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Activity Guide

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Minnie and Moo Go Dancing

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ABOUT THE STORY

Moo is sad because she wants to do dancing, and she feels that as a cow, she cannot dance. Minnie believes otherwise, though, and convinces her friend to dress up and go to a party. There, they are mistaken for two humans and they dance the evening away. When presented with a plate of hamburger, though, the cows realize they are in danger.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Denys Cazet worked as a cook, gardener, ditch digger, farmer, cable splicer, and school librarian before he began writing books for children. He is the author of several other books about Minnie and Moo, including *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon*, another Live Oak Readalong. Denys Cazet lives in northern California.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children how they think mice, cats, and dogs interact. Explain that this book is about a cat that invites mice to dinner and gets a surprise guest.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “Why is Moo sad?”
- “What does Minnie convince Moo to do?”
- “Who do the partygoers think Minnie and Moo are?”
- “What effect does the plate of hamburgers have on Minnie and Moo?” (*Cause and Effect*)
- “What do Minnie and Moo believe happened to the Holtsteins?” (*Draw conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Have students match these words to make compound words from the story. Then they can use each word in a sentence.

door	burger	back	card
ham	stick	lip	yard
score	bell		

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Kinds of Cows

Minnie & Moo mention Holsteins. Explain that Holsteins are a kind of cow. Have children work in small groups to find out about Holsteins or another kind of cow, such as Jerseys or Guernseys. They can write brief explanations of what the cows look like and what they are known for.

Physical Education: Doing the Moo

Minnie and Moo call the dance they do together the Moo. Have the children divide into groups to figure out the steps of the Moo. Groups can show their dances to the rest of the class after they have had a chance to practice.

Health: Hamburger Cookbook

Minnie and Moo are relieved when the hamburger they eat turns out not to be their friends the Holsteins. Have children look through cookbooks to find other recipes that use hamburger as an ingredient. They can copy a recipe and collect it with others' recipes for a classroom hamburger cookbook.

Science: The Importance of Thumbs

Moo is distressed because she does not have thumbs. Ask children to find out about when the opposable thumb developed and what its role is. Have each child come up with one activity that could not be done without thumbs.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Milking Cows

Have children use the keywords *cows* and *milk* to find information on cows on the Internet. Ask them to write down three facts about cows or milk that they did not know. They can share their findings with the class.