

Moo!

The 2014 CLEL Bell Award Book for TALK

by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
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A very vocal cow commandeers the farmer's car and sets off on an adventure. The entire story is told with just two words: Moo! and Baa! The speech bubbles and the very limited vocabulary help children make the critical connection between the words we say and the print on the page.

Activity Ideas for *Moo!*:

- After you have read *Moo!* to the children, hand the book to a child so she or he can have a turn "reading" it. Even before they can sound out the words, pretend reading gives children a chance to practice other important skills, such as holding the book correctly, turning one page at a time, remembering the sequence of the story, and understanding that the print on the page represents spoken language.
- The cow in the story shows many different emotions: excitement, fear, sadness. To understand what they read, children need to know the words for abstract concepts as well as concrete objects. Talk with them about how the cow feels, and how our faces show different emotions. Make up new verses to "If You're Happy and You Know It" and ask the children to act out the feelings with their faces as you sing. You might try:
If you're happy and you know it, share a smile
If you're sad and you know it, show a frown
If you're angry and you know it, make a scowl
- Look through the book to find the word "Moo" and talk about the shapes of the letters "M" and "O." Go on a scavenger hunt through your house, classroom, or library, and look for these letters in words on labels, signs, or clothing. To read fluently, children will need to be able to recognize letters not just in alphabetical order, but in many other combinations, too.
- After reading *Moo!*, have the children act it out using another vehicle, animal, and animal noise. Help them remember what happens first, next, and last in the story. Being able to retell the events in a story in order is a comprehension skill.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org/content/bell-awards>



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