



One Big Pair of Underwear

By Laura Gehl

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Count and share with...underwear! Come along on a zany adventure with hilarious pictures from the *New York Times* bestselling illustrator of *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*.

What's one thing that two bears, three yaks, four goats, and six cats have in common?

They *hate* to share.

But look out—here comes a pack of twenty pigs ready to prove that sharing makes everything twice as fun!

This seriously silly picture book with artwork by the *New York Times* bestselling illustrator of *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site* irresistibly combines the concepts of counting and sharing.

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One Big Pair of Underwear By Laura Gehl Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-K—The title of this book, combined with its cover illustration of two impish bears in a giant pair of underwear, hints at such a silly story that readers may be disappointed to find that it is, essentially, a counting book with a sharing theme. Two bears, three yaks, four seals, and so on all hate to share, and there is never enough of whatever they want to go around. Then 20 pigs come on the scene and demonstrate how to share 10 slides by going down two at a time, piggyback style. Gehl's sunny, rhyming text never misses a beat, and Lichtenheld's sprightly, silly pencil-and-digital-color illustrations are a perfect match.—Kathleen Kelly MacMillan, Carroll County Public Library, MD

Review

"Share and share alike! Gehl's debut picture-book text is a silly romp of a counting book with a lesson in sharing to boot. . . comical twists abound in Lichtenheld's illustrations, which more than hold their own against the text's goofy details. . . . A picture book to count on for delightful shared reading." (Kirkus Reviews, June 2014)

Though nominally about underwear, always an attention getter, Gehl's debut offers lessons in counting and cooperation. In each example, the number of desirable items ("FIVE flat mats") is too few for the animals that want them ("SIX fat cats"), and one leaves disappointed ("One fat cat thinks, Rats! Rats! Rats!"). Absurdity reigns. Five goats cannot apportion four jars of candy, nine ducks have only eight hockey sticks, and the underwear of the title is coveted by "TWO brown bears who hate to share." At last, 20 pigs demonstrate, albeit dangerously, that they all can use 10 playground slides at the same time, and the rest of the animals pool their resources too: "Goats and ducks share candy bars,/ hockey fun, and empty jars." Gehl's tongue-twisting rhymes bounce along winningly, and Lichtenheld (*This Is a Moose*) gamely pictures the silly activities, from water-skiing cows and scooter-riding seals to twin bears stuffed into a single pair of Y-fronts. This amusing tale of sharing eschews the preachy and relies on nonsense to get readers giggling. Ages 4–8. *Illustrator's agent: Amy Rennert, Amy Rennert Agency. (Sept.)* (Publishers Weekly, 6/30/14)

Share and share alike!

Gehl's debut picture-book text is a silly romp of a counting book with a lesson in sharing to boot. Its rhyming text opens with a giggle-inspiring dilemma: "ONE big pair of underwear. / TWO brown bears who hate to share. ONE bear wears the underwear. // ONE bear growls, 'That isn't fair!' " Ensuing pages display similarly silly conundrums: only two snacks for three yaks, just five pillows and mats for six sleepy cats, and so on. The only thing that these creatures seem to share is a case of the greedies. For every situation, the one who comes up short is less-than-pleased, with the excluded cat, for example, thinking "Rats! Rats! Rats!" as it inflates an air mattress (which has a hole in it). Such comical twists abound in Lichtenheld's illustrations, which more than hold their own against the text's goofy details and seem like they would translate well into animation. Ultimately, a group of 20 pigs amicably share just 10 playground slides, and seeing this, the bears are inspired to share their underwear, as depicted in the cover art. The other animals follow suit, and all's well that ends well—even if the text credits the underwear, rather than the (ironically) generous pigs, for inspiring the feel-good camaraderie at book's end.

A picture book to count on for delightful shared reading. (*Picture book 3-6*) (Kirkus Reviews, July 15, 2014)

"Gehl's debut offers lessons in counting and cooperation. . . . Absurdity reigns. . . . Gehl's tongue-twisting

rhymes bounce along winningly, and Lichtenheld (*This Is a Moose*) gamely pictures the silly activities, from water-skiing cows and scooter-riding seals to twin bears stuffed into a single pair of Y-fronts. This amusing tale of sharing eschews the preachy and relies on nonsense to get readers giggling." (Publishers Weekly, June 2014)

"Gehl's sunny, rhyming text never misses a beat, and Lichtenheld's sprightly, silly pencil-and-digital-color illustrations are a perfect match." (School Library Journal, August 2014)

The title of this book, combined with its cover illustration of two impish bears in a giant pair of underwear, hints at such a silly story that readers may be disappointed to find that it is, essentially, a counting book with a sharing theme. Two bears, three yaks, four seals, and so on all hate to share, and there is never enough of whatever they want to go around. Then 20 pigs come on the scene and demonstrate how to share 10 slides by going down two at a time, piggyback style. Gehl's sunny, rhyming text never misses a beat, and Lichtenheld's sprightly, silly pencil-and-digital-color illustrations are a perfect match. (School Library Journal September 2014)

Take one counting book, mix it with a comical tale of underwear-sharing, add some tongue-twisting rhymes, and soon there will be uncontrollable laughter. Two bears "who hate to share" fight over a single pair of tighty whities (leaving one bear bare). Next come three yaks...but there are only two bags of snacks. And so the pattern is established: desirable items (scooters, candy bars, jet skis, hockey sticks) are presented to a group of animals, but there's a catch: there are always more animals than there are items, leaving one animal upset. When twenty wily pigs figure out how to share ten playground slides, the bears reconsider the underwear-sharing, and all the animals figure out a way to make things fair for everyone. The rhymes follow familiar spelling patterns (including *-ack*, *-eal*, *-ar*, *-at*, *-ook*, and the nervous-making *-uck*), making this a perfect book for new readers (think *Hop on Pop*). The goofy situations are made even goofier through Lichtenheld's familiar and fabulous digitally colored pencil illustrations: it's hard to keep a straight face when cats are blowing up air mattresses or baboons are playing trombones. The final exuberant parade, and the quietly amusing endpapers, ensure that this will be a popular book for storyhours and independent reading alike. Who knew sharing could be so much fun? (Horn Book Sept/Oct 2014)

The word *underwear* is enough to make kids erupt in giggles. But when two bears contemplate sharing one pair of underwear, youngsters will be rolling in the aisles. Add rhymes, tongue twisters, and alliteration into the mix, and you'll find spirited entertainment in this picture-book introduction to basic concepts. A joy to read aloud with its well-paced rhythms, this counting book starts off with a series of scenarios that leaves one animal out of luck, because no one wants to share: "TWO small sacks of salty snacks. THREE young yaks with black backpacks. TWO yaks put snacks in their packs. ONE mad yak yelps, 'Where's my snack?'" After a seal loses out on a scooter ride, a cow misses a spin on a jet ski, and more injustices, the animals observe how 10 playground slides can accommodate 20 pigs. Recognizing that sharing can be fun, they decide to try it. Placed on crisp white backgrounds, the digitally colored pencil illustrations are full of charm and humor. With a unique method of introducing subtraction, this wholly engaging title will be requested over and over again. (Booklist, *STARRED REVIEW September 15, 2014)

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It may start like an ordinary, if underwear-themed, rhymed counting book, but when two brown bears ("who hate to share") battle over the titular briefs, one losing bear is left briefless and unhappy. Each time the number of things goes up ("TWO small sacks of salty snacks"), there's always one more critter ("THREE young yaks with black backpacks"), leaving one critter out ("ONE mad yak yelps, 'Where's my snack?"). One of the four seals goes without a scooter, one of the five greedy goats must go without a jar of candy bars, and so on. Finally, twenty pigs want a ride on "TEN tall, twisty playground slides" and happily (if illicitly) share by going piggyback so everybody can play at once; the sharing notion catches on, and now nobody's left out on candy bars, scooters, or underwear. It's a cunning concept that enlivens the standard counting book with a soupçon of subtraction and a touch of tongue-twisting in the tightly packed rhymes, and it brings some welcome comedy to the venerable but often unexciting topic of sharing. Lichtenheld's pencil and digital color illustrations are robust yet helter-skelter, with pages rife with motion lines and expressions cinematically exaggerated. The animals are neatly and countably arrayed in tidy tripartite layouts that are effectively counter-balanced with airy spot art. The figures are no dull clones, though: position, dress, and even commentary subtly distinguish them, and the poor excluded animals range from the thunderously angry to the melodramatically sad. The bounce of the verse will keep the interest even of youngsters not ready for the math, and kids who've progressed beyond basic counting books will be intrigued by the challenge and delighted by the comedy. (Bulletin, *STARRED REVIEW December 2014)

"[A] cunning concept that enlivens the standard counting book with a soupçon of subtraction and a touch of tongue-twisting in the tightly packed rhymes, and it brings some welcome comedy to the venerable but often unexciting topic of sharing. Lichtenheld's pencil and digital color illustrations are robust yet helter-skelter, with pages rife with motion lines and expressions cinematically exaggerated. The animals are neatly and countably arrayed in tidy tripartite layouts that are effectively counter-balanced with airy spot art. The figures are no dull clones, though: position, dress, and even commentary subtly distinguish them, and the poor excluded animals range from the thunderously angry to the melodramatically sad. The bounce of the verse will keep the interest even of youngsters not ready for the math, and kids who've progressed beyond basic counting books will be intrigued by the challenge and delighted by the comedy."

11/10/14 03:06:05 PM (Bulletin, Starred Review December 2014)

What a great, silly picture book full of numbers, rhymes, and the concept of sharing! This book is about zany, hilarious animal adventures ranging from bears in underwear, to seals on wheels, to five cats that like to nap. It is easy to imagine a primary-aged child reading this book with enthusiasm and rhythm. The author even adds a bit of adult humor, which makes it all the better. The illustrations are simple, silly, and simply adorable. The characteristics and detail bring the text to life and leave any reader smiling. The illustrator's artwork brings a lesson to each page, making it fun to teach numbers, life-lessons, and words that rhyme. This hilarious counting book is a light read that everyone can share! (Library Media Connection March/April 2015)

About the Author

Laura Gehl makes her picture book debut with *One Big Pair of Underwear*. She lives with her husband and their four kids in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Visit her online at LauraGehl.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Raymond Phillips:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is definitely One Big Pair of Underwear.

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Jeffrey Drake:

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