



1+1=5 and Other Unlikely Additions

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How much is 1+1? Think the answer is 2? Not always, as this playful approach to addition proves! David LaRochelle takes children on a joyful mathematical journey that will engage their minds and teach them to think about numbers in a creative, outside-the-box way.

Brenda Sexton's wild and wacky illustrations add layers of witty fun to LaRochelle's clever game.

These wacky equations don't add up...or DO THEY?

1 goat + 1 unicorn = 3 horns!

1 set of triplets + 1 set of twins = 5 babies!

1 duet + 1 quartet = 6 musicians!

1 ant + 1 spider = 14 legs!

1 century + 1 decade = 110 years!

1+1=5 and Other Unlikely Additions Details

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Author : David LaRochelle , Brenda Sexton (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review 1+1=5 and Other Unlikely Additions for online ebook

Claire Macugay says

I chose to give this one five stars because I am a great fan of wit, and this is a very witty book, indeed. I may be stretching this, but this book has a bit of math, science and music in it. I didn't say it incorporated much music but the book does teach us that duets have two members and quartets have four. It also shows us that ants have 6 legs, spiders have 8, octopus have 8 arms, starfish have 5, and that snakes and worms have neither arms nor legs. All the while exercising addition skills!

Scotlyn Carpenter says

This book is so much fun! I feel like most adults would get annoyed with it because it is teaching children the wrong answers for simple addition problems. However, I look at it as a chance for kids to be creative and use their minds in ways they wouldn't normally use them throughout the day. Most of the time I am entertained for long periods of time when I am doing something that challenges my brain and causes me to think outside the box. Sometimes, books like this are what get children to perform better or have better behavior, especially in a classroom setting, because they feel like they have control over their learning. This is the type of book where children can make guesses but they don't get judged or feel inadequate if they guess wrong. It gives them an opportunity to learn how to look at problems from all different viewpoints.

Jessie says

I found this book through #unitchat. It's fun for thinking about units, different quantities, and the question "How many?" I can see this prompting a lot of interesting conversations.

Each addition takes two pages. The first page poses the addition as a question, such as "1+1=3?" The second then provides an explanation, like "1 unicorn + 1 goat = 3 horns." Most of the explanations are guessable, even if they're difficult. However, there are a few for which the illustration on the first page hides the information necessary to make a guess (like the one that hides how many babies are in the crib). Those seemed far less useful/productive to me than the guessable ones.

There were also a couple of additions that I didn't like. 1 a.m. + 1 p.m. = 1 day was my least favorite, I think.

Stephanie Crowther says

This book frustrated me. While the idea was cute, it is not something I would want young students to read in the classroom. It seems to present the idea that anything can be added, regardless of what the things are. This is not true. Addition requires like terms, and when you add, the sum will be a number of the same things you added. When you add 3 apples and 5 oranges, you don't get 8 apple-oranges. Some would argue that you could change the unit to fruit, since apples and oranges are both fruit, but that requires an exchange. This book does not clearly define or show how exchanges are made, and I think it makes it confusing to kids what

can and can't be added as well as what units you end up with when you add. Perhaps it would be a fun thinking activity for older students who already understand correct principles of addition, but I would still be skeptical.

Jessica says

I really enjoyed this book but I don't think that it made a very good math book. That being said, it is an extremely clever idea and really causes the reader to think. The first couple problems are hardest because you're trying to think like they do but by the end, it's easier to understand. The illustrations in this book are essential to figuring out the problems. They are drawn in a style that lends itself well to what they are trying to accomplish. This is not a book that should be read with children that don't have a solid grasp of addition. I do think, however, that older children will love it. I know that I did.

Allison says

This book puts a fun twist on the equation of $1+1$ which you would automatically assume the answer is 2. LaRochelle shows you how the answer isn't always necessarily just that, like adding one triangle plus one square= seven sides. Or adding one a.m. with one p.m. = one day. This is a witty and silly book, but it has educational value, forcing kids to think outside of the box. The answer to the equation is given, and then on the next page is provides you with the answer.

This book is appropriate for ages 5+

I think this would be fun to utilize in a classroom setting, reading it aloud to the class to have them guess what the unlikely addition might be, discussing it afterwards and then having kids come up with some of their own by drawing them out.

Natalie Sapkarov Harvey says

Didn't love it as much as others. I love the concept of finding ways when $1+1$ is more than two, especially in grouping situations, but I think the illustrations are too busy for it to happen in a meaningful and understandable way in this book. Also, I think it would have worked better if there was a consistent theme throughout - like just focusing on feet. But I don't teach math to the little ones, so what do I know?

Darshana Khiani (Flowering Minds) says

Kids will love this wacky, creative, math/counting book. Even though my kids know the answers by heart now, they still enjoy the questions. Each right page has a " $1+1$ " question and illustration which give the reader a hint. When you flip the page you get the full context and picture, explaining the equation. My three year old likes to count on the answer page, whereas my 5 year old will read the answer.

I wouldn't consider it a math book for teaching, but it is loads of fun. Some of the pages do introduce

vocabulary such as quartet, century, and duet. The simple, colorful, and silly illustrations support the author's game well. Check this book out, read it with your kid, and see what new wacky equations you can come up with.

[Click here for the original review at Flowering Minds.](#)

Jo Oehrlein says

This book is all about the statement that Units Matter!
1+1 only equals 2 if they have the same units.

It's not really a counting book, but it is a way to get people thinking beyond the rote number sentences to see if things make sense.

Sydney says

I know this book gets a lot of bad rep but I thought it was challenging in a good way. I dislike math strongly. Addition isn't hard for my age but for young kids it can be. This book can be confusing with what it is asking but I like that it forces the reader to pay attention to detail and think outside of the box. Isn't that what learning is all about? I wouldn't read it to anyone below third grade because it would just get confusing but it could be fun to see students think their way through this.

Dolly says

When does $1 + 1$ not equal 2? You'll have to read this book to find out! It's a fun book to read together and with the question on one side and the answer on the back of the page, the book offers a great opportunity for children to practice making educated guesses. The illustrations are cartoonish and colorful and the critters really remind me of the website www.kneebouncers.com - a site our girls just loved to play on when they were itty bitty. We really enjoyed reading this book together.

Alyssa says

I thought that this book was a fun read however I couldn't help but think about how confusing it was. I understand it but i'm not sure at what age a teacher or parent would read this book to their children. I am going to guess third or fourth grade. For children who know their basic math factors enough to the point where they can read this book and still know that outside of the book $1+1=2$. I did like how this book makes a person think and try to get them to think outside of the box. I think every teacher and parent should be finding different things that helps their children do this and this book could be great for some children. I also thought it was an all around cute book. The illustrations are nice and I liked the fact that they use something on the page to give the answer to that specific math equation. I think that this could be a great edition to an elementary school teachers bookshelf however it would ahve to developmentally appropriate for the children and the children should learn beforehand that in math class is you write this on the test $1+1=5$ it is not correct.

Becky Loader says

These are so clever! I love math, and I got several ideas on how to read this to my neighborhood kids.

Beverly says

Clever!

Kristen says

I like the divergent thinking here - $1 + 1 = 5$ when 1 set of twins + 1 set of triplets = 5 babies. With each page turn, kids have to think about what 2 groups of some things could add up to a certain number. Most are pretty tough to guess: 1 duet + 1 quartet = 6 musicians. But it's a fun challenge for kids to then think of their own 1 + 1 groups. This could be fun to read with "One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab: a counting by Feet book" by April Pulley Sayre, Jeff Sayre, and Randy Cecil, or "This Plus That" by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Jen Corace.
