



Counting cabbages

Penelope Smith
Magriet Brink



Mama K has been harvesting cabbages all week. Doobie, Maya and Duksie help Mama K in her vegetable garden on Saturday mornings.

Today the children are going to help with counting and packing the cabbages. Then Baba K will take boxes of cabbages to sell at the market.

Learning questions:
Do you have a vegetable garden / Would you like one?
What would/do you plant there?



The taxi drops off the children at the garden gate. They can see the huge heap of cabbages piled up near Baba K's old truck.

"Yo! What a lot of cabbages!" says Maya pointing. "There must be a thousand cabbages there!" laughs Duksie. "No way! Two hundred at the most!" disagrees Doobie.

Learning questions:
Which guess do you think was more accurate, 200 or 1000 and why?



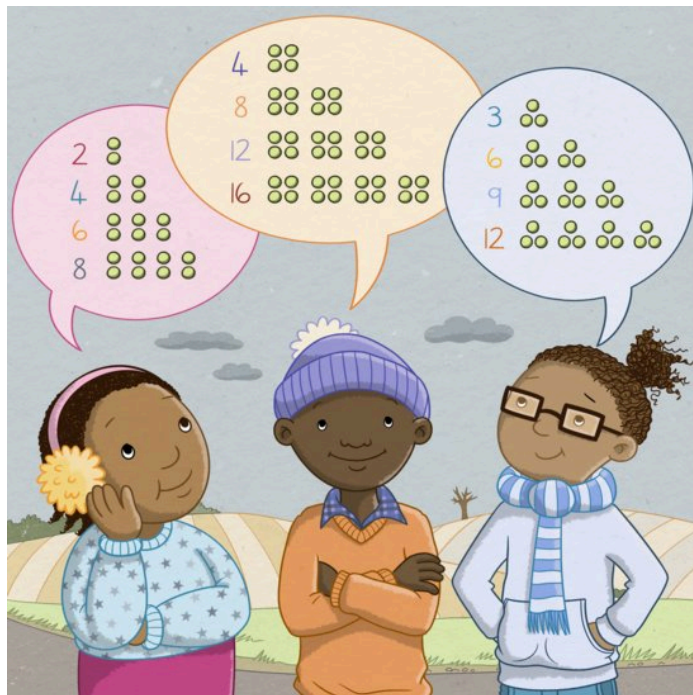
Mama K is waiting at the gate. "Hello everyone, I'm happy to see you!" she greets the children.

"Now let's get to work. You'll need to count the cabbages and put them into boxes, 12 cabbages in each box. I have 20 boxes. Two of you can each pack 7 boxes and one of you can pack 6 boxes."

Learning questions:

Can you add $6+6+7$ or what about $2 \times 6 + 7$ is it the same?

If there is 20 boxes of 12 can we work out how many cabbages there are?



The children stand around the pile of cabbages. They talk about different ways to count the cabbages.

"I think I will count mine in 2s," Maya says. "I like counting in 4s," says Duksie, "it's quicker."

"I'm going to count in 3s, just to be different!" pipes up Doobie.

Learning questions:
Let's count together, in 2's, 4's, and 3's?
How high can you count?



Soon the children have filled 20 boxes. "Good work!" exclaims Mama K. "Look, there are some cabbages left over. My pigs love cabbages so let's share these with them," she suggests.

"How many cabbages did you pack into boxes? How many cabbages were left over?" she asks the children.

Learning questions:
Can you count how many cabbages are left over?



The next job is to write the price on each box and then help Baba K load the boxes on his truck.

They must put half the boxes on one side of the truck and half on the other side, to balance the load.

Learning questions:
Can you work out how many boxes would be on each side?
What is half of 20?



"We're almost done!" says Baba K.
"Let's see, how many more boxes we must still put on each side to balance the load?"

Learning questions:
How many boxes are needed on each side to balance the load?



Soon all 20 boxes are loaded onto the truck. Baba K warms up the engine and drives off to market.

"If I can sell all the boxes," he thinks to himself, "I'll have enough money to fix the pig pen and get a surprise for the children!"

Learning questions:
Have you ever been to a vegetable market?
Do you think Baba K will sell all the cabbages?



Back at the farm, Mama K and the children water plants and rake leaves. By twelve o'clock they are all tired.

Mama K tells them, "It's time for your treat. Can you guess what I have for you today?"

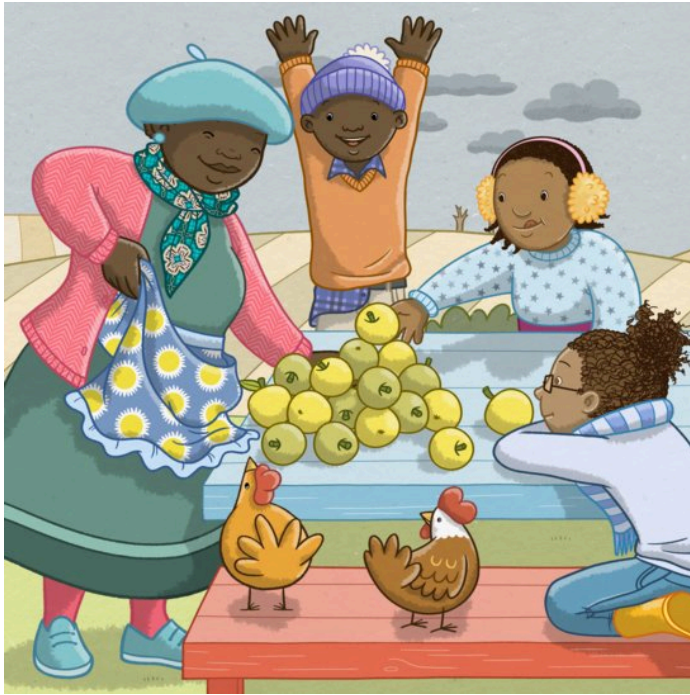
Learning questions:
Do you help your family with chores?
What type of treat would you like / what do you normally get?



She goes inside to fetch their surprise. The children wait patiently for her to return while they guess what she might bring them.

When she comes down the path her apron pockets are bulging!

Learning questions:
Can you guess what Mama K has in her pockets?

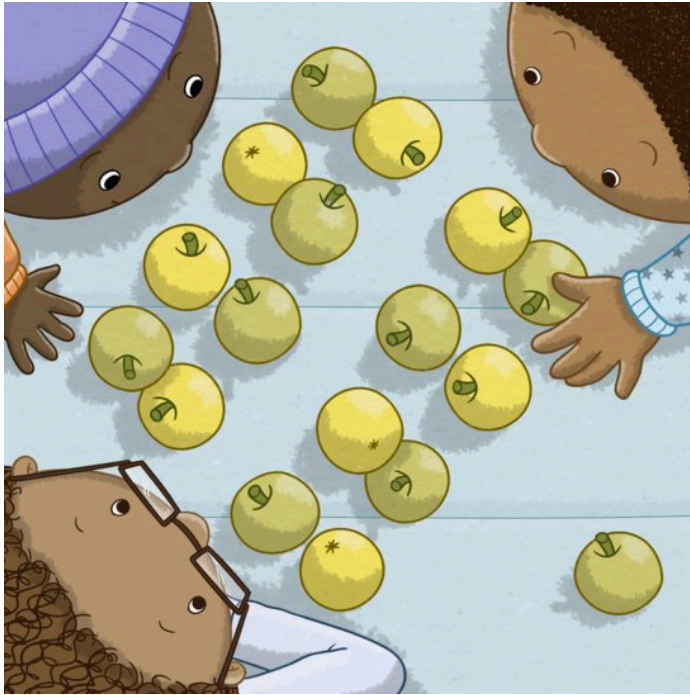


"Let's see if you guessed right! What's in store for you today?" Mama K tips out her apron pockets and apples fall onto the table.

"See, I was right!" Duksie squeals.

Mama K tells the children, "Now remember the rule. Share fair! No one to get more or less than the other!"

Learning questions:
Do you always share fair with your friends and siblings?
Why is it important to share?



First the children count the apples in 2s.

They count: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 1 apple left over. Altogether there are 17 apples.

Learning questions:
Can you count to 17 in 3s?
How many are left over?



Next, they share out the apples equally. There are 2 apples left over.

The children then put their apples in their bags to take home. How many does each child get?

Learning questions:
Did you guess right?
How many did they get?



"Let's cut the 2 apples to share between us," suggests Duksie.

"How many parts of the apple will we each get?" asks Maya.

"I know the answer!" smiles Doobie.

Learning questions:
How many pieces should they cut the apples in?
Can you work out what is $\frac{1}{3} \times 2$?



Just then Baba K arrives home from market. The truck is empty and Baba K is smiling.

"I sold all the cabbages. Now I can fix the pig pen and buy you that soccer ball you wanted.

"Yay!" shout the children."

Extended question:
Baba K sold how many boxes at what price?
Can you work out how much he made?