



Ten Little Ladybugs

Melanie Gerth , Laura Huliska-Beith (Illustrator)

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Ten Little Ladybugs Details

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From Reader Review Ten Little Ladybugs for online ebook

Ethan says

One of my favorites. I love to point to the ladybugs and wait for my mom to count them or tell me what color they are. Don't worry, no ladybugs are actually eaten by grasshoppers, birds or the other animals featured in this book. They are all friends and all ten ladybugs are reunited! Phew!

Dee says

Both of my girls have loved this book! The illustrations are great too!

Spoiler

First time I read this book I thought it was a little morbid. But alas the random animals were not eating the lady bugs but taking them home!

Alina says

This book is great to read to early readers because they see the ladybug disappear with each page. The illustrations are very colorful which grabs the readers attention. This came be integrated with a math lesson.

6+1 Traits
Sentence Fluency

Reading levels
Lexile: 180L
Guided Reading: F

Jason Brown (Toasty2) says

Ten little ladybugs are in an epic eleven page journey home. While traveling they meet several animals in the wild and interact in awesome counting fashion. Filled with colorful images. Not much to say for plot, it was written for three year olds with interactive number memorization in mind.

As a classic counting book, ten becomes one and repetition rules. Accomplishes the task well.

What makes this counting book stand out is the three dimensional ladybugs. Firmly placed in a wide base within each page, they cannot be dislodged without serious physical damage to the book. They are baby friendly and make the counting feel more real.

Kid Perspective:

Both of my children, really like this book. The elder spawn believes that the frog is amazing, the grasshopper, the .. Well everything..

This is one of many counting books that he owns, so he could never advise if it is superior to any other, but it is obvious that he digs it.

He has physically beaten this book up, folding it in half backwards and it still survives.

The younger spawn believes this book tastes good.

Parent perspective:

Why.. Seriously why... More than half of the ladybugs make off with predators. Witness the above image. Two little ladybugs, plus one frog equals lunch.

Yet somehow, the final page of the book has all of the creatures and all of the ladybugs home safe and sound. This sounds like some ladybug blackmarket meat ring. This book has frightening lessons to be learned.

It is cute though, and it is well built, and the kids like it. So I suppose the darker plot should remain hidden till they are old enough to turn goth and appreciate the dark humor contained.

Xpost from <http://kidspoiler.rawblurb.com>

Peterb says

A gothic tale of kidnapping, murder, cannibalism, and mayhem in the insect kingdom, Ten Little Ladybugs, written by Melanie Gerth and illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith, presents a troubling view of the devastating havoc that eschatological idolatry and ideology wreak on America's children. That such potentially scarring material is promoted as a "children's book" is even more troubling.

The cover is gaily festooned with the pastoral scene from a bourgeois garden, the smiles on the faces of the predatory insects arrayed around the ladybugs designed to mislead even the most cynical reader. The ladybugs themselves are given special treatment, being plastic appliques which can be touched by the

unwitting child-victim. This pre-literate tactile contact enhances the bond between the reader and the helpless meals-ready-to-eat. As the pages are turned, and the ladybugs are devoured one by one, the appliques disappear one at a time as well, leaving only holes in the book (and in the soul and heart of the toddler holding it).

Once the reader is lured to begin the book, there is no respite. It begins with an almost Tarantinoesque shock of bloody violence:

Ten little ladybugs, sitting on a vine.
Along came a butterfly, then there were....

and when the reader turns the page, of course, they will find the word “nine,” and the first of the harmless ladybugs has been consumed by the innocently smiling butterfly. The phrasing of the poem, an homage to Agatha Christie’s classic suspense thriller *Ten Little Indians*, is both calculated and cruel. As in that grim, humourless work, there is no detective come to save the day here; no Pea-weevil Poirot to stop the slaughter and accuse the guilty. All there is here is death, senseless and brutal.

Nine little ladybugs, skipping on a gate
Along came a caterpillar, then there were eight.

The innocence of the ladybugs is maintained throughout the narrative. It is more than mere unwariness — even as they move towards their stomach-acid drenched doom, the author relentlessly describes them as “skipping,” “dancing,” trying to force the reader into accepting the (nonsensical) idea that the ladybugs have accepted, even welcomed joyously, being rent asunder in this fashion. The analogy to Leni Riefenstahl’s *Tag der Freiheit*, which likewise disguised the horrors of the Nazi regime by focusing on the smiling, fresh faces of German soldiers, could not be more clear. Of course the caterpillar is healthy and strong — he is nourished by the flesh of those he oppresses.

I will not excerpt the entire book here — enough harm has been done by Gerth and Huliska-Beith, and I do not want to continue the madness — but their message is corrupt and corrupting: “No one is innocent.” A bee, a turtle, a duck, even animals that are not insectivorous take part in the macabre ladybug buffet.

I was ready to write this off as merely another piece of “shock” fiction, when I reached the chilling conclusion that demonstrated the devious (and subtle) ideology behind the tract:

One little ladybug, sitting all alone
Along came a breeze, and then she was...home.

The symbology here is powerful and insidious. By employing the very elements themselves to deliver the coup de grace, Gerth disclaims responsibility and absolves the guilty of their crimes. “That’s the way the world really works,” she seems to be saying. “Get used to it, kids. Eat or be eaten.” Such a message, while dispiriting, might be acceptable in a book targeted at an older audience (Orwell’s “a boot stomping on a human face...forever” comes to mind), since it could be viewed as a cautionary tale. Here, targeted at toddlers, it is merely mean-spirited.

In the final page, depicting all the ladybugs “safe and sound” in the afterlife, happily cavorting with their various tormentors, you can hear the authors’ cruel, mocking laughter echoing through the page. It chilled me to the very bone.

Ten Little Ladybugs is readily available to children at your local bookstore, and also at amazon.com.

Next week: The feast of Atreus and Miss Spider's Tea Party.

An earlier revision of this review initially appeared here: <http://tleaves.com/2004/04/30/ten-lit...>

Melissa says

I remember reading this to my sister's kids. I loved it as much as they did. The text flowed in a way that you take a deep breath and let out the little ladybug story and then start with the next ladybug.

Jenna Harris says

Summary:

This story is about ten little lady bugs and each of them going away with a different animal. At the end of the story they are all back together - and home!

The story is supported strongly by illustrations and little ladybugs that are three-dimensional. With the the text, the numeric associated with the number of ladybugs left is also drawn on the page.

Writing traits:

Sentence fluency - There is a certain rhythm and flow when reading this book. Each sentence starts with *insert number* little ladybugs... Along came a and then there were... The sentences carry the same pattern and flow. The number of ladybugs is also written in all capital letters to help emphasize the number of ladybugs.

Reading level: C

Amos Kitani says

This is such a strange book. Spoiler alert: the book is rather bold in its plot. It begins with 10 little ladybugs (very true to its title) but on each page, a larger animal appears (e.g., bird, grasshopper, fish) and a ladybug disappears. So babies like me are lead to believe that this is a "life-is-rough" kind of book about those that eat and those that are eaten. But at the end of the book, all the ladybugs (and the 9 other animals mentioned) reappear! At the end of the book, I'm left with many questions. Why would these animals simply run off with ladybugs? Is it that the ladybugs themselves wanted to be taken from their ladybug compatriots? Aren't these animals natural predators of ladybugs? Is the author simply trying to shield us babies from the harsh truth of the wild?

The plot isn't the only reason for the 1 star review. The entire story seems to be one long run-on sentence. It makes for an awkward read.

Grace Moore says

"Ten Little Ladybugs" is a book that introduces the concept of counting to children. In the story, ten little ladybugs disappear one at a time. On each page, the child can count each of the ladybugs. This book helps to strengthen the child's ability to identify numbers, count, and recognize patterns (i.e. the pattern of a ladybug disappearing on each page). With this text, I would supply each child with ten little ladybugs and have the children take one away as each page is read aloud. This allows the child to visually observe each ladybug disappearing as well as physically manipulate the ladybugs as a way to follow along with the story and make it more interactive.

Sharon McCague says

Great book for Story hour. Children helped me count down the ladybugs and were familiar with the tale.

Shana Karnes says

I don't think there's a human alive who loves ladybugs more than Ruthie, so this is a perfect book for her.

Dolly says

Cute counting story with colorful illustrations, a fun rhyming narrative and hard plastic ladybugs. Our girls have borrowed this book several times from the library. And now they can read it themselves.

Emily says

While I like the concept of this book, and the illustrations were colorful and appealing, my inner child spent the whole time I was reading it screaming, "are all the lady bugs dead?????" This is like a thinly veiled lesson about the circle of life in the bug/animal kingdom. Or possibly something that could be turned into a murder mystery. While as an adult I found this to be morbidly humorous, I think that it could easily be terribly distressing to a child. At least everything turns out all right in the end, but with a particularly sensitive child that could be a very long five minutes of reading. In the end it's a cute concept, but they could have done a bit better on the execution.

Kayla Heisey says

Ten Little Ladybugs written by Melanie Gerth and illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith is the perfect book for the young ones to learn how to count down from 10.

The text is in bold at the bottom of every page and even has a fun, but readable, font. The pictures are done in beautiful watercolor and the colors used are bright and colorful that it makes it pleasing to the eye.

Ten Little Ladybugs is also a tactile book as well as a board book. It is very easy for children to interact with and they can touch the 3D Ladybugs printed on each page and can make their counting experience exciting and fun!

nikki says

i used this for a babies and toddlers program, and only have good things to say. 10 little ladybugs is a traditional counting rhyme with lots of repetition and rhyme, and very rhythmic - i opted for a more melodic sort of rhythmic chanting, but you could easily sing it if you wanted to. this book expands on the rhyme a bit, and of course comes with lovely visuals to tell the story of the rhyme.

this one was particularly popular with the more tactile toddlers at the storytime. at my request, they (mostly) sat down nicely while i read them the book - they just really wanted to touch the ladybugs. after the program was over, some kids stayed for a bit to read it themselves. they loved touching the ladybugs as they counted with their caregivers, and at least one caregiver left with the resolve to look into buying the book for their own collections at home. i think this book is really great for tactile learners getting started with their counting. i would definitely recommend it for caregivers of kids with adhd/add, especially
