Potato Joe by Keith Baker

This fresh adaptation of the classic One Potato, Two Potato nursery rhyme is a counting adventure and rollicking good time rolled into one. Spunky leader Potato Joe and his nine spuds pals count up to ten and back down again, all while playing games and meeting up with other garden friends.

With its playful tone and hilariously expressive potatoes, Potato Joe is a spud-tastically fun read-aloud, and a perfect companion to Keith Bakers previous nursery rhyme interpretations, Big Fat Hen and Hickory Dickory Dock.

Features:
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My Personal Review:
This book will grow on you like....potatoes and dirt! It's a take off on the old counting-out rhyme (which is not in the text, so you might want to brush up on it before you read this book out loud to kids, which you will love doing). Like his other titles, Hickory Dickory Dock and Big Fat Hen, this one takes old rhymes to new places and features nice big print for little readers to enjoy. Potato Joe (who has brown eyes, just two of them) comes up with new uses for his potato-pals: tic tac toe and some snow covered tiers then a rodeo with some do-si-do action. How about a tall potato pile (would the Brits call it a rugby scrum?), a celebration of roundness with Tomato Flo and Watermelon Moe and a final journey back to the garden, back to the rich cool dirt, "where we potatoes grow". This would pair nicely with Two Old Potatoes and Me by John Coy or Cynthia de Felice's One Potato Two Potato (which is actually a "little pot that wouldn't stop" story) and then engage kids in a potato patch activity planting potatoes. As a food lesson, it would be great fun to introduce purple potatoes, fingerling potatoes, Yukon golds and little round reds, but Potato Joe looks like a russet to me. You could use this to do a counting lesson, some art, some history of potatoes, even ordinals and cardinal numbers using Potato Joe and his pals. The endpapers of the book are a velvety rich brown, the pages
feature enticing brown dirt under a sky that changes page by page from green to purple to blue to yellow over and over until the final scene when the welcoming brown dirt takes over the page. Keith Baker, who is a very tall artist and writer, visits schools and libraries. His website, keithbaker.com has all the details. And we must mention that no potatoes were harmed in the making of this book!

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