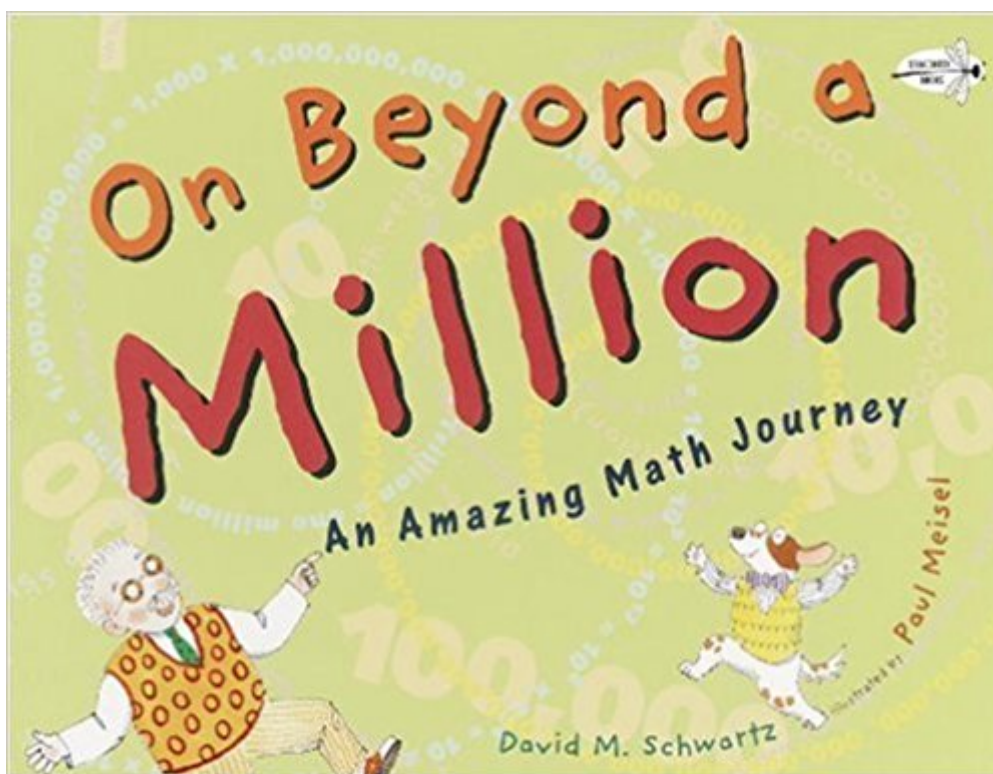


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# On Beyond A Million: An Amazing Math Journey



## Synopsis

Professor X and his dog, Y, teach kids how to count exponentially by powers of 10 (1, 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, etc.), beginning at 1 and working all the way up to a googol (a 1 followed by 100 zeros) and beyond. Children fascinated by large numbers will be amazed how quickly they can count to really BIG numbers, and they'll also find answers to questions like "What comes after a trillion?" or "What's the biggest number in the world?" Real-life examples provide plenty of fun facts, such as how much popcorn Americans eat in one year, or how many hairs are on a square inch of a person's head. Along with the fun comes some powerful learning, as this unique counting book helps kids understand our number system, which is based on multiples of 10.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (November 13, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440411777

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.1 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #67,850 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Science & Math >

Mathematics > Number Systems #166 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic

Concepts > Counting #334 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

This "math journey" progresses exponentially as kids try to keep up with the yield of an out-of-control popcorn machine. Professor X teaches them to count by powers of 10, demonstrating up to a googol (10<sup>100</sup>) and beyond, as the kids provide a running commentary. While they don't seem much closer to knowing how many kernels of popcorn they have, they do learn a lot of big numbers and entertain each other with such nonsense names as "splendillion" and "elephantillion." Schwartz (Magic of a Million Activity Book) originally used bags of popcorn to demonstrate powers

of 10 in school presentations. However, here the hands-on technique of counting the kernels is never explained; the value of the popcorn example is less clear in book form. Sidebars rattle off numerical trivia, adding zeros on every spread (e.g., "One little brown bat can snap up 600 mosquitoes per hour

Grade 2-4-Schwartz helps youngsters conceptualize enormous numbers by introducing them to counting by powers of ten. Professor X, along with his dog Y, comes to the rescue of some children with an out-of-control popcorn popper as they futilely attempt to count the kernels. The Professor begins to "power count," rapidly reaching large numbers through the addition of zeros. The scenes change as the Professor counts from 1 to 10 to 100 to 1,000, from a camp out in the woods, to the seashore, rain forest, north pole. All the while, the children echo his explanations of the counting process. Each double-page spread is illustrated with watercolors in lively cartoon fashion with lots of detail. Sidebars include one section where Y shows how exponents can be manipulated, and another section entitled "Did You Know?" The factoids presented show the prevalence of things in large number: "Every day 37,000,000 (thirty-seven million) Tootsie Rolls come rolling out of the factory." Yet, they bear no relationship to power counting, and may even serve as a distraction. And while the children do reach large numbers counting this way, they never actually count the popcorn. Also, exponents are generally not introduced until fifth or sixth grade, where this picture book will have less appeal. However, for the most part it works as an introduction to the subject, and fans of Schwartz's *How Much Is a Million* (1985) and *If You Made a Million* (1989, both Lothrop) will probably enjoy it. Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

*On Beyond a Million* is fantastic. I shared it with my third grade class as part of a lesson about big numbers (and a pre-pre-introduction to the basis of scientific notation, although I didn't take it that far with the kids). The book calls counting by powers of ten "power counting" and that was quite adequate for 9 year olds! The book is well written, full of fun illustrations, and presents the concept of big numbers and "power counting" in a way that third graders found highly engaging. I have to admit, however, the book also enabled me a greater understanding of what really big numbers are all about... and there's not a google of anything, by the way :) *On Beyond a Million* also includes a number of interesting # facts (e.g. how much rain forest is destroyed every minute, number of mosquitoes a little brown bat eats, and how many hairs on a square inch of a human head) that get bigger as larger powers of ten are introduced page by page. After reading this book to/with the class

I showed them Ray and Charles Eames' "Powers of Ten." The book gave meaning to large numbers and what adding a power of ten does and was a perfect intro for the film. I've also taught 5th and 6th grade and am confident the book would interest just about any audience. I loved it!

Great book to use to teach place value.

David M. Schwartz has such a unique grasp on how to explain numbers and concepts to kids. Perfect for 1st to 4th but enjoyed by all!

My son loves numbers and frequently asks questions about large numbers "What is bigger than googol?" I wasn't sure if he would be able to follow everything but he really enjoyed the writing style of the book which was very story-like. He understood it and really enjoyed some of things he learned (like, there is no such number as a zillion). Great for G/T youngsters who can read and like math and great for kids of all ages!

This is a good book for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. The illustrations help keep the children's attention. It would definitely be good for an inclusion class.

This book does a great job of explaining exponents in a fun way. As long as they understand the concepts of place value & multiplication, they can understand exponents. It is a fun read, even if they aren't quite ready for exponents yet. It is just plain fun to hear some of the unusual names for really big numbers. Sometimes it is a little hard to decide which part to read next, since there are short extra facts on every page & the story is all broken up into speech bubbles. I would have found this book helpful in middle school to understand exponents, but my child understood them before our curriculum expected her to understand multiplication! (Granted, our family DOES love to talk about math, so we were already ahead of the curriculum. This was just one of the books we got out of the library to read for fun & get familiar with math terms. You should have seen the excitement when it was opened for Christmas!)

My nine-year-old enjoyed having me read this book to him, though it was not nearly as compelling as some other math books we've read for fun, such as Math Trek or The Number Devil. I liked his getting a better picture of the real meanings of big numbers, since he'd had a lamentable tendency to use the words for large numbers, such as "million", "billion", and "trillion", interchangeably. My

five-year-old enjoyed the pictures, though he really did not get the concepts.

On Beyond a Million is my sons favorite math storybook. Since reading this book, I hear them using the words google and googleplex in conversations with each other. They are young (ages 5 and 7), so I don't think they understood all of it, but my seven year old figured out exponents from the book, and now he can do exponents on his own. It introduced more advanced math concepts in a fun way.

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