Author: Kathryn Otoshi
Illustrator: Kathryn Otoshi
Grade: K-3

WITS Connection: Walk Away Ignore $\boldsymbol{*}$ Talk it out $\boldsymbol{*}$ Seek Help
Story Summary:
Zero is a follow-up to the book, One. Zero feels empty inside and has a hole right through the center. She feels left out because she wants to count like the other numbers but she feels like nothing. This book explores how to find value in yourself and others.

Teacher's Notes:

## Resources:

Balloon cutout template link: https://binged.it/2YhUDVh

Zero

## Pre-Reading <br> Questions:

1. What does the number zero mean?
2. Where do we usually see the number, zero?
3. If you were asked to choose a number as a name which number would you choose? Why?

## Activities:

## Helping One Another Soar

Take a photo of each child in your class posing as if they are holding a bunch of balloons. Print the photos and distribute them to students. Photocopy the a balloon handout (see template link in Resources box) with various colours of paper. Distribute the balloon handout to your students and ask them to cut out the balloons then share their cut-out balloons with others so that each student has a variety of coloured cut-outs. On one side of the balloon cut-out students write ways in which they can help each other soar. On the opposite side of the balloon cut-out students write down how they feel when they help someone soar. Attach the paper balloons to the student picture String the balloons to a suspended rope or wire across the classroom.

## Zero

## While Reading

Questions:

1. Explore the meaning of the metaphors "count" and "value" with the students. Talk about how they have more than one meaning in this story. Zero's definition of count means not only to put numbers in order, but also to be of value or to be important.
a. What does it mean to have value? To count?
b. Do you have value? What is your value?
2. Why does ZERO want to look like ONE? What do you think it would feel to be like ONE ?
3. Why do you think Zero only saw an empty hole inside?
4. Why do EIGHT and NINE encourage her to look like them? Is this a helpful idea? Or not?

Activities:
Exploring Metaphors

Make a list of words from the book that have more than one meaning (count, value, hole, stretch, grand entrance, open, soar) and discuss the multiple meanings for each word. Discuss other common metaphors that are familiar to students. Zero

## Post-Reading

Questions:

1. ZERO leaps and makes a grand entrance to impress the numbers. What do you think would have happened if ZERO was successful and she had impressed the numbers?
2. SEVEN says, "Every number has a value," "Be open you'll find a way." What does it mean to be open?
3. When ZERO has a new idea, ONE tells her to "Lead the way!" Why is it important that it is ONE who tells her this?
4. What does ZERO mean, when she says "if we help each other SOAR, we can count MORE." What does it mean to help someone SOAR? How can you help someone SOAR?
5. What does the phrase in the book, "bringing more value to everyone" mean? What are some ways we can bring value to the people here?

## Activities:

Math Activity: Exploring the Value of 0

Materials:

- Place value mat
- Base 10 blocks
- Large cut-out of the number 0
- Dice/N umber tiles

Demonstrate construction of numbers using a Place Value mat and Base Ten blocks. Students will roll a dice to generate a number, then build that number in tens and ones on the place value mat. Then students will explore the value of zero in double digit numbers by adding the giant zero card to the place value mat and moving the ones and tens to a column to the left and exchanging blocks with the transfer. Students will compare their results after adding the zero by ordering their new numbers from smallest to largest.

