

## **Noni the Pony Counts to a Million**

By Alison Lester

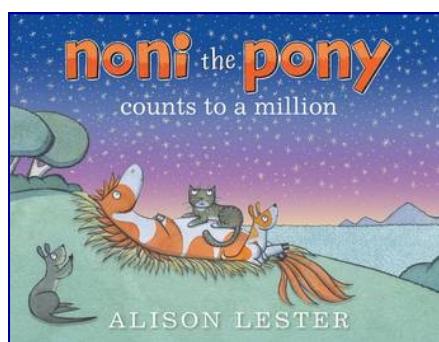
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Noni the Pony has a lot of fun counting everything she sees on a happy summer's day! You may have met Noni already in *Noni the Pony*, *Noni the Pony Goes to the Beach* and *Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey*.

Noni the Pony stands under one tree, and watches her two friends dance by the sea. She gives three speckled hens a ride up the hill... Come on another adventure with Noni in this delightful rhyming story.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

**Themes:**

- Counting
- Having Fun

**Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Show the cover of *Noni the Pony Counts to a Million* to your students, reading the name of the book out loud, and ask the following:
  - ◊ What is a pony?
  - ◊ What do you think this story will be about?
  - ◊ Do you think Noni is a kind and caring pony?
  - ◊ [Pointing to each animal as you ask the question] Noni's friends are a c...[cat], d...[dog], j...[joey].
  - ◊ What do you think Noni and her friends are doing in the image?
  - ◊ Do they live in a big city or in the countryside?
  - ◊ How many stars do you think are up in the sky?
  - ◊ How high can you count all by yourself?
- Now read the story to your class, stopping at each spread and pointing to the animals or insects being counted. Stop when you get to the ten ladybirds and ask students if they know what the next two numbers to follow ten are. Now start the story again, turning the page to Helga's dozens of spots. Ask students if anyone knows the term dozen and what number it represents. Next, slowly count and point to 12 spots on Helga and explain that Helga has dozens (lots of groups of 12) on her back. For the rest of the story, point out that numbers get bigger and bigger and bigger, but that there are names we can use to group them, such as hundreds, thousands and millions.
- Read the story every day to your class until they can call out the number for each group of animals or insects themselves.
- Explain to your class that numbers can be written as a word – showing them the number words in the story – or shown as numerals. Make a set of cards numbered from 1–10 and hold up each number as you read *Noni the Pony Counts to a Million*, stopping before you get to Helga's page. Once you feel your students are confident, you can hand the cards out and ask the person holding the card with the numeral you call out to hold it up and show the class. As the class grows in confidence you can mix up your numbers so they don't follow the 1–10 pattern.
- Explain to students that the story is told using rhyme, and that this is where key words (often at the end of a line) are emphasised because they share the same sound-endings. Give a few examples of rhyme from the story, and then see if students can come up with their own rhymes for simple words such as dog and cat.