

Three

Author/Illustrator:
Stephen Michael King

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Synopsis

One, two, three . . . Every day was a hop and a skip for Three. He was happy to walk from here to there, wherever his nose led, or wherever his legs took him . . . all the way to new friends.

Author Bio

who is Stephen?

I grew up like most children, apart from the fact that I had hearing loss. It made school a little difficult, but hearing loss opened my eyes to observing the world. I loved to draw and make things: scissors, sticky tape, glue, paper and pens were my preferred tools of communication; and story books were my window into language.

I knew deep within myself there was nothing else for me to be.
I loved art.

I loved books.

When I became an adult not much changed and my childish ways and curious meanderings led me to work for Walt Disney, design puppets for TV, have touring theatre companies create shows based on my stories, and in just over twenty years has led me to create more than eighty illustrated books.

My books are sold throughout the world. One day soon I'd love to visit all the countries where my books are published, but for now I happily live on the east coast of Australia, on an island, in a mud brick house. My studio sits on a windy hill surrounded by bush and pasture land, and I like nothing better than walking barefoot to and from work each day.

I share my life with my wife, two children and our three rescue dogs. Everyday is spent meandering between house and studio, painting pictures, writing stories and designing books. Inbetween creative moments, I love to build wiggly stone walls, walk on the beach, nap on the couch and enjoy the company of family and friends. The time I spend in my studio is where any hint of adult logic stops and my trusted intuition takes over.

I like nothing better than watching a small idea grow into its own place – a place beyond my original imaginings.



Curriculum Links

English Foundation

- ACELA1430** Understand that texts can take many forms, can be very short (for example an exit sign) or quite long (for example an information book or a film) and that stories and informative texts have different purposes
- ACELT1575** Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences
- ACELT1783** Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts

English Year One

- ACELT1582** Discuss characters and events in a range of literary texts and share personal responses to these texts, making connections with students' own experiences
- ACELT1584** Discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts.
- ACELY1660** Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning about key events, ideas and information in texts that they listen to, view and read by drawing on growing knowledge of context, text structures and language features.

Health and Physical Education: Personal, Social and Community Health

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing

Foundation

- ACPPS004** Practise personal and social skills to interact positively with others
- ACPPS005** Identify and describe emotional responses people may experience in different situations

Year 1

- ACPPS019** Describe ways to include others to make them feel they belong
- ACPPS024** Recognise similarities and differences in individuals and groups, and explore how these are celebrated and respected

Themes

- Friendship
- Acceptance
- Differences
- Home
- Pets
- Dogs

Pre Reading

Show the cover of **THREE** to your students, reading the name of the book out loud, and ask the following:

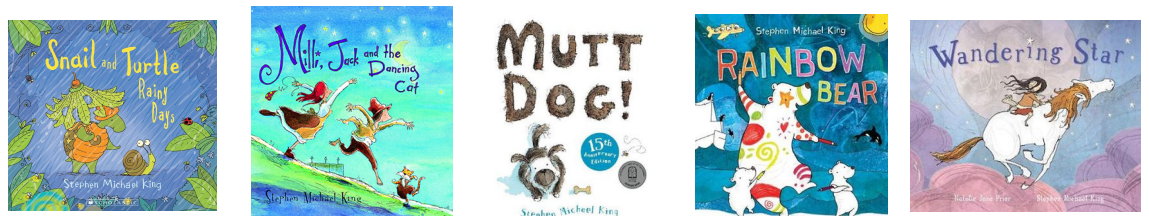
- Identify the name on the front of the book.
- Lots of books have two names on the front, the author and the illustrator. This book has only one name, What does that mean?
- There is a dog on the cover. Do you think he might have something to do with the title of the book, Three?
- Apart from the dog, what else can you see on the cover?
- What does this tell us about where the story might be set?

Now turn the cover over and show the back of the book to your students, reading out loud what the book will be about.

Does the image of Three and the girl, give you more clues about what the story might be about?

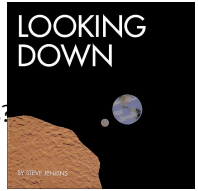
Have some other books written and/or illustrated by Stephen Michael King.

Read those and compare the stories. How are they the same? How are they different?



Discussion Questions

There's an aerial view, sometimes called a Birds Eye view. Why do you think it is called this?
 There was an aerial view in one of the books Stephen Michael King illustrated.
 Do you remember which book? (Wandering Star)
 Can you think of any other stories that have a birds eye view?

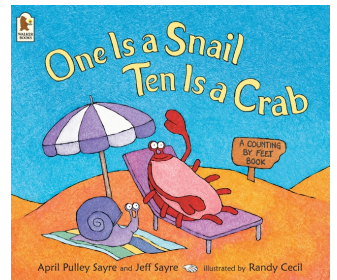


Follow the dotted red line on the aerial view page in this story, to see where Three went.
 There are a lot of buildings that Three passes. Can you tell by the pictures what the buildings are?
 Or can you guess? Shops/Offices/Apartments

As Three moves out of the city the landscape changes. How does it change?
 What sorts of things might you see in the country that you wouldn't see in a city?

Three meets six legs and eight legs in the city.
 What kinds of creatures have:
 Six legs?
 Eight legs?

Three also talks about the 'two legs'
 What are the 'two legs'?
 Another good book about animal legs/feet is:
 One Is A Snail, Ten Is A Crab



When Three makes his way to the country, he sees all sorts of new animals.

- A four leg with two spikes on its head – Cow
- A winged two leg that laid eggs – Chicken
- A pink four leg that snorted – pig
- A little something that had two big ears and two big feet – rabbit
- A Hopping four legs - frog
- Flying six legs – butterfly/ladybug/dragonfly
- A sliding no legs - snail

Your turn

Using the same idea as the author. Choose an animal to describe.

Using:

- Number of legs
- Something unique about it: features or sounds it makes.

Depending on the age of your class this could be a class activity or an individual activity.

If it's an individual activity, try and give each student a different animal. Then each child can read out their description and the rest of the class can guess what it is?

Example:

- A giant grey four leg with a long nose - elephant
- A slithery no legs – snake

Health and Physical Education: Personal, Social and Community Health

- Dogs normally have 4 legs.
- So Three could be sad or angry because he only has three legs. Is Three angry or sad?
- How would you describe Three's attitude/feelings? Write the words on the board.
- ? Happy/Content /Grateful/Thankful

- As a class talk about each of these feelings.
- Talk about what makes you happy/content/grateful/thankful etc...
- Talk about always finding the good in something. As we mentioned Three could be a very sad, grumpy dog, but he chooses not to be. What can we do to make us feel positive/happy about life?