



BROWSE



100 Bears by Magali Bardos (review)

Jeannette Hulick

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Reviewed by:

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Bardos, Magali. *100 Bears*; written and illus. by Magali Bardos; tr. from the French by Flying Eye Books. Flying Eye, 2014. 100p. ISBN 978-1-909263-15-4 \$19.95 R Gr. 1-3.

In a landscape with “1 forest” and “2 mountains,” there are “3 bears on each mountain.” Each page or spread reveals the next number in the sequence, and pretty soon “8 hunters” are after the bears; the adventures continue as the bears have a party, get sick, go to the theater, travel to exotic locales, and celebrate an elderly **[End Page 442]** bear’s birthday, all while the hunters continue searching for the obstreperous bears. The numbers tick by until “everyone makes peace with 91 slices of gingerbread and 92 sugar pearls,” and soon, “99 stones” help the bears find their way home to the “100 trees” found in the original forest. The narrative structured around the bears combines with a lighthearted tone to make this inventive take on the traditional counting book effective. Bardos’ stunning art—in fluorescent tones of red, orange, fuchsia, purple, and turquoise and highlighted by white, black, and brown—is reminiscent of retro graphic design, and the bold compositions allow for group sharing. Some numbers are merely included as numerals in the art rather than countable sets (“The most athletic one wears shirt number 98”), which gives kids an occasional breather as the numbers increase. Those examples that do entice kids to count require some focus for the higher number and busier spreads, but the items are all honestly visible. Between its usefulness and its inviting illustrations, this will be a helpful title.

BARDHAN-QUALLEN, SUDIPTA *Tyrannosaurus Wrecks!*; illus. by Zachariah O'Hara. Abrams, 2014 32p
ISBN 978-1-4197-1035-3 \$14.95 R 4-7 yrs

All of the dinosaurs in preschool get along swimmingly—until Tyrannosaurus bursts in with a shout, upsetting the block tower and shocking classmates. The other dinosaurs understandably send obstreperous Tyrannosaurus away to play on his own. Tyrannosaurus makes amends by tidying up and playing nicely, and despite a bump or two along the way, order in the prehistoric classroom is restored. The message in this rhyming story is cheery, and it's enhanced by a bouncy rhythm well suited for reading aloud, while the set-up for a (possibly participatory) shout at the page turn adds some suspense ("Velociraptor glitters. Tyrannosaurus . . . / WRECKS"). The shapely dinos, whose rough charcoal-style outlines and strong colors vividly contrast with the white or sometimes black backgrounds, are chunky and friendly in an eight-crayon-box color scheme and snazzy *Peanuts*-reminiscent outfits. Tyrannosaurus is particularly well captured as a non-threatening but mischievous reptile, with his orange skin, rounded teeth, bumpy tail, black cargo shorts, and green sneaker. Lower elementary classrooms will especially want to add this one to the ranks of Shea's *Dinosaur vs. Bedtime* (BCCB 10/08) and Stein's *Dinosaur Kisses* (BCCB 9/13) to help rein in the inevitable stomping and roaring those titles provide. TA

BARDOE, CHERYL *Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle*; illus. by Alan Marks. Charlesbridge, 2014 32p
Library ed. ISBN 978-1-58089-554-5 \$16.95 Ad Gr. 2-3

"Somewhere in the world *right now* an animal is lightening its load," begins this informative and self-aware introduction to one of nature's unsung ecological heroes. Bardoe describes the energetic rush of dung beetles just after an elephant has, um, provided for them, outlining the difference between dwellers (who "dig right in"), rollers (who roll dung balls away), and tunnelers (who dig down below the pile). The book also covers reproduction and growth stages and briefly notes the Egyptian celebration of the insects as scarabs. The book could use some more detail (it never states how big dung beetles can get, for instance, or how long they live), and the simple main text and more informative secondary texts aren't well differentiated. It's still a useful and lively overview, though, and it's enhanced by Marks' watercolor and pencil illustrations, which imbue the dung beetles' world with vitality and imagination: clever cutaways revealing the underground world of the tunnelers are set against the backdrop of grasslands populated by trundling elephants and graceful giraffes. End matter offers brief information about how to find dung beetles, some additional facts, a glossary, and a short bibliography. DS

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