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# Counting Bears

by Sandra Widener

illustrated by Janet Skiles



 Harcourt

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# Counting Bears



by **Sandra Widener**  
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 **Harcourt**

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▀ Tiny bears in the violets,  
Big, wild bears in trees.  
“Hi, there,” they all say.  
“Can you please count me?”



▶ ONE wild and FIVE tiny,  
Make SIX and then,  
I find FOUR big, wild bears—  
SIX and FOUR are TEN.



🔊 FIVE tiny bears go fishing  
In the silent stream.  
Each finds TWO tiny fish.  
That's TEN fish for the team.



- ▶ The big, wild bears are hungry.  
The tiny bears are, too.  
The big, wild bears want tiny fish.  
Now what will they do?



- ▶ “Do you mind?” asks a wild bear,  
Grabbing a tiny fish.  
“Yes, I do mind,” says a tiny bear.  
“That’s my tiny fish.”





- ▶ “I like that tiny kind,” says wild.  
“That tiny fish is mine,” says tiny.  
“Don’t you take it, wild bear,  
And don’t you get so whiny.”



🔊 “I have a good idea,”  
Says a bear that’s bright.  
“And I know that this idea  
Will help us get this right.”



▶ “Pass out those shiny, tiny fish.  
Just give ONE to each bear.  
Tiny or wild, all are fed,  
Each one has a tiny share.”



🔊 “After we end our tidy feast,  
The wild, strong bears will find  
Some giant, shiny fish that  
Tiny bears left behind.”



🔊 All of the bears say yes.  
So bears both wild and tiny  
Eat the shiny, tiny fish,  
And pat their bellies, sighing.



▶ Then wild bears hurry down,  
Into the winding stream.  
They find 20 fish to share—  
Plenty, it would seem.



- ▶ They match bears and fishes.  
Here is what they find.  
Give each bear TWO fishes.  
Not one is left behind!



- There's a giant pile of bones.  
The bears are too tired to stand.  
They say they're ready to sleep  
In shelters close at hand.






- ▶ They make TWO lines of FIVE.  
All are ready to lie down.  
Tiny and wild, they settle in.  
New friends doze all around.




As twilight comes to the forest,  
The bears curl up under the stars.  
During the night, with eyes shut tight,  
Their dreams will take them far.

## 🔊 Think and Respond

- 🔊 1 What happens after the tiny bears catch fish?
- 🔊 2 Where do the bears go fishing?
- 🔊 3 What happens when the big, wild bears go fishing?
- 🔊 4 Why can the big, wild bears get bigger fish than the tiny bears?
- 🔊 5 If you were a tiny bear, would you give your fish to the big, wild bears? Why or why not?

🔊  **Counting Bears Again** Draw a number sentence from a page in the story. Draw the bears and how many fish each got.

🔊  **School-Home Connection** With a family member, make cut outs of a bear and a fish. Make up your own math story.



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