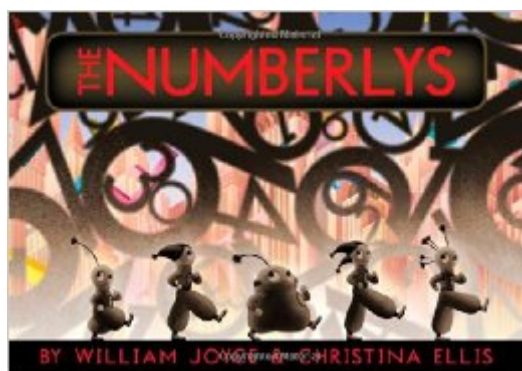


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# The Numberlys



## Synopsis

From the team who brought you *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* comes an alphabet tale extraordinaire! Once upon a time there was no alphabet, only numbers. Life was fine. Orderly. Dull as gray paint. Very numberly. But our five jaunty heroes weren't willing to accept that this was all there could be. They knew there had to be more. So they broke out hard hats and welders, hammers and glue guns, and they started knocking some numbers together. Removing a piece here. Adding a piece there. At first, it was awful. But the five kept at it, and soon it was artful! One letter after another emerged, until there were twenty-six. Twenty-six letters and they were beautiful. All colorful, shiny, and new. Exactly what our heroes didn't even know they were missing. And when the letters entered the world, something truly wondrous began to happen! Pizza! Jelly beans! Color! Books! Based on the award-winning app, this is William Joyce and Moonbot's Metropolis-inspired homage to everyone who knows there is more to life than shades of black and gray.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD510L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (May 27, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442473436

ISBN-13: 978-1442473430

Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #59,285 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Words](#) #99 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Alphabet](#) #172 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Counting](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

My four-year-old daughter loves this book, and so do I. It is beautifully illustrated and really captures the imagination. At first I saw that it was all about numbers and letters and I thought she'd be too old

for it, honestly. She's known all her letters and numbers for a long time, so we're long past the books that are just about introducing the letters of the alphabet. But this is a delightful story that touches on all kinds of fascinating questions: language, maintaining order, choosing to do something different from everyone else, finding patterns. After a couple of reads of the book my daughter started pointing out patterns that look like letters and numbers (on quilts, or on the sidewalk), like she was really processing what it means that letters and numbers are made up of certain common patterns. This is a delightful book I expect we'll enjoy for years to come. I've been telling everyone I can about what a great book this is.

I love the unique idea behind this book, but it's not really for small children, and there isn't much to actually read in it. Most of the book is meant to be read vertically, which it makes story time logistics a bit difficult when you are holding a child in your lap. I think the pictures would be more appealing for older kids, but what little story there is would be better for toddlers. It's an odd book, but overall, I am glad that I got it for my little guy.

Review: 4 out of 5 stars  
What first caught our attention when we received this book was the beautifully detailed cover, Miss 7 loved removing the sheer overlay covering to check out the hard cover below; it was quite unique. The next thing we noticed was we had to flip the book around so that it was lengthwise to read which was a little awkward when tiny miss 7 was holding the book, it became a bit awkward. The book goes from black and white muted tones to full vibrant colour by the end of the book, we really enjoyed this aspect. The book started off with only numbers existing in a world that was dull and bland, letters don't exist so numbers 1-5 gathered to create letters; it was educational and enjoyable but Miss 7 did point out the importance of numbers in our world as well. The illustrations tell a story themselves, they are amazing. The moral of the story to make change for improvement was done very well and my little people found the changes entertaining; they loved the way the alphabet and words came about. The Numberly's was a wonderful experience, we really enjoyed this book and appreciate the opportunity to read and review it. Thank you to Simon & Schuster Australia for providing us with a copy.

Really interesting little book. William Joyce is a unique writer and that IS a good thing. This is a "thinker" book and can be read many times without boredom. Will be looking for more by this author

What a fun way of being able to not only share the beginning of letters and words but how you can come together to make something great. What William Joyce and Christina Ellis have done is show that even though things might appear to be boring and dull doesn't mean it has to stay that way. We see that there are those that can have a great idea and work together to bring that idea to life. That is what happens with the Numberlys---5 of them thought there could be more in life, and because of that they were able to change the world for the better.

First off let me say that when I got this book in the mail I went to total mush over the cover (you all know how I love a good cover), I adore the illustrations but love LOVE how the cover has depth and dimension to it. Using a transparent jacket over the hard cover gives it an almost 3D like feel to it. I have to admit that I love keeping the cover jacket slightly off center so I get the full affect. Also I should note that William Joyce is one of my all time favorite Children's Authors and I think that every home with or without children in it should have at least one William Joyce book. :-)

The Numberlys starts off in a grey dystopian world, where everyday is the same dull day. "But there weren't any books or colors or jellybeans or pizza. Only 00267, which was thick and gray and gloopy, and 00268 which was thicker and grayer and , well.....gloopier." and then 5 friends get an idea, an idea that maybe somehow they can make things better, but how and with that the adventure begins. I adore the illustrations, the characters are so full of whimsy and joy. William Joyce could tell an entire story with through only his pictures. Although at first I was thrown off by the book being read vertically (just wasn't expecting that when I turned the first page, haha) neither my daughter or myself were bothered by that or that on some pages you had to turn the book. In fact there is no way the world that William Joyce created could have had the same impact if the book had been drawn horizontally and it is a bit of a poke at the dull gray of the Numberly's world, it's a bit of unusual in what is supposed to be a boring and typical place. See Full Review

Here: <http://readsallthebooks.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-numberlys-mom-monday-review.html>

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