artful! One letter after another emerged, until there were twenty-six. Twenty-six letters - and they were beautiful. All colorful, shiny, and new. Exactly what our heroes didn't even know they were missing.

And when the letters entered the world, something truly wondrous began to happen: Pizza! Jelly beans! Color! Books!

Based on the award-winning app, this is William Joyce and Moonbot's Metropolis-inspired homage to everyone who knows there is more to life than shades of black and gray.

The Numberlys Details

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ISBN : 9781442473430

Author : William Joyce , Christina Ellis (Illustrations)

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Download and Read Free Online The Numberlys William Joyce , Christina Ellis (Illustrations)

From Reader Review The Numberlys for online ebook

Nancy says

The art is 5 stars, but the story is 1 star! As an English major, who loves art of all sorts, I see the (beautiful, many) shades of grey in a world without colors or language....but come on! A written language is wonderful, but the message here that numbers are not amazing and varied and INFINITELY beautiful is one gazillion percent erroneous.

Kay Smith says

Math might rule, but words tell feelings. Beautifully illustrated children's book!

Jocelin says

I love William Joyce's retro style of art illustration. His pictures tell such great stories, he is one of the few authors that can convey a story that way. The book goes from black and white to color and it is fun. The book starts out with only numbers in the world and the world is gray, lifeless and dull. When The Numberlys decide that things should change, they set out to do something about it. So, they create Letters. Boom, the world comes colorfully to life.

This is a fun book showing the value of numbers and letters in learning. Makes a great coffee table book as well. Children and adults will get a kick out of this one.

Scottsdale Public Library says

A 'different worldly' gem of the genesis of the alphabet. -- Monty K.

Ruth says

I adored this book. The words and illustrations work together to show what happens when a group of people - who live in a world where there are only numbers and no alphabet - decide to make a change. It's a simple story, but beautifully captured the heart of why words are so wonderful, and what they can do to change the world around us.

Kaethe says

Joyce is pretty much an automatic love for me. This one has a clear plastic dustjacket with the black and white numbers on it and a special surprise underneath. Gorgeous. The story concept is good, but really, this is just awesome art. I do not at all mind that he has a study full of newcomers learning from him. Not when the quality is this high.

Library copy

Alice, as in Wonderland says

Look, I think this is a pretty book with great illustrations and the story it tells is pretty decent, but I can't help but be upset by the whole thing. This entire book is about how the fact that numbers are BORING and we need LETTERS AND WORDS to bring magic into our lives and I just think that's totally unnecessary. We already have those books, we read those books all the time. There need to be more books about the enjoyment and the excitement of numbers because mathematics is not promoted or taught remotely well and here's another book that says math is BORING and words are LIFE. It's not like because I took calculus I am a gray world with no color until I start reading books or even that those two worlds are separated from each other. I mean seriously, what the hell. I know my opinion is biased because of my feelings on the subject and therefore I will reserve the stars, but it's still upsetting to me. We need more books that promote the integration of both words and numbers.

Angelina says

NOTE: Possible spoilers, but c'mon, it's a picture book.

Maybe I'm in a foul mood today or something, but I was soooo disappointed! This book looked adorable and the illustrations are really great, but the story fell flat. "They did something. They were tired, but happy. The end." WHAT?!?

Sarah says

Fantastic! Loved the illustrations, loved the story. It almost felt a little dystopian with the sepia tones and generic masses of moon men marching around with their numbers. Unique, brilliant, fun.

Elevetha says

I thought this was spectacularly boring. There's very little story to it, to be honest, and no character(s) to connect to or root for. The characters, such as they are, are merely there. The illustrations are cute but not enough so to really make a difference, enjoyment wise. And compared to The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore, it was a major letdown.

Joann Ash says

My student brought this book to me and said, "You have to read this!"

Florence Turnour says

Numbers and mathematics are at the heart of what our children will need to succeed in the times to come, and math ideas are beautiful and plentiful and ever growing and evolving. The dull dreary world that the authors say is so awful that it is "numberly" does not reflect the beauty that is central to mathematics.

Unfortunately many Americans, parents of children and teachers, believe that math is dull and too hard to be worth the time. This book exacerbating a problem so great, teachers must combat it at every level of our children's education, up to and including college, in order to even begin to teach. I am stunned that these authors and illustrators of picture books, from a profession that holds constant, eloquent discourse on the use of diversity to help society break harmful stereotypes, can be apparently unaware of the dire need to refocus society's attitudes and beliefs toward STEM and mathematics in particular. I am also horrified that it is a beautiful book, by an illustrator (animator) I have long admired.

Work toward change, do math for fun, do math with your kids. Then it will rain jellybeans for you too.
#LetsDoMath

Viviane Elbee says

Gorgeous illustrations in this book about numbers in a numbers-only world, who go looking for something different and invent the alphabet. The kids enjoyed this book, especially the illustrations, which are very elaborate. It's good to show the alphabet. However, if you want to get kids excited about math, this isn't the right book.

Tasha says

In a world where there are only numbers, everything is very orderly and neat. But it's also very gray, even the food. Then five friends started to wonder if there was something more than numbers, something different! So they started inventing and they slowly came up with letters. And when they reached the final letter Z, things started to change. Color entered their dreary lives as the letters fell into place. Once the letters formed words, real changes started and the entire world was flooded with color and yummy foods and possibilities.

Based on the app, this is a second picture book from the creators of The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore, which also started as an app. Joyce creates a numeric and order-filled world reminiscent of Orwell's 1984 in the first pages of the book. The text here is very simple, allowing most of the storytelling to be done by the illustrations. Joyce keeps a light hand here and uses humor to show how dark the world is. Who could imagine a world without jellybeans?

It is Ellis' art that brings this world to life. Her orderly world has the feel of wooden toy soldiers and the five friends are wonderfully different and unique even before they invent the alphabet. The gray tones of the early part of the book give way to jellybean colors that jump on the page.

This celebration of words and books also examines the importance of independent thought and creativity. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Kathryn says

A very uniquely laid out storybook with a fun story telling how the alphabet came about.
