This is the published version:


Available from Deakin Research Online:

http://hdl.handle.net/10536/DRO/DU:30062193

Reproduced with the kind permission of the copyright owner.

Copyright : 2011, Resource Links
SCHWARTZ, Joanne

City Numbers

This book follows on the success of City Alphabet (a Quill & Quire Book of the Year in 2009), with Toronto children’s librarian Joanne Schwartz once again joining photographer Matt Beam to explore urban spaces.

Matt Beam’s photos of numbers in the city demonstrate their importance and pervasiveness in urban landscapes. Ranging from 89¢ to 18kg, numbers appear on garbage cans, plastic bags, shop windows, and traffic lights. Each double-page spread is comprised of a white page on the left featuring the number and its description in words, accompanied by a brief description of the photo on the facing page that depicts the number. The symmetry of the pages is achieved by having each number on the left showing portions of the photo on the right.

Joanne Schwartz’s descriptions answer the question of where these numbers come from. 2.5%, for example, is made of neon tubing, hung behind glass, and appears in a loan-office window. The book covers numbers from 0 to 20, but also includes fractions (1/2), ordinals (2nd), and prices ($7.99, the price per pound). It concludes with a photo of a bar code found on the bottom of a box.

City Numbers is not a regular counting book, but will be enjoyed by city lovers of all ages.

Thematic Links: City, Numbers, Photography

Kristine Moruzi