

COLLINS

THE GIRL WHO LOVED THE NUMBER EIGHT

540 WORDS

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BY JAMES J. COLLINS

There was a girl named Trudy who liked the number eight. Well it was more than just "like", she really loved the number. She felt that the number eight loved her in return, for wherever she went or what ever she did she saw the number eight. It seemed to follow her everywhere.

When she had her eighth birthday, it was very exciting. Her mother put eight candles on the cake, and one of them was special. It was shaped in the form of the number eight. Trudy was so happy she laughed. She kept the special candle and put in on her table.

Her aunts and uncles gave her gifts. There were eight presents. She clapped her hands with glee. Later her classmates and friends came over to her party. There were eight of them, and each one brought a present and a card. Eight more presents, and eight more cards. It was a wonderful day.

When Trudy went to the store, the shelves were marked with prices, and many of them used the number eight. Trudy always picked out something to buy that had the number eight showing.

When Trudy and her mom checked out the food, the cashier wore glasses, and they looked like the number eight lying on its side.

It went on like this for months. Trudy was very happy. The number eight belonged to her.

One day at school, after lunch, Trudy's teacher asked the class to write a story about 'what I ate for lunch. Trudy said, "I didn't know you could use the number eight in a sentence."

"No Trudy," her teacher said, "There are words that sound like the number 'eight', but they have different meanings.

Trudy was excited. She felt she owned the number 'eight', so she wanted to know all about the words that sounded like 'eight'.

The first one she learned was the word 'ate' which indicates that you had eaten something earlier. Then she learned there were many more words that sounded like the number 'eight', but they all meant different things.

Some of the words were;

date	late	fate	great	grate
hate	rate	late	wait	weight

Do you know what each word means?

Do you know other words that have the sound 'eight' in them?

Well Trudy learned all the words that sounded like the number eight. She felt she also owned them.

Then she reached her ninth birthday. All of a sudden, the number nine followed her everywhere. Now she also loved the number eight and the number nine. Then she realized that all the numbers and all the words were her friends. She loved them all. She decided that she wanted to work with words and numbers when she grew up.

Her mother told her there were many things she could do. She could become a reporter. She could be a writer. She could go on television. She could become a college professor, a doctor, a teacher or a lawyer. Once she learned all the words and numbers she could become anything she wanted to be. ... even President of the United States.

THE END