



## Down the Chimney with Googol and Googolplex

Nelly Kazenbroot

Illustrator: Nelly Kazenbroot

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### About the Book

Googol and Googolplex are a couple of enterprising robots sent to Earth on a scavenger hunt. They slide down the Sinclair's chimney and carry Troy and Pippa Sinclair along with them on a hunt for everything from summertime snowballs to the song of a blackbird. Their adventures teach them to appreciate each other's different abilities, and their friendship protects them against threats from a neighborhood bully. The ongoing scavenger hunt allows the four companions to widen their knowledge about the world around them.

### About the Author

**Nelly Kazenbroot** lives on Vancouver Island in Nanaimo, British Columbia, with her husband and two children. She is a prize-winning painter and writer. When she isn't painting and writing she likes to work in her garden or play with the family cats and a space alien named Buzzby (who's really their pet chinchilla). Orca Book Publishers has published three of her books about Googol and Googolplex's adventures. She has also published adult poetry and participated in art shows.

**About the Writing**

Nelly based this book on stories she made up for her children about two little robots that she had built out of Lego. This was the first time Nelly has illustrated an entire book. She says it was fun and challenging to make fourteen pictures based on the same characters.

**Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections****Prereading Idea**

Googol and Googolplex come to Earth on a scavenger hunt. What is a scavenger hunt? Have you ever been on one? How would you help them find snowballs in the summertime, a chocolate bar and the song of a blackbird?

**Classroom Discussion Questions**

Pippa and Troy help with the chores in their home. What chores do they help with? Should kids help at home? What chores do you help with?

Is there anywhere in Canada where you could send the robots to find snow in the summertime? (For example, to mountains in BC, the Yukon or the NWT.)

What is solar-powered energy? Do we use solar-powered energy on Earth?

What things can the robots do that we can't? What things can we do that they can't?

Have you ever seen a shooting star?

**Suggested Activities**

Make square snowmen out of boxes or Styrofoam.

Googol and Googolplex's names stand for the biggest numbers in our number system. Make a list of other big numbers. Print out a sheet with all the zeros of a Googol on it (100) and explain why printing up a Googolplex would be impossible. Find out who invented the numbers Googol and Googolplex.

Discuss why the robots shouldn't take a blackbird back to their spaceship with them.

Find a recording of a song of a blackbird so everyone can enjoy it.

Let the kids make up their own scavenger list of things for the robots to collect.

**Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers**

*Over the Rainbow with Googol and Googolplex*

*Under the Sea with Googol and Googolplex*

**Awards and Reviews**

CCBC Our Choice nomination

“A light-hearted science fiction story that also provides some valuable lessons about intercultural friendship.”  
—*Canadian Literature*

“This is amusing, lighthearted science fiction, hard to find for young readers...The fast-paced plot is child-centered with ample dialogue for reader involvement with the characters.”  
—*CM Magazine*