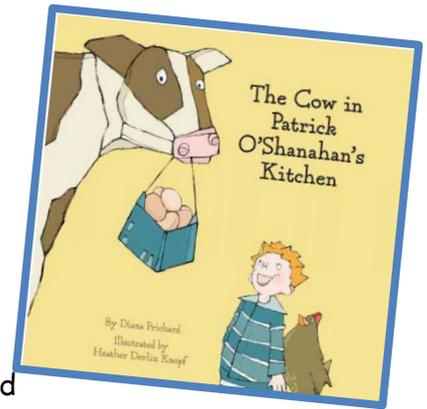


Ag Literacy Program 2016

The Cow in Patrick O'Shanahan's Kitchen is an entertaining tale about Patrick's securing essential ingredients to help his father make his favorite French toast for breakfast. The essential ingredients (milk, eggs, and maple syrup) come to life before his very eyes. The tale ends with foreshadowing of Patrick's next food adventure. The book invites students to think about the origins of the food that they find in stores. It fits in the Core Curriculum by helping students determine between realistic fiction and fantasy.



Ways to use this book in the classroom:

1. Use this lesson with the questions listed. Add some of the agricultural facts at the end of the lesson. Share your interest in agriculture and explain how food comes from the farm not the grocery store.
2. Read the book using the lesson plan and then select one or more of the following extension lessons to increase student knowledge.
 - A. Learning about Chickens
 - Learning about Chickens -web, true/false questions, article/questions
 - Chicken Anatomy - worksheet
 - From Farm to Table - Eggs (student newspaper)
 - B. Learning about Dairy Cows
 - Learning about Dairy Cows - web, true/false questions, article/questions
 - A Holstein Dairy Cow - worksheet
 - From Farm to Table - Cows-Milk-Cream-Butter (student newspaper)
 - C. Learning about Maple Syrup
 - Learning about Maple Syrup - web, true/false questions, article/questions
 - Maple Weather - worksheet
 - Youtube video of maple syrup process (2.37 minutes)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=196etHwIoY0&feature=youtu.be
 - Maple Syrup Poster
 - A Legend about How Maple Syrup Was First Made

Some useful props

- Whisk
- Egg carton
- Milk carton
- Maple syrup bottle

Vocabulary to be introduced

- whisk - a cooking utensil used to blend ingredients
- udder - a baglike organ in certain female animals where milk is collected
- cud - food brought up the cow's first stomach to be chewed again
- teats - a small projection covered with skin through which milk comes out
- spigot - this book uses the word spigot but the real tool is called a spile
- spile - a small wooden or metal peg used to take sap from a tree

Introduce the Book

- What are some foods you eat for breakfast?
- Where do they come from? (*help students understand food comes from the farm not the store*)
- Which are your favorites?
- Do you ever have French toast?
- Do you know what it takes to make French toast?

Show the cover of the book and read the title. Do you think this book is fiction or non-fiction? Let's read it and find out.

Read the Book

1. Is this book fiction or nonfiction? Why do you think so? (*This book would be characterized as realistic fiction with some fantasy*)
2. What part did you like best?
3. What ingredients did the dad need for French toast? (*eggs, milk, syrup, bread/toast*)
4. Some things in the book were realistic fiction (they could happen) and parts were fantasy. What are some things in the story that could happen?
5. What are some things in the story that are fantasy - they couldn't happen?
6. Does anyone know what the word "agriculture" means? Agriculture has two parts **agri** and **culture**. **Agri** means **land** and **culture** means **to grow**. So **agriculture** means **to grow plants or raise animals on the land**.
7. What things in the story have to do with animals a farmer would raise? (*chickens and cows*)
8. What are some facts about chickens that the author included? (*chickens lay eggs, chickens can be brown or white, eggs can be brown or white*)
9. What are some facts about cows that the author included? (*cows slobber, cows can be spotted, cows chew their cuds, cows have udders, cows produce milk, squeezing teats gets the milk out*)
10. When Patrick was told to get maple syrup, he couldn't find it in the closet. The cow gave him an idea. What was the idea? (*cow licked the tree, Patrick licked the tree*)

and discovered it was syrup). What was in the tree? (a spigot) What did the author say dripped from the spigot? (syrup)

11. This is where the author didn't get her facts right. In just one minute, you are going to discover why! What color was the syrup coming out of the spigot? (*brown like syrup*)
12. What happens when Patrick poured the syrup over his French toast? (*the trees began to shrink*)
13. What happens as Patrick eats through his stack of his French toast? (*the chicken and cow disappear*)
14. What surprise ending did Patrick have the next morning when he raced to the kitchen? (*something stopped him in his tracks*)
15. What was it? (*shadow of a pig*)
16. Why does the author write, "*Did he smell...bacon?*"
17. **Note: If you are doing the maple syrup lesson do not complete this step at this time. Refer back to these pictures after you have taught the maple syrup lesson.**
 - a. If you are **not** doing the maple syrup lesson make sure to correct the "maple syrup tapping" part of the story using the following information. *Turn back to the page with the cow sitting in the tree.* It looks like the syrup is just dripping out of the tree. This is not what happens (it is part of the fantasy in the story). The next page shows the liquid coming out of what the author calls a **spigot**. The real name for the device that is put into the hole that is drilled into the tree is a **spile**. Also, what comes from the tree is clear sap which looks like water not brown syrup. The clear sap runs out of the spile (spigot) when the nights are **below** freezing and the days are **above** freezing. The sap is gathered either in buckets or through plastic tubes and sent to a **sugarhouse** where it is boiled down into thick, sweet, brown-colored syrup. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.

Closure

1. Realistic Fiction or Fantasy?

Let's review the story!!! Listen to each sentence about what happened in the story. Show a thumbs up if it could happen in real life and a thumbs down if it is fantasy.

- ❖ A cow was in the kitchen.
- ❖ Patrick's father suggested French toast for breakfast.
- ❖ Patrick looked for eggs in the refrigerator.
- ❖ Chickens were in the refrigerator.

- ❖ The cow slobbered.
- ❖ The cow chewed its cud.
- ❖ Warm milk came out of the udder.
- ❖ French toast is good with syrup.
- ❖ A tall tree with branches filled the room.
- ❖ A tiny spigot dripped syrup. (not a spigot, a spile; it doesn't drip syrup, it drips sap)
- ❖ The tree began to shrink.

2. More Ag facts to share:

- Many farms raise Holstein cows (black and white) because they produce a lot of milk
- Cows are peaceful creatures unless you get between a cow and her calf and then she might kick you with her hooves, charge towards you, or swat you with her long tail.
- Cows are curious. If a stranger walks into the pasture, the cows may come over to look.
- Cows eat a LOT! Cows can eat up to 40 pounds of silage, corn or grass, 20 pounds of grain and 10 pounds of hay each day.
- Cows drink a LOT! A cow drinks about 30 gallons or more of water a day.
- Cows chew their cud. When a cow eats the food, she swallows it and coughs up the food and chews it again. Cows often chew their cud for 8 hours a day.
- Chicken eggs come in many colors. Brown eggs and white eggs have the same nutritional value but are laid by different breeds of chickens.
- Some chickens are raised by farmers for their meat. These are called **broiler** or **meat chickens** and usually have white feathers.
- Other chickens are raised for their eggs and are called **layers**. A laying hen requires 24-26 hours to produce an egg. As a laying hen grows older, her eggs increase in size.
- Layers can lay as many as 300 eggs in one year. Layers lay more eggs in warmer weather with longer days of sunlight and fewer eggs in cold weather with shorter days of sunlight.

3. Another Farm Animal - Pigs

At the end of the book there was the shadow of what animal? (pig)

What are some foods we get from pigs? (pork chops, bacon, ham, sausage, pepperoni)

What are some other products that are NOT food (called by-products) that we get from pigs? (bristles for paint brushes, bones for bone china, pigskin for gloves and belts, suede for shoes, gelatin for food products such as Jell-O and marshmallows.)