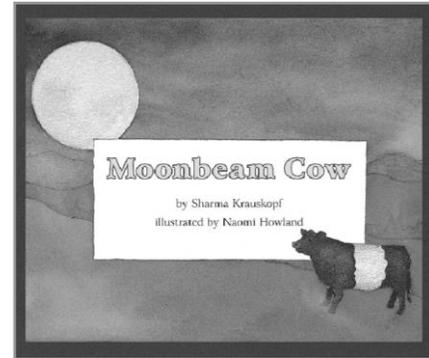


Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes

**Moonbeam Cow**

Author Sharma Krauskopf
 Illustrator Naomi Howland
 16 pages ■ 228 words
 Fountas and Pinnell Level K
 Reading Recovery Level 18



Moonbeam Cow

SYNOPSIS

A story in traditional folk tale form describing how the Belted Galloway cow got its name.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fiction, fantasy in folk tale structure
- Third person
- Past tense
- Book language
- Anthropomorphic
- Probably some unfamiliar vocabulary
- Extra information on inside and back covers

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Using knowledge of the structure of a genre to assist reading a new text in a similar form
- Inferential reading
- Considering author's purpose
- Understanding the importance of background knowledge

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Discuss the unusual coloring/stripe of the cow in the cover illustration (the author provides extra information on page 16).

I wonder how that came to be. This book may give us some clues, so think of that as we read it. What kind of fiction text often tells how things came to be? What are some of the features of that kind of text? How will that help you as you read this book?

† The level indicated here differs from that on early editions of the book. The changes have been made as a result of further trialing alongside other books in *Books for Young Learners*.

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Moonbeam Cow (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

Page 2: What information does this first page give you? What kind of story often gives the who, when, and where in the first sentence? What usually follows? Read the next page to see if this does tell the problem.

Did the author credit line on the cover or title page say "retold"? This is an original story that the author has shaped using a folk tale framework. So what do you expect to read now? What will the rest of the book probably explain?

Page 10: How is what you know about folk tales helping you as you read this book?

Page 14: This is the last page of text, so what do you expect it to be about? How will it probably tell you that?

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Discuss how knowing the structure of folk tales helps you read stories in a similar form. Identify the main elements to form a framework for composing an original story in a similar form.
- Choose another animal with distinct markings and compose a story that tells how they may have acquired their unusual features.

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Moonbeam Cow (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>Belties are sometimes called Oreo Cookie cows because . . . The problem in this story was . . . and the solution was . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>Where did this story take place and what season was it? Look on page 2 and see if you remembered correctly. What happened to the Princess' soft shoes and fine clothes? Why?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why did the author call the cow a "gentle beast?" Do you agree? Why? How do you think the cow felt when the Moon Queen gave him a softly glowing moonbeam around his middle? Why are these cows called Belties?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Choose one of the titles below and write a story you think kids would love to read!</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Moon Princess & A Moon Giant</i> • <i>The Adventures of Moon Princess & Gentle Beltie</i> • <i>The Moon Queen's Magic Spell</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>The words below are in present tense (happening now). Change each word to the past tense (already happened) and then write a sentence using each word:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *find *wander *snag *tear *see *step *stop *climb *carry *take

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Herbert

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