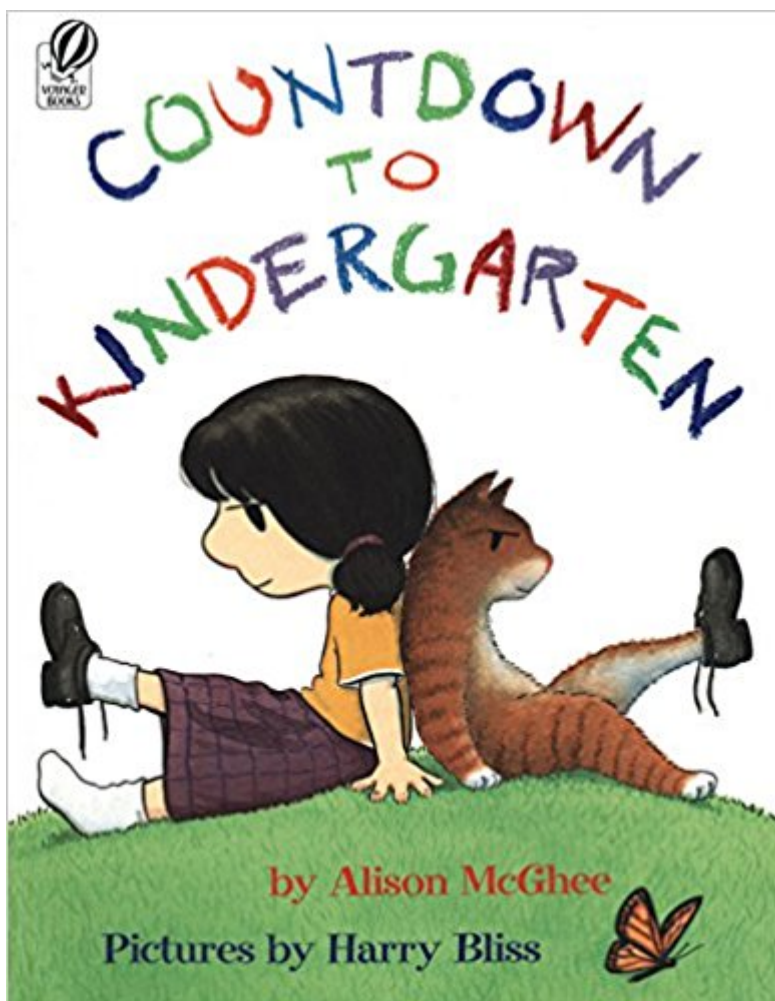


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# Countdown To Kindergarten



## Synopsis

It's just ten days before kindergarten, and this little girl has heard all there is to know--from a first grader--about what it's going to be like. You can't bring your cat, you can't bring a stuffed animal, and the number one rule? You can't ask anyone for help. Ever. So what do you do when your shoes come untied, if you're the only one in the class who doesn't know how to tie them up again? Told with gentle humor by Alison McGhee and brought to exuberant life by New Yorker cartoonist Harry Bliss, this lighthearted take on pre-kindergarten anxiety will bring a smile to the face of every child--and parent--having first-day jitters.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 490 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (July 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 015205586X

ISBN-13: 978-0152055868

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #68,380 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > First Day of School](#) #318 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#) #643 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Ten days before kindergarten starts, a dark-haired girl wakes up in a panic. "I've heard from a first grader that they have a lot of rules there," she confides, locking eyes with the audience. "You have to know how to tie your shoes. By yourself." Days nine, eight, seven and so on bring various shoelace disasters. The girl tangles the laces around her cat by accident; she drenches them with syrup on purpose. At dinner, her father jokes, "How's your bowl of shoelaces I mean spaghetti?" If all the girl's fears are for naught, at least they provide her with a conversation opener: at

kindergarten, she commiserates with one, then two, then three new friends who can't tie their shoes either. In this witty children's debut, novelist McGhee (Rainlight) combines a puckishly structured counting book like Peggy Rathmann's *Ten Minutes Till Bedtime* with an amiable exploration of new-school anxiety. *Bliss (Which Would You Rather Be?)* makes skillful use of voice bubbles and cartoon gestures, surrounding the narrator with a teddy bear, a rag doll and a sympathetic, precocious tabby that recalls the bookish dog he created for *A Fine, Fine School*. Subtle details surface with every rereading. Ages 3-7. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PreSchool-Grade 3  
In this bibliotherapeutic book written by Alison McGhee and illustrated by Harry Bliss (Harcourt, 2002), a five-year-old girl struggles with her fears in the ten days leading up to her first day of kindergarten. She channels her fears through the anxiety caused by her inability to tie her shoe laces, a requirement for kindergarten. As the first day of school approaches, the young heroine grows increasingly dramatic as her last-ditch efforts to learn to tie or rid herself of the offending shoes are thwarted. The narration by Rachael Lillis is well paced and appropriately bouncy and childlike. Much of the story is told in thought balloons and included in the illustrations, potentially creating an uneven narrative flow, but the sound effects and varying voices help keep the story moving along with minimal confusion. One track of the recording has page-turn chimes and the other is straight narration. This pleasant package could help youngsters heading off to kindergarten face their first-day fears  
Jennifer Iserman, Dakota County Library, Burnhaven Branch, Burnshide, MN Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I would never read this to my child or any child. The writing and illustrations are negative and would make any child afraid of kindergarten. Ridiculous!

Another great one to read to kinders, preferably on a meet the teacher night. It will help them get ready for school.

My 5 yr old granddaughter loved this book. I believe it helped to quell any fears she had about her 1st day of school. It relates to a fear (of not knowing how to tie my shoes) and how "you aren't supposed to ask for help"...and makes the child realize that all of the children are in the same boat and will need help with several things until they can master it themselves. As a mental health

professional, I was concerned about some of the reviews (it scared my child) until I received the book. It provides a great opportunity for the parent/grandparent to share some of their first day of school concerns from yesteryear. I recommend this book. I would suggest that the parent read it first and then read with the child and have some dialog about it. Starting Kindergarten is scary, no matter what the child says...and they will need some support and reassurance that they will be fine.

Perfect book for little ones entering Kindergarten. My boys loved it.

Grandson started kindergarten. Lived it!

Highly recommend this for any child going into kindergarten. Clever, well-written, and put my daughter's mind at ease.

The book serves its purpose. It takes a bit to resolve, but eventually does. My daughter seemed to like it.

Very good book. Cute and funny little story!

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