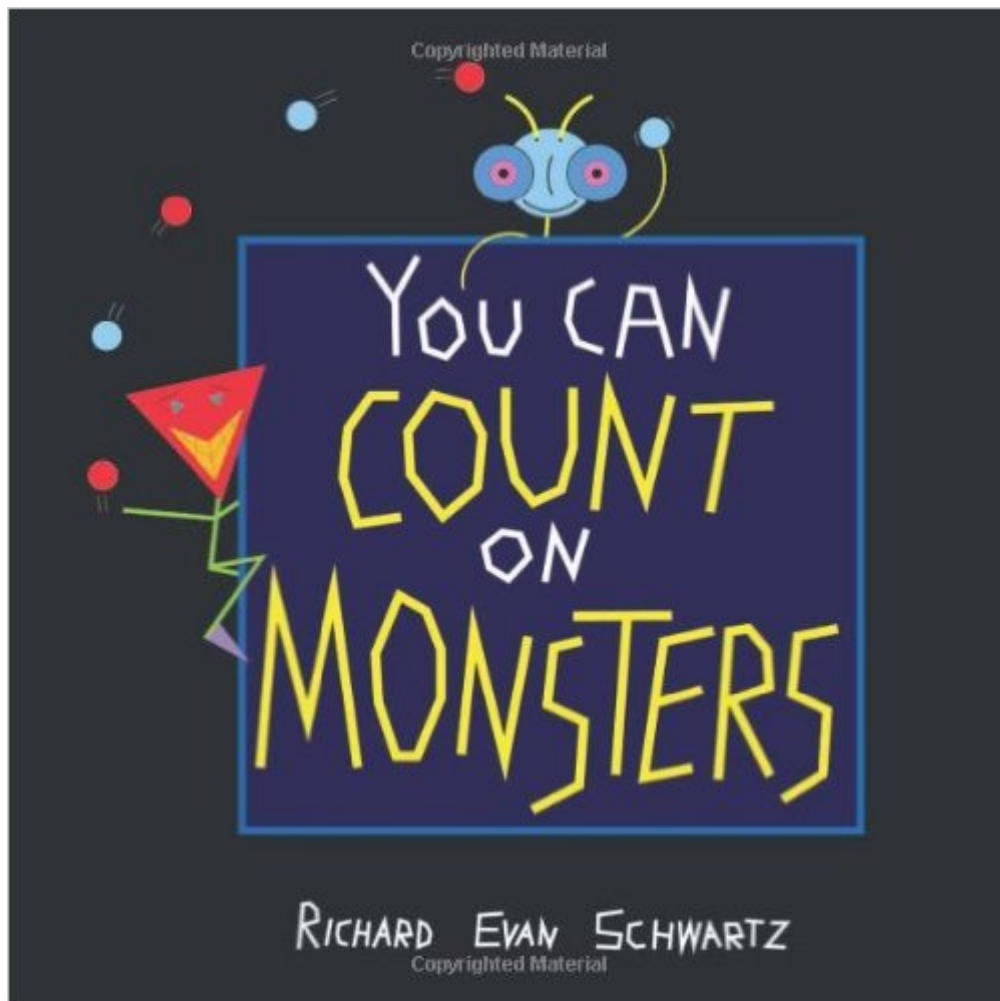


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# You Can Count On Monsters: The First 100 Numbers And Their Characters



## Synopsis

Using a unique teaching tool designed to motivate kids to learn, this volume visually explores the concepts of factoring and the role of prime and composite numbers. The playful and colorful monsters are designed to give children (and even older audiences) an intuitive understanding of the building blocks of numbers and the basics of multiplication. The introduction and appendices can also help adult readers answer questions about factoring from their young audience. The artwork is crisp and creative and the colors are bright and engaging, making this volume a welcome deviation from standard math texts. CRC Press Author and NPR's Math Guy Keith Devlin spoke with Scott Simon about how the book makes finding prime numbers fun. "This is one of the most amazing math books for kids I have ever seen," Devlin says. "Great colors, it's wonderful, and yet because [Schwartz] knows the mathematics, he very skillfully and subtly embeds mathematical ideas into the drawings."

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #229,510 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Functional Analysis](#) #203 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math > Arithmetic](#)

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

After reading the reviews and the sneak peaks here on [Amazon](#), I was expecting a great book from Mr. Schwartz. What I did not expect however, was how absolutely brilliant it was going to be! What Schwartz does with the monsters to teach about prime numbers is both beautiful and ingenious. I homeschool 3 boys of primary school age. Our oldest son is autistic and has an extreme aversion to math. Our second son is the complete opposite, devouring anything and everything numeric. He's

followed by our youngest who needs a thrill to sit still. All of my boys LOVE this book! My oldest (who is \*the one\* who would benefit the most from reading it) shied away from it at first. He's a bright boy and knew all too fast that the book was teaching math, a subject in which he struggles so much with. Well, after listening and watching me read this book, and seeing both his mother and his younger brothers having so much fun as we all "played" along, he had to come over and join in. He loves it! My two younger boys are quite obsessed with it. I have to give them turns with it!.I highly recommend this book to anyone who has a struggling learner/special needs child. With all of its benefits academically, I would (and will) buy the book for adults as well, if not just for the art work! It's amazing (and clever!) how Mr. Schwartz brings to life these numbers! As an adult who's also had an extreme aversion to math (my entire life) I can honestly say that Mr. Schwartz is the first person to claim that math can be fun, and then went on to prove it to me! What's more, is that he proved it to my child(ren)!

This is a great way to introduce kids to prime numbers, in a fun and enjoyable way. I had a great time figuring out the pictures with my kids, with my 5 year old figuring out how to multiply after a going through a few monsters. I used it in a class of 7 and 8 year olds to teach them about prime numbers and they've been discussing the prime monsters ever since.

These monsters will not scare you away from math but help you to embrace it. Wonderful book to teach anyone about primes, multiplication, factors and factor trees, factorials and introduce a proof to you using factorials to show that primes and thus numbers go on forever. Love the monsters ... love the book.

I had the pleasure of discovering this book at the 53rd Annual New England Book Show, presented by Bookbuilders of Boston, where I served as a judge for the Children's category. This book stood out for its colorful and magical presentation of numbers for children and parents alike. I only wish this book had been around when my kids were young. They would have devoured every page, night after night, and fed their joy of numbers and design.

Schwartz presented the topic of prime numbers in a fun and creative way! This was a much needed topic in math literacy. He managed to capture the prime number monsters in colorful drawings that challenge the imagination while at the same time teach this critically important concept. Well done!

Today in my Math Mavens program, we opened the book *You Can Count on Monsters* by Richard Evan Schwartz for the first time. This is a book I bought because I heard glowing reviews of it on NPR. The concept of the book is teaching prime and composite numbers through colorful, geometrical monsters. It is written for any age, from preschool on up, and my students really appreciated it. They had a lot of fun looking at the monsters, spotting the prime monsters hidden inside the composite monsters, and describing what they saw. For example, one said the 20 monster looked like "two innocent two-monsters held in custody by evil nacho chips." For fans of Singapore Math or number bonds in general, you will also appreciate how each number is represented with a number of dots, the numeral, and a multiplication number bond for composite numbers. All in all, it makes a powerful set of connections for students between numbers, images and fun. The book covers numbers 1 through 100, with an introductory section that explains factoring, prime and composite numbers, and how the book is designed, all with colorful images and not too wordy. A section in the back has a further exploration of prime numbers. A wonderful enrichment for any math education!

The author has written a wonderfully illustrated book about the first 100 numbers and their characters (prime monsters). All you need to know is how to multiply whole numbers together (like 2 and 3), and this book will put you well on your way to understanding factor trees, primes and composites, and how to find prime numbers. With imaginative monsters and colorful drawings, this would be a great book for homeschoolers and educators to have on hand to make factoring not-so-scary. (except for those weird-looking, colorful monsters, that is!)

I have always loved math and hope that my children will too. I firmly believe that good math learning requires creativity, to help learners understand the concepts rather than just memorize. This book is a fantastic way to do that with multiplication and factors (and probably a few other basic elements of math that I don't know enough to name) for an elementary school age onward. My bright 5 year old daughter loves this at the moment, although I thought when I first looked at it that it would be too advanced for her. She enjoys looking for the images of the prime monsters within the pictures of composite numbers and sorting out their relationships ("look Mommy the three is poking the two and he doesn't like it" on the 6 page) on the right side of the pages. On the left sides, she is counting dots, adding and starting to learn multiplication. As a concept. Wow! Factors and composite vs prime numbers are introduced but full understanding will come as she gets a little older. I'm buying this again as a birthday gift for my niece who is about to enter first grade.

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