

YHBA Novel Resource A Million Dots

Young Hoosier Book Award Book A Million Dots by Andrew Clement

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Publisher

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

About the Author

Award winning and bestselling author, Andrew Clements, has written more than 50 children's books. Before becoming an author, Mr. Clements was a teacher in the public school systems near Chicago. Vacationing in Maine in the summer, with no television, computer, or telephone, his evenings were spent reading. Even with praise on a poem from a high school teacher, and later on essays from a college professor, Mr. Clements admits that writing is hard work, even today! As a teacher, he was fired due to "reduction in force" and chose to pursue a singing/songwriting career in New York City. Although the singing/songwriting didn't work out, Mr. Clements learned the valuable skill of "how to make myself sit and think and write things down—a discipline that's important for every writer." After working in the book publishing industry for several years, Mr. Clements began writing picture book texts. In 1990, he began a story about a boy who makes up new words. Published in 1996, Frindle has become Mr. Clements most popular book to date. Today, Mr. Clements writes his stories in a small shed in his backyard. It has a wood stove and air conditioner, but no phone, no television, and he carries his laptop back and forth.

Contact Information

Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Photo



Connections to the Book

Mr. Clements wrote [A Million Dots](#) to help students visualize how much one million of something really is!

Other Picture Books by the Author

[Big Al](#) Illustrated by Yoshi

[Double Trouble in Walla Walla](#) Illustrated by Sal Murdocca

[Temple Cat](#) Illustrated by Kate Kiesler

[Bright Christmas - An Angel Remembers](#) Illustrated by Kate Kiesler

[Workshop](#) Illustrated by David Wisniewski

[Circus Family Dog](#) Illustrated by Sue Truesdell

[Big Al and Shrimpy](#) Illustrated by Yoshi

[Because Your Daddy Loves You](#) Illustrated by R.W. Alley

[Slippers at Home](#) Illustrated by Janie Bynum

[Naptime for Slippers](#) Illustrated by Janie Bynum

[Slippers at School](#) Illustrated by Janie Bynum

[Slippers Loves to Run](#) Illustrated by Janie Bynum

[DOGKU](#) Illustrated by Tim Bowers

Awards

SSLI Book Award Honor Book

About the Illustrator

Mike Reed has illustrated many children's books. He began drawing simply to amuse himself, but found that he wanted to become an artist. Along with illustrating, he teaches illustration at the College of Visual Art in St. Paul, Minnesota. He often paints on the computer, but also draws in pen and ink and paints in acrylics. Mr. Reed has always enjoyed reading. As a child, he liked Dr. Seuss, and now likes to listen to books on tape while he work on his illustrations. Mr. Reed's cat, Mousse, and his children have been models for his illustrations.

Contact Information

mreed@hutman.net

1314 Summit Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Photo



Books Written by Mike Reed

Shake D'em Halloween Bones

Other Books Illustrated by Mike Reed

Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms by Christine Kole MacLean

Catching the Wild Waiyuuzee by Rita Williams-Garcia

A Chill in the Air by John Frank

Space Dogs from Planet K-9 by Joan Holub

The Big in Teacher's Coffee by Kalli Dakos

Andrew Lost Series by J.C. Greenburg

Cowboy Camp by Tammi Sauer

Art Medium

Acrylics. These paints are safe and fun for kids to use. Once dry, layers can be added without muddling the colors like watercolors.

Annotation

How much is one million? A number that large is hard to visualize! Thanks to author Andrew Clements and illustrator Mike Reed, we can now really see what a million looks like! Starting with one dot, Mr. Clements takes readers on a journey to one million, stopping along the way to tell fun facts that correspond with different numbers of dots. "Dot Number 134,000: A person blinks about 134,000 times each week." Beautiful illustrations covered in dots provide a "scavenger hunt" for one or two tiny dots that match the given fact(s). Adults and children will learn new facts about humans, animals, and the world around them.

Genre

Non-fiction

Point of View

First Person

Theme

One million, animal facts, world facts, human facts

Interest Level

Pre-K – 3 Perma-Bound Resources

Reading Level

2.0 Perma-Bound Resources

Booktalk

Do you know how much one million is? That's a big number! In this book, A Million Dots by Andrew Clements, you can actually see how much one million is! All of the illustrations are brightly colored pictures, covered in dots! Your job is to read the fact(s) presented on every page and locate the highlighted dot that goes with the fact. During reading you'll learn lots of fun facts to share with your friends and family and it'll be entertaining to look for dots with your classmates!

Discussion Questions

Before Reading

Do you know how much one million is?

What would you choose if you could have one million of something?

During Reading

How long does it take the Earth to travel around the sun? Page 8

How much money is 200,000 pennies? Page 14

After Reading

Did you realize that one million dots could take up so many pages?

What's another small object that you would like to see one million of?

How many dots do you think you could draw on a page?

Language

equator page 7 - the great circle of the earth that is equidistant from the North Pole and South Pole.

orbit page 8 - the curved path, followed by a planet, around the sun.

continents page 11 – one of seven large land masses on the globe; Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica, Europe, North America, and South America

carpenter Page 18 – a person who builds wooden structures for a living.

migration page 19 – a seasonal movement of an entire population of animals from one area to another.

junkyard Page 24 - a yard for the collection, storage, or resale of junk.

Indiana Academic Standards Met by Novel Content

Kindergarten Language Arts

K.1.1 Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.

K.2.3 Generate and respond to questions (who, what, where).

First Grade Language Arts

1.2.3 Respond to who, what, when, where, why, and how questions and recognize the main idea of what is read.

Second Grade Language Arts

2.2.4 Ask and respond to questions (when, who, where, why, what if, how) to aid comprehension about important elements of informational texts.

Third Grade Language Arts

3.2.9 Identify text that uses sequence or other logical order (alphabetical, time, categorical).

3.3.4 Determine the theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.

Anticipation Statements

Before		<u>A Million Dots</u> By Andrew Clements Illustrated by Mike Reed	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		One million is a large number.		
		The wings of a mosquito beat 600 times each second.		
		It's 5,000 miles from the Earth to the moon.		
		Counting to one million can be done very quickly.		

Read-

Alikes

How Much is a Million? by David M. Schwartz

If You Made a Million by David M. Schwartz

How Big is a Million? by Anna Milbourne

On Beyond a Million by David M. Schwartz

How to Make a Million by Rowland Morgan

Big Al Illustrated by Yoshi

Double Trouble in Walla Walla Illustrated by Sal Murdocca

Temple Cat Illustrated by Kate Kiesler

Bright Christmas - An Angel Remembers Illustrated by Kate Kiesler

Workshop Illustrated by David Wisniewski

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Across the Curriculum Connections

Art - Pointillism

While the illustrations in *A Million Dots* are covered in dots, opposed to being made of dots, they resemble the drawing technique of pointillism, pictures made of two or more colors of dots. Show students several examples of pointillism and given them an opportunity to create their own pointillism masterpieces.

Optional Resources:

Georges Seurat by Mike Venezia

Painting on a Canvas by Annie Wheeler

Georges Seurat 1859-1891: The Master of Pointillism by Hajo Duchting

Cardstock or other thick paper

Markers – fine and broad tip

Kindergarten Art

K.8.1 Recognize and use elements (such as shape, line, color, and texture) and principles (such as repetition) in their work.

First Grade Art

1.8.1 Identify and apply elements (line, shape, form, texture, and color) and principles (repetition and variety) in their work.

Second Grade Art

2.8.1 Identify and apply elements (line, shape, form, texture, and color) and principles (repetition, variety, rhythm, proportion) in their work.

Third Grade Art

3.8.1 Apply elements (line, shape, form, texture, color, and space) and principles (repetition, variety, rhythm, proportion, movement, balance, emphasis) in their work that effectively communicates their ideas.

Science - Animals

There are several animals that are mentioned in *A Million Dots* by Andrew Clements. After reading, allow students to find out more information about the animals from the book. Using books from the local library or school media center, a literacy station could be assembled for further research.

Optional resources:

African elephants – Elephants by Marianne Johnston

Elephant by Ian Redmond

Tyrannosaurus Rex - Tyrannosaurus Rex by Helen Frost

A T. Rex Named Sue: Sue Hendrickson's Huge Discovery
by Natalie Lunis

Arctic Tern and Sooty Tern – A Beach for the Birds by Bruce McMillan

Gray Whale – Gray Whales by John Prevost

Beetles - Beetles by Kathleen Derzipilski

Beetles by Jens Thomas

Moths and Butterflies – Butterflies and Moths by Elaine Pascoe

Butterfly and Moth by Paul Ernest Sutton Whalley

Sperm Whale - Sperm Whale by John Prevost

Mosquito – The Life Cycle of a Mosquito by Bobbie Kalman

Kindergarten Science

K.4.1 Give examples of plants and animals.

First Grade Science

1.2.7 Write brief informational descriptions of a real object, person, place, or event using information from observations.

1.4.1 Identify when stories give attributes to plants and animals, such as the ability to speak, that they really do not have.

1.4.2 Observe and describe that there can be differences, such as size or markings, among the individuals within one kind of plant or animal group.

1.4.3 Observe and explain that animals eat plants or other animals for food.

1.4.4 Explain that most living things need water, food, and air.

Second Grade Science

2.4.1 Observe and identify different external features of plants and animals and describe how these features help them live in different environments.

2.4.2 Observe that and describe how animals may use plants, or even other animals, for shelter and nesting

Resources

The Mega Penny Project, June 23, 2008, from <http://www.kokogiak.com/megapenny/default.asp>

This website takes an object that students are familiar with, a penny, and helps them visualize large numbers. From one to one trillion pennies, pennies compared to the Sears Tower and the Empire State Building!

Video Interview with Andrew Clements, June 23, 2008, from

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?sid=183&pid=353745&agid=7>

This video is an interview Andrew Clements did about his book The Report Card.

Examples of Pointillism by Third and Fourth Grade Students, June 23, 2008, from

<http://www.childs.mccsc.edu/art99/art2p6.htm>

This website shows examples of third and fourth grade artwork done in the pointillism style. There are also links to view George Seurat's *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of the Grande Jatte*, as well as a Web Museum biography on the artist most famous for pointillism.

Book Activities

Large Numbers

Using the numbers of the dots highlighted in the book A Million Dots by Andrew Clements, students will write out each number shown by the facts. Younger students may need assistance with this activity, and it can be done as a whole class activity. Older students may work independently or in partnerships.

Naming Numbers

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. 600 _____

2. 1,860 _____, _____

3. 24,901 _____, _____

4. 66,660 _____, _____

5. 87,600 _____, _____

6. 100,000 _____

7. 133,381 _____, _____

8. 134,000 _____

9. 153,000 _____

10. 186,000 _____

11. 200,000 _____

12. 232,224 _____, _____

13. 238, 857 _____, _____

14. 265,000 _____

15. 300,000 _____

Exploring A Million Dots

Give students an opportunity to explore the illustrations in A Million Dots by Andrew Clements. Set up a station where students can closely examine the illustrations. Use overhead transparency sheets and a permanent marker to outline the rectangular illustration. Students can lay the transparency over the illustration, and then mark the location of the dot on the transparency. Once each dot has been located and recorded, others can use the transparencies to self-check the location of each dot. Students can also record their favorite fact from the book.

Supplies Needed:

2-4 copies of A Million Dots by Andrew Clements

42 transparency sheets marked with rectangles

Vis-à-vis markers

Magnifying glasses

Half-sheet copies for recording facts

A Million Dots by Andrew Clements

Name: _____ Date: _____

Record your favorite fact from the book **A Million Dots** by Andrew Clements.

Dot Number	Fact

Indiana Academic Standards Met by Book Activities

Kindergarten Language Arts

K.1.3 Understand that printed materials provide information.

Kindergarten Math

K.1.3 Know that larger numbers describe sets with more objects in them than sets described by smaller numbers.

First Grade Language Arts

1.2.2 Identify text that uses sequence or other logical order.

First Grade Math

1.1.1 Count, read, and write whole numbers* up to 100.

Second Grade Language Arts

2.2.3 Use knowledge of the author's purpose(s) to comprehend informational text.

2.2.5 Restate facts and details or summarize the main idea in the text to clarify and organize ideas.

Second Grade Math

2.1.3 Identify numbers up to 100 in various combinations of tens and ones.

Third Grade Language Arts

3.2.9 Identify text that uses sequence or other logical order (alphabetical, time, categorical).

Third Grade Math

3.1.2 Identify and interpret place value in whole numbers up to 1,000.

3.1.3 Use words, models, and expanded form to represent numbers up to 1,000.

3.1.4 Identify any number up to 1,000 in various combinations of hundreds, tens, and ones.

Bibliography

Andrew Clements' Website

www.andrewclements.com

Mike Reed's Website

www.mikereedillustration.com

Simon and Schuster

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=3&pid=353745>

Houghton Mifflin Reading

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/reed.html>

Barnes and Noble

www.barnesandnoble.com

Indiana State Standards

www.doe.state.in.us/standards