

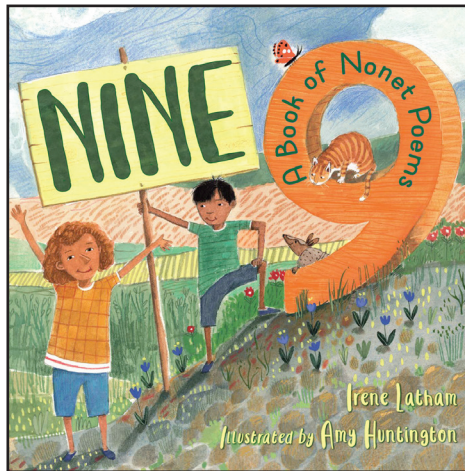
# NINE



## ACTIVITY KIT

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Irene Latham  
Illustrated by Amy Huntington  
978-1-62354-116-3 HC  
e-book available

### About the Book

Each poem in this clever collection is a nonet: a nine-line poem that starts with nine syllables in the first line and ends with one syllable in the ninth line (or the reverse). But these nonets go even further. Every one is also written with the number nine at its heart. Explore wordplay, history, science, math, sports, and more with nonets galore!



### About the Author

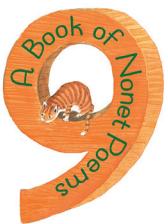
Winner of the 2016 ILA Lee Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award, Irene Latham's poetry books for children include *Dear Wandering Wildebeest*, *When the Sun Shines on Antarctica*, *Fresh Delicious*, and *Can I Touch Your Hair?* (co-written with Charles Waters). Irene lives near Birmingham, Alabama.



### About the Illustrator

Amy Huntington is the illustrator of *Fresh-Picked Poetry*, *Grandma Drove the Garbage Truck*, *Grandma Drove the Snowplow*, and *Grandma Drove the Lobsterboat*. Amy lives in Vermont.

# NINE



## Activity Kit

## Reading & Writing

### Welcome to Poetry

Your students may have encountered poetry in the wild without knowing it! Lead a discussion about the following questions, before or after reading *Nine*:

- What is poetry?
- What are some poems that I know?
- What are some topics that poems can be about?
- Do you think songs or rap lyrics count as poetry?
- Does poetry have to be written down?
- Where could I find poetry?

BONUS: Open or wrap up this discussion by watching a video of a spoken word performance.

### Write it!

Warm up your poetry muscles by reading a few fan favorites together: Joy Harjo's "Perhaps the World Ends Here," Billy Collins's "Introduction to Poetry," and Rita Dove's "Primer" are all good places to start. Brainstorm a few figures of speech related to numbers, like "good things come in threes" or "fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

Then dedicate twenty or thirty minutes to silent poetry writing about a number of each student's choice.

If this activity proves popular, consider introducing a daily poetry reading and writing segment to your classroom's warmup routine.

### Collections

*Nine* isn't just one poem; it's a collection of poems that relate to each other. Encourage your students to find nine poems that relate to each other and make a booklet of them.

If a student is stuck, suggest starting with one poem they really like and putting it at the start or end of their collection. Alternatively, they can choose a theme and ask the librarian for help finding relevant poems.

### Writing Rights

Why are there so many collections of poetry from long ago? Lead a discussion about the following questions:

- What is copyright?
- What is public domain?
- What is fair use?





## Activity Kit

## Nine Math Activities

### 1. Fractions

How many ways can you fold a piece of paper into nine equal pieces (ninths)?

### 2. Comparison

Find something that is  $\frac{1}{9}$  as tall as you are.

### 3. Patterning

Make up a pattern with nine parts (can use color, shapes, etc.) and repeat it nine times.

### 4. Language

Learn how to say "nine" in nine different languages. BONUS: Learn how to count up to nine in at least one of these languages.

### 5. Problem-Solving (Make Nine)

How many ways can you make nine using any of:

- the numbers one through nine
- the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division)
- parentheses

Here are two samples:

- $7 + 2$
- $4 \times 2 + 9 \div 9$

### 6. Problem-Solving (Use Nine)

Try to make the numbers one through eight using only the number nine, any of the four basic operations, and parentheses.

Here are two samples:

- $9 \div 9 = 1$
- $(9+9) \div 9 = 2$

Try to use the fewest possible nines!

### 7. Papercraft

Make an origami number nine by following this video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgs\\_dOufH3I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgs_dOufH3I)

### 8. Survey Time

Ask nine people: What is your favorite number?

### 9. Logic and Reasoning

The answer is nine. What could the question be?