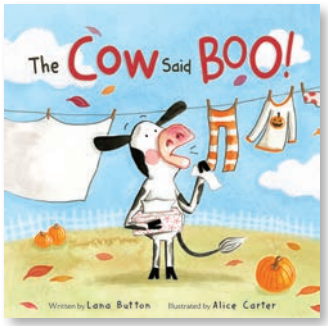
READING GUIDE

The Cow Said BOO!

Lana Button
illus. Alice Carter



Story Summary

Poor cow woke up with such a bad cold that every "moo" comes out as "boo!" When she stumbles into a sheet hanging from the clothesline, her barnyard friends mistake her for a spooky ghost and run away. But the cow is able to bravely turn this misunderstanding to her advantage when a truly scary intruder arrives at the farm….

Links:
Coronavirus prevention: Are your hands clean? A black light experiment
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5P9Psof5kk

Pair this book with:
Other books illustrated by Alice Carter, such as *My Puppy Patch, Our New Kittens,* and *Teaching Mrs. Muddle; My Teacher's Not Here* by Lana Button

Lana Button is a children's author, educator, and entertainer who is passionate about supporting and encouraging children through entertainment. Lana began writing following a career in television and theatre. Her books, including *Willow Finds a Way*, have been shortlisted for the Blue Spruce Award, The Shining Willow Award, the Jean Throop IODE Award, the Rainforest of Reading Award, and more. Lana lives in Burlington, Ontario.

Alice Carter is an artist, illustrator, and storyteller with a passion for sharing her whimsical imagination. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design who now works with clients from all over the world, Alice is inspired by people watching, music, and every animal she comes across. Her picture books include *Our New Kittens, My Puppy Patch,* and *Teaching Mrs. Muddle*. Alice lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

Picture Book Ages 4–7 | 978-1-77278-216-5 | Pages: 28

Themes
Friendship, courage, hygiene, Halloween

BISAC Codes
JUV019000 JUVENILE FICTION / Humorous Stories
JUV002090 JUVENILE FICTION / Animals / Farm Animals
JUV015020 JUVENILE FICTION / Health & Daily Living / Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries
JUV017030 JUVENILE FICTION / Holidays & Celebrations / Halloween

Reading Level
Fountas & Pinnell: K

Curriculum Connections
Reading—word families, high-frequency words, comprehension
Visual arts—print-making
Health—hand-washing

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Curriculum Connections:

Activiy	Main Subject Areas	Specific Skills
Read-Aloud	Comprehension	Activate prior knowledge Infer, predict, make connections
Phonetic Analogies	Reading	Word Families
Cow Prints	Visual Arts	Print-making
Stop the Spread of Germs	Health	Hand-washing
Shared Reading and Writing	Reading	Reading high-frequency words

The Read-Aloud

Learning expectations:

Students will:

- identify reading comprehension strategies (e.g., activate prior knowledge, infer, predict, make connections) and use them before, during, and after reading to understand texts

You Will Need

- *The Cow Said BOO!*

How To:

Before Reading

Invite students to make the sound a cow makes. Acknowledge their efforts. Show the cover of *The Cow said BOO!* and read the title. Show surprise and ask, "What's going on here?" If students don't immediately infer that the cow has a cold, draw their attention to the tissues and the way the illustrator has indicated that the cow is coughing or sneezing. Ask, "What happens when you have a cold?" encouraging students to list any symptoms they know about. Turn the introductory pages slowly so students can enjoy looking at the cow print and the illustration on the inner title page.

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During Reading

First spread:

- After reading, say, "Oh, so that's what was going on. What happens if you try to moo with a stuffy nose?" Invite students to pretend by pinching their noses and trying to moo.

Second spread:

- Read the words, drawing your voice out at the ellipsis and pointing to it.

Third spread:

- After reading, ask, "Now what's happening?" See if any students make a connection between the word "Boo" and the fact that the cow now looks like a ghost. If not, ask, "What does the cow look like now?"

Fourth spread:

- After reading, invite students to infer what the other animals are thinking, and why.

Fifth spread:

- Read and enjoy!

Sixth spread:

- Read expressively and pause for students to respond.

Seventh spread:

- Draw your voice out on the word "But" and point to the ellipsis. Give students some time to look at the illustrations before inviting one or more to describe what is happening.

Eighth spread:

- Comment that the cow's sheet now resembles a superhero cape, then read the pages expressively. Invite students to get ready to read the next page with you.

Ninth spread:

- Read with students, with great expression.

Tenth spread:

- Invite a student to read the rooster's sign. Read the pages expressively.

Eleventh spread:

- Read the left page in a dejected voice, then the right page with a happier tone.

Twelfth spread:

- Read the words, pause, point to the horse and say, "Hmmm," before turning the page.

Thirteenth spread:

- After reading, ask students to explain what has happened and invite them to pinch their noses while trying to make the animal sounds shown

After Reading

Discuss why the cow's friends got sick at the end. Return to the illustrations on the tenth and eleventh spreads. Most students will be familiar with public health measures to restrict the spread of disease, after experiencing the recent pandemic. Guide them to comment on measures the other animals could have taken to care for the cow while still protecting themselves. Return to the illustration on the eighth spread, reminding students of the superhero resemblance. Discuss how many people have characterized health-care workers as superheroes for bravely caring for infectious people during the pandemic. Read the back endpapers and allow students to respond. Activity #3 provides an opportunity to put this information into practice.

Read other books illustrated by Alice Carter, such as *My Puppy Patch, Our New Kittens,* and *Teaching Mrs. Muddle*, to gain a deeper appreciation of Carter's style. Read other books by Lana Button, such as *My Teacher's Not Here*, which could connect to a discussion about staying home when you're sick, in Activity #3

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Activity 1: Flip Cards

This activity is for students who are learning letter sounds and who have a few sight words, or are able to decode 3-letter phonetic words.

Learning expectations:

Students will:

- solve unfamiliar words using graphophonic cues
- make analogies between words that look similar

You Will Need

- *The Cow Said BOO!*
- Flip Card templates
- card stock
- scissors
- adhesive tape

How To:

1. Print the Flip Card templates onto card stock. The first page is done for you and the next two pages contain blanks for you to fill in based on the needs and knowledge of your students.
2. Cut out each strip on the heavy lines, separating the "b" from the rest of the strip. Tape the "b" on top of the "m", using a strip of tape just along the top edge, so that the "b" can be flipped out of the way. Repeat with the other words.
3. Reread the first page of *The Cow Said BOO!* with your students. Encourage them to say "Moo" with you, then invite them to say it again while pinching their nose, and notice how it sounds like "Boo."
4. Hold up the first flip card (moo) and invite students to read it aloud. Now have them read it while pinching their nose. Say, "That sounded like...boo!" as you flip the "b" over the "m". Repeat with the remaining cards.
5. Place the cards in an activity center for students to use independently.

Make more cards using the sounds that the other animals made at the end of the book. Notes

a. You may wish to spell "neigh" as "nay" to allow students to practice a common word family.
b. If students are likely to reverse "b" and "d", consider using capital letters for any n/d flip cards, or teach them specific strategies to avoid reversals.
c. If students do not yet have any sight words and are just beginning to learn letter sounds, make 2-sided picture cards, with just the initial letter printed with each picture.

Activity 2: Cow Prints

Cow print is a popular design, found on everything from pants to purses. Students may enjoy making their own cow print items, using traditional potato printing.

Learning Expectations

Students will:

- use cut potatoes and paint, stamping to make a pattern of organic shapes
- use elements of design (shape and space) in art works to communicate an idea

You Will Need

- *The Cow Said BOO!*
- potatoes cut in half
- black tempera paint in shallow dishes
- large white art paper
- other art materials for optional extension activities

How To:

1. Open *The Cow Said BOO!* to the front endpapers. Ask students what that looks like. If no one knows, turn to some pictures of the cow, and help them make the connection. Tell them they can make their own sheet of cow print like the endpaper.
2. Set up a painting center on a table. It should contain large sheets of white paper, shallow trays of black tempera paint, and a selection of potatoes sliced in half. Try to provide a number of different sizes and shapes of potato cross-section. Demonstrate how to dip a potato and use it to make a print, but try not to direct their free expression.
3. Invite students to use the materials to make their own original cow print, or more than one.
4. Students may wish to use the cow print paper to make decorative items:
   a. Cut and wrap the print around a soup can to make a pencil holder
   b. Trace large stencil letters, or draw bubble letters and cut them out, to spell the child's name. Mount them on black construction paper.
   c. Make a pinwheel: How to Make a Paper Pinwheel (thesprucecrafts.com)
   d. Make book covers, greeting cards, or envelopes. You may wish to use color copies of the paintings for these items, to avoid the paint chipping.
   e. Laminate the paintings to make place mats.
   f. Use the cow print to mat photos of the students

Activity 3: Stop the Spread of Germs

Learning Expectations

Students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of and apply proper hygienic procedures for protecting their own health and preventing the transmission of disease to others (e.g., washing hands with soap, using a tissue, sleeve sneezing)

You Will Need

- *The Cow Said BOO!*
- chart paper and markers
- sink, soap and running water
- internet
- poster paper and drawing materials
- laminator

How To:

1. Remind students that the cow's friends got sick after being in close contact with her. Invite students to come up with a list of hygiene rules to avoid spreading colds and other germs. Make a chart like this one:

> 1. Use a tissue.
> 2. Wash your hands.
> 3. Wear a mask.
> 4. Stay 6 feet apart.
> 5. Stay home if you are sick.

2. Many children do not wash their hands effectively. Often, they put the soap on their hands first and rinse it off immediately. Return to the back endpapers of *The Cow Said BOO!* And draw students' attention to Step 1: water. Act out with them turning water on, wetting their hands and turning the water off again. Move on to Step 2: Soap and Step 3: 20-second scrub. Act out applying soap and then scrubbing all parts of the hands while counting to 20. Move on to the rinsing step. If desired, demonstrate drying the hands before turning off the tap with the towel. Ask, "How many times did we need to turn the tap on and off to wash our hands?" (twice)
3. If possible, repeat the acting out using real sinks and soap, either in the classroom if you have a sink, or by taking/sending students to the washroom in small groups to practice.
4. Show a video of a blacklight handwashing experiment, like this one: (1) Coronavirus prevention: Are your hands clean? A black light experiment - YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5P9Psof5kk
5. Have students make posters to illustrate the steps of handwashing. Each student can illustrate one step of the procedure, using the back endpapers as inspiration. Have students write the word they are illustrating on their poster. This will give you a few sets. Laminate these and post them in order in or near the washrooms and/or classroom sink.

Activity 4: Shared Reading and Writing

This activity is for very early emergent readers, and is recommended after students have heard the story read aloud at least once.

Learning Expectations

Students will:

- automatically read and understand some high-frequency words
- spell some high-frequency words correctly

You Will Need

- *The Cow Said BOO!*
- Flash Cards template included below
- internet and printer

How To:

1. Show the cover and read the title while pointing to the words. Invite students to read while you point. Next, invite a student to point while you read.
2. Cut out the flash cards provided below. Multiple copies of each word are provided, using some upper and some lower-case letters. Hold them up and have the class read them, telling them the words whenever necessary. It will help if the book cover is visible during this activity. If you have a word wall, add the words "the," "The," and "said" to it. Having both an upper and lower-case version of "the" will help students recognize it in more contexts.
3. Tell students you'd like them to help you read the book today. Every time you come to the line that is the same as the title, it will be their turn to read.
4. Read the book, pausing and pointing to the words "the cow said, BOO!" every time you come to them.
5. If you have students who can read, give them a turn to be the reader and have the other students join in on the title words.
6. Print out pictures of different farm animals. Use them in a shared rebus writing activity. On a chart, model a sentence like the following:

The said quack.

7. Invite students to share in the composition of the rest of the story, writing the words "The" and "said" each time. Even students with no literacy skills at all can participate by choosing the animal picture and/or gluing it on. The teacher can write the animal sounds or guide capable students in spelling them phonetically.
8. Collaboratively add a title (e.g., Animal Sounds), and use the finished story as part of your daily shared reading practice.

This guide was created with support from Ontario Creates

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Bibliography

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/language18currb.pdf

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/arts18b09curr.pdf

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/healthcurr18.pdf

Flip Cards

b	m	o	o

b	m	a	d

b	m	u	g

b	m	e	t

Flash Cards

The	the
Cow	cow
Said	said
BOO	boo
Booooooo	Boooo