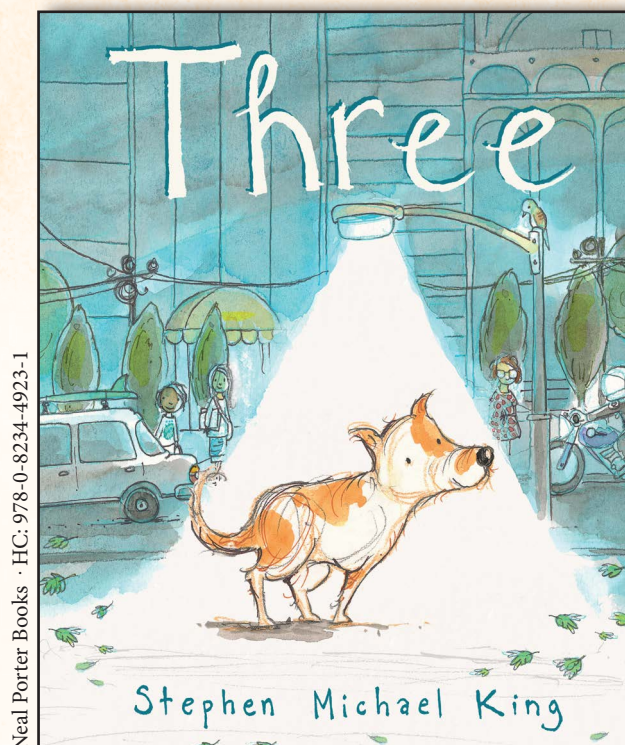


HOLIDAY HOUSE



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Three

by **Stephen Michael King**

ABOUT THE BOOK

A heartwarming story of a three-legged dog who follows his nose all over the city, out to the country, and into the arms of a new friend.

As a three-legged dog on his own in the big city, Three does pretty well for himself. His waggly tail

keeps him fed, and he meets so many different-legged creatures along the way. He's happy just the way he is, but sometimes he wonders what it'd be like to have a real home. That all changes when he wanders into the country and meets a quirky young girl and her welcoming family.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- Study the cover art. How is the main character revealed? Look at the dog carefully. Why do you think he is called Three?
- Setting is where a book takes place. Contrast the city and country settings. How does Three survive in the city? What does he find in the country that he didn't have in the city?
- Three stops to investigate an ant hill on the sidewalk in the city. Discuss why the feet of the people in this illustration seem especially large. Describe the homes of the six legs and the eight legs. Why does Three think their homes protect them?
- Explain how Three's walking route in the city is revealed in the illustration. Name everything he sees on his route. Note the double-page spread where Three finds himself in the country. How does the road or path lead Three to a new discovery? Discuss how the direction in which Three is traveling leads the reader to a new chapter in Three's life.
- The author describes the hills in the country as "a place where the green rolled slowly." Discuss how the illustration reveals the slow rolling hills. How would the illustration change if the hills were fast rolling?



- What small creatures does Three see in Fern's garden that he never saw in the city?
- Describe Fern. What does Three discover about Fern's family? Who is the one leg that Three meets at Fern's house? Count the twelve legs that he references. Discuss how Three's life changes after he moves in with Fern.
- Identify the items on the ground in the last double-page spread. How does the next page reveal how Fern used these items?
- People often refer to city life as "fast" and country life as "slow." Based on what Three observes, discuss whether this is a true fact.

ACTIVITIES

- Count things in the illustrations that have more or less legs than three. Name and classify these things in two columns: "Living" and "Nonliving."
- Write a paragraph that Fern might write that describes Three to her friends.
- Fern and Three are singing at the end of the story. Write words, or lyrics, to a song for them to sing. Set the words to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."
- Fern makes Three a "special curl-up place." Draw a picture of a doghouse that you would make for Three. Consider the various animals that Three has met in the story and make guest rooms for some of them.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

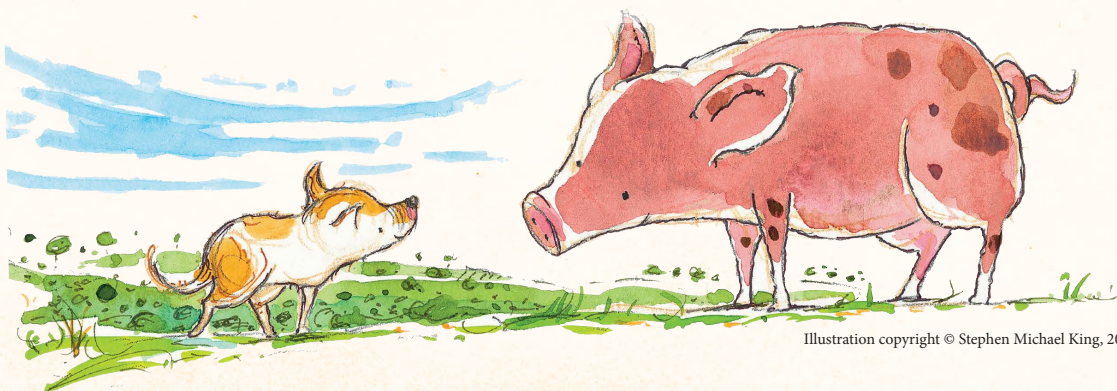


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ABOUT THE CREATOR



Stephen Michael King has illustrated more than fifty books, including *Prudence Wants a Pet* and has both written and illustrated several others, including *Mutt Dog!* and *Leaf*. He lives with his family on a small island off the coast of New South Wales, Australia.

