

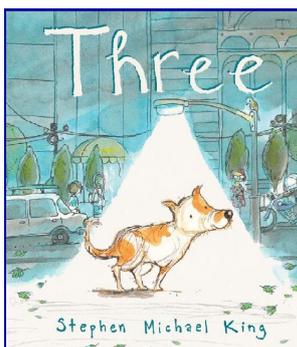
Three

By Stephen Michael King

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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.



Themes:

- Friendship
- Accepting differences
- Dogs
- Animals
- Home

Discussion Questions:

- Before you read the story, can you identify from the front cover what the book is about and why it might be called *Three*?
- When you first started reading this story, did you get the feeling that Three was happy with how his life was?
- What did he occasionally look for? Do you think that these are natural things to want in your life? Discuss this as a class.
- What was the very unique way that Three had of identifying things? How would you describe this? ie: creative/amusing etc.
- Can you recall creatures/things that Three saw in the city?
- Why was Three happy that he didn't have four legs?
- How would you describe the differences in what Three sees in the city and in the country?
- When Three arrived at Fern's house, there were things that he had not seen. What was the hopping four leg, the flying six leg and the sliding no legs that he found in garden?
- Why do you think that Fern asked Three to 'stay forever'?
- Why do you think that Fern and Three became such good friends?
- How important is it to have friends in our lives?
- What are some of the things that you like to do with your friends, whether they be human friends or animal friends?

Activities:

- Draw a map of an area of your city or town, in the same format as Three used to follow his nose. Mark on your map some important features of your town.
- Have some fun with the concept of calling things by how many legs they have. Have each student write down a creature or an object, as well as something to help identify it, and then have a class guessing game to see how many the students can identify. The students might then like to make a class mural of all the different things that they thought of.
- Paint a scene of the beautiful garden at Fern's house.