Bugs and More Bugs

*By Walter Wakeman*

**PART 1**

It was late afternoon and the sun was starting to go down. Sara and Quinn were sitting on the back porch looking out over the yard. Sara noticed fireflies.

“Look at all those fireflies!” she cried out. “How many do you think there are? Let’s count them!” she exclaimed.

Quinn said, “I can’t count them. They keep going on and off.”

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Just then, some fireflies lit up at the same time.

“Hey! Did you see that! How many did you see?” shouted Sara excitedly.

“I don’t know. How many did you see?” asked Quinn.

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**\*Display images of fireflies in sequence repeating the questions. How many? And How do you know?**

Sara said, “I have an idea! Let’s capture them and put them in a jar. Then we could have our own lightbugs in a jar.”

“Great idea!” said Quinn. “We have some jars in our recylcing bin.”

Quinn and Sara went to get the jars and then returned to Sara’s backyard to capture fireflies.

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Sara saw a firefly blinking on a leaf. She quietly walked to the leaf and very carefully captured the firefly.

“Yes. I caught one!” she exclaimed.

“I caught two,” he said excitedly.

“I caught another one,” said Sara.

“I caught another one, too,” said Quinn.

Sara caught five more and Quinn caught four more. They brought their jars back onto the porch to look at all their fireflies.

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“I have more than you,” said Quinn.

“I think we have the same number of fireflies,” said Sara.

Quinn heard his mom calling. It was time to walk home. They both agreed to get together tomorrow to see if they could find more fireflies.

**\* Provide pictures of Sara’s Jar and Quinn’s Jar of fireflies**

**PART 2**

Quinn walked back to Sara’s house early the next day.

“Hey, Sara. Where are your fireflies?” asked Quinn.

“They all got out,” said Sara.

“Mine too.” replied Quinn. “Let’s go see if we can find some more.”

“Good idea,” said Sara.

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They began to walk in the back yard but could not see any fireflies.

“Hey! I see some lady bugs on the grass,” said Quinn.

“Where?” asked Sara.

“Right there,” Quinn pointed. Just as Sara turned to look, they flew away.

“How many did you see?” she asked

Quinn told her.

Sara asked, “How did you know?”

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“Let’s see if we can find some more ladybugs,” Sara suggested. They both bent over and began to look around in the grass for more ladybugs.

“I see something!” said Sara in an excited whisper. She held up her hand to signal to Quinn not to move too quickly.

“What do you see?” asked Quinn.

“I see a whole bunch of crickets on the log?” whispered Sara.

“Let’s take a look.” Qunin whispered back and they began to move slowly toward the log. “Oh look!” he shouted. “They just jumped under the log. How many did you see?” he asked Sara.

Sara told Quinn how many. Quinn then asked, “How did you see that many so fast?”

**\* Display image 1 of crickets (subitizing arrangement 3, 4, 3)**

Sara lifted the log and flipped it over. “Look!” she shouted.

Quinn looked and was amazed at how many crickets were under the log. “There must be 15 of them,” he stated.

“I only saw 12,” Sara replied.

“How do you know?” asked Quinn

**\* Display image 2 of crickets (subitizing arrangement 3, 3, 4, 2)**

Quinn quickly started to catch crickets and put them in his jar.

The crickets soon scattered to find new hiding places. Sara and Quinn continued looking for more bugs.

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“Hey Sara, what’s that noise?” asked Quinn.

“That sounds like frogs from the pond,” said Sara.

“Let’s check it out.” said Quinn in a hushed voice but let’s walk quietly so we can sneak up on them.

Sara smiled and they both began to sneak toward the pond with their jars in hand. The sound of frogs got louder as they approached. Quinn motioned for Sara to stop walking. They proceeded very carefully through the grass to the edge of the pond.

“Look at all those frogs,” whispered Quinn.

Just then a frog croaked right next to Quinn and Sara and starteled them both. Immediately all the frogs slipped under the water.

“How many did you see?” ask Quinn.

Sara told Quinn and he asked, “How did you know?”

**\* Display image of frogs in the pond** **-subitizing sets (11)**

“Let’s catch them,” said Sara.

Sara and Quinn worked together to catch frogs. As they caught them they put them into Sara’s jar. After a while the rest of the frogs found hiding places.

Sara and Quinn walked in their wet sneakers back to Sara’s backyard with their jars. Quinn with his crickets and Sara with her frogs. When they returned Quinn said, “I probably have more crickets than you have frogs.”

Sara replied, “No way. Look at my jar!”

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Sara and Quinn went into Sara’s house with their jars.

“Mom! Mom! Look at what we caught,” Sara yelled.

Sara’s mom Exclaimed, “ Hey, are those bugs? There must be a million in there! Don’t bring them into the house!”

Sara said, “Mom, you are so silly. There aren’t a million bugs in here. We counted them!”

**\* Provide pictures of Sara’s Jar frogs and Quinn’s Jar of crickets**