



YouthREAD 2020
Middle-Grade Book Selection
Grades 6-8

Community READ 2020
FINDLAY - HANCOCK COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

COUNTING BY 7S

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A twelve-year-old genius, Willow, is devastated when her adoptive parents are killed in a car accident. She worries she will never find others who'll love and accept her like they did, but as Willow slowly builds a community of new friends, she just may find a new place to belong.

Join our CommunityREAD by reading and sharing this book, then enrich the experience with these questions and activities.

Discussion Questions

1. *Counting by 7s* is told in both third person and first person. How would the story be different if only Willow were telling it? Do you think changing the point of view would make the story better or worse? Why?
2. Describe the relationship between Willow and her parents, Roberta and Jimmy Chance. From what you discover in the novel, what makes their relationship such a close one?
3. Willow's friendship with Mai sends her down a path where she learns what it means to have a friend and be a friend. What does Mai gain from this relationship? Consider your friendships – how do these relationships affect you? Can they make you a better person? If so, in what ways?

Activities

1. After the death of her parents, Willow is placed in a type of child protective services program run by the state. Ask students to learn more about the local and state institutions in your area. What are the primary functions of such programs? Are there additional services provided to children? What about their families?
2. Willow's descriptions of Dell's apartment before and after Pattie's transformation of the space are pretty vivid. Have students illustrate an image of Dell's apartment before and after.

These discussion questions, activities, and more can be found at the publisher's website:
<https://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/CountingBy7s.pdf>