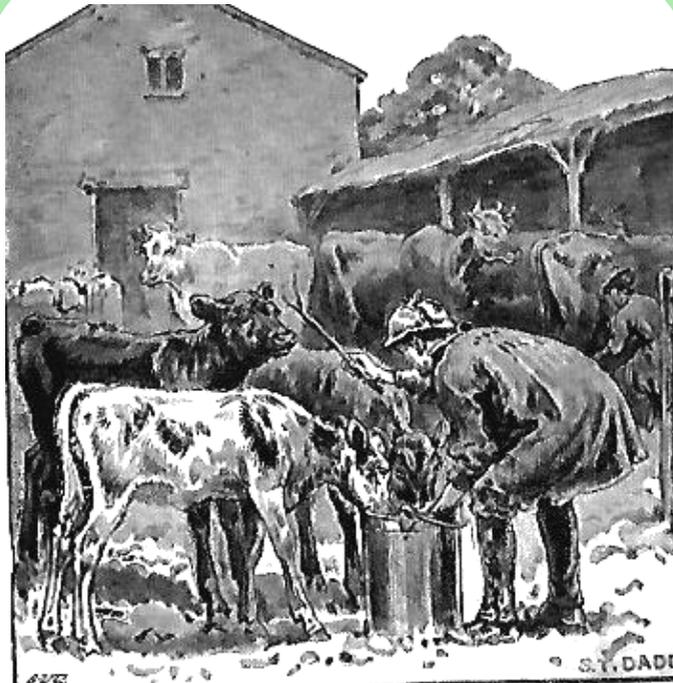


Cows



The Newton Readers Book 1 (Published by Blackie and Son Ltd. in the 1800's) was an early reader many years ago, which imparted nature knowledge to children as they learned to read. It must be one of the greatest advantages of learning to read, that the world of knowledge is opened to the young mind, which is ready to absorb all manner of fascinating facts, so taught in an interesting manner. Few copies of this book remain in existence. I can find no record of the subsequent books, other than in the Blackie /archives in the University of Glasgow.

In order to preserve the book for future generations, I have reprinted this first book in sections to make it more accessible for the early reader, and given it a more updated feel with a colour frontage while keeping the original line drawings alongside the text. I have modified the text only slightly where it was necessary, due to the age of the original publication, whilst by no means detracting from its charm. I have not added more pictures to the text as I believe that children should be taught to focus on the words for meaning, and to avoid seeing all literature as entertainment.

You will find that the stories depict the age in which they were written and as such also impart historical knowledge to the reader, which the wise parent/teacher can use profitably.

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Reading Made simple

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How to help your student with harder words in the text.

There are a few words, that the early phonic reader may not yet have encountered. I explain below how to approach them. Teacher/parent - read this page first yourself so that you are equipped to help. If you know that your student cannot sound any words in the book, then simply supply them to keep the sense of the passage. Most of these harder words do belong to a phonic family, but you don't want to spoil the flow by using them as a teaching point while they are reading the text. If you feel it is appropriate, then you may use the notes below to draw the student's attention to a few.

field - 'ie' saying 'ee'

Percy - soft c (saying 's') as next to 'y'.

taught - 'aught' saying 'aw'

climbed - silent 'b'

breaks - 'ea' saying 'ay'.

pull - 'u' saying 'oo' like 'look'. Goes with 'full'.

large - soft 'g' (saying 'j') as powerful 'e' changes 'g' to 'j'.

enough - 'e' saying its name, 'ough' saying 'uff'.

Chapter two: THE USES OF THE COW

through - 'ough' saying 'oo'.

suet - 'ue' saying 'oo' with the extra syllable 'it'.

puddings - like 'pull' the 'u' is saying 'oo' like 'look'.

butcher - as above.

combs - 'o' saying 'oe' and silent 'b'

calves - 'a' saying 'ar'.

THE COWS IN THE FIELD

1. Mary had two brothers, Jack and Percy. Jack was a year older than Mary. Percy was a good many years older.
2. While Mary was playing with her cat, Percy came in and asked her to go with him for a run in the fields.



The Cow.

3. Mary was always glad to go with Percy, so she ran off at once to get her hat on. Percy was very fond of his little sister, and taught her many things about trees and flowers and animals.

4. When they had gone a little way, they climbed over a stile, and came to a large field, where a number of cows were feeding.

5. At first Mary was afraid, but Percy told her the cows would not hurt her. Then he led her close to a fine red cow which was standing eating grass.

6. "Has the cow any teeth?" asked Mary.



Skull of cow, showing the close-set cheek-teeth for grinding; the wide space between them and the front teeth of the lower jaw; and at the absence of front teeth in the upper

"Yes," said Percy; "but why do you ask?"

"Because," said Mary, "she does not bite the grass, but breaks it off."

7. "She has teeth in the front of the lower jaw, but none in the front of the upper jaw," said Percy.

8. "In the upper jaw she has a kind of pad; and she holds the grass between the teeth and the pad, and then gives it a pull."

9. Percy then told Mary to look at the cow's horns, long ears, large eyes, and long tufted tail.



Cloven Hoof of Cow.

10. He also showed her the cow's hoof, and told her that it was split in the middle, so that it spread out, and did not sink easily in soft wet ground.

11. He then led her to another cow that was lying on the grass. A number of flies were buzzing round the cow's face, and there were some on her nose and eyes.

12. The cow shook her head to drive them off, and when a fly settled on her body, she lashed at it with her long tail.

13. "What is this cow eating, Percy?" said Mary. "She is not breaking off any grass."

“She is chewing the cud,” said Percy. “But you do not know what that means; so I will tell you.”

14. “When the cow feeds, she eats a great deal of grass, but she swallows it without chewing it much. Then, when she has had enough, she lies down.”

15. “The food then comes back to her mouth, a little at a time, and she begins to chew it. When she has chewed it well, she swallows it again. Is not that a funny way of eating?”

THE USES OF THE COW

1. As Percy and Mary were walking home, they saw a man driving some cows through the lane.

“Where are they going?” said Mary.

2. “They are going to the farm,” said Percy.

“The cows are driven home twice every day to be milked.”

3. “We eat the flesh of the cow, do we not?” asked Mary.

“Yes,” replied Percy. “The flesh of the cow is called beef. The fat is called suet, and is used to make puddings.”

4. “But they do not kill the young cows, do they, Percy?”

“Yes, some of them. The young ones are called calves. If the farmer has more calves than he wants to keep, he sells some of them

to the butcher, who kills them for food.”

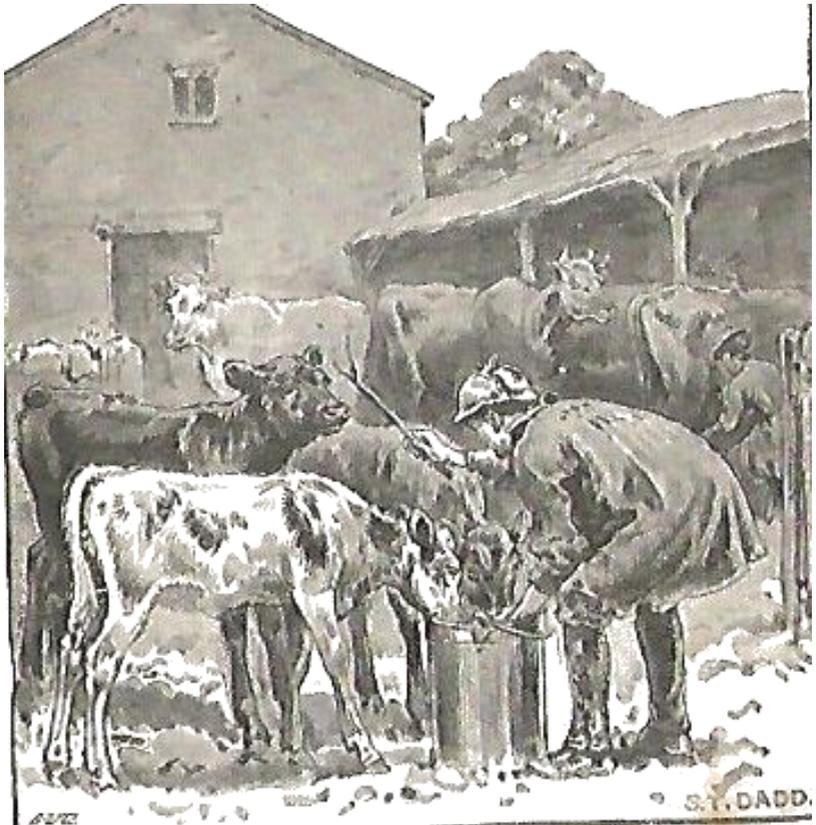
5. “You have told me about the flesh and fat, said Mary. “Do we make use of any other parts of the cow?”

“Oh yes!” said Percy. “When you broke your new doll, I mended it with glue. Well, glue can be made by boiling the hoofs of cows and other animals.”

6. “What a useful animal the cow is!” said Mary.

“Yes, she is useful,” said Percy, “and I have not yet told you all her uses. Even the horns are useful; they can be used to make combs, knife-handles and other things.”

7. “Are the bones of any use?” asked Mary.



“Oh yes!” said Percy. “The hard bones of the legs are made into handles of knives; and people grind the soft bones to dust, which they mix with soil. This bone dust helps to make the plants grow.”

8. “Percy then told Mary to look at the mortar between the stones of the wall, to see if there were any hairs in it.

9. “I can see some,” said Mary; “but why are hairs put into the mortar?”

“They are mixed with the mortar,” said Percy, “to hold it together, and people often use the hairs of the cow for this purpose.”

10. “The skin of the cow is made into leather after the hairs have been taken off.”

“Well,” said Mary. “I think a dead cow must be almost as useful as a living one,”

Can you remember?

Tell me about the cow's ears.

(The cow's ears are long.)

Tell me about her eyes.

Her eyes are large.

What can you tell me about the cow's teeth?

The cow has no teeth in front in the upper jaw, but she has a pad instead. She has teeth in front in the lower jaw. She holds the grass between the teeth and the pad breaks it off.

Tell me about the tail.

The cow's tail is long. She drives off the flies with it.

Tell me about the hoof.

The cow's hoof is split, so it spreads out and keeps her from sinking in soft places.

What about the horns?

The horns are long.

How does a cow 'chew the cud'?

The cow first swallows the grass without chewing. She then brings it up again in little balls and chews it.

Can you remember?

The uses of the cow.

Tell me about:

Milk.

We drink the milk of the cow and we also make butter and cheese from it. Cows are milked twice a day.

Flesh.

We eat the flesh of the cow. We call it beef. We call the flesh of a young cow veal. Young cows are called calves.

Fat.

We call the fat of a cow suet. We use it to make puddings.

Hoofs.

Glue can be made from the hoofs of the cow and other animals. the glue can be used for mending things.

Horns.

Combs and other things can be made from the horns.

Bones.

The longer bones can be made into knife-handles. The softer bones are ground into bone-dust and used to help make plants grow.

Skin.

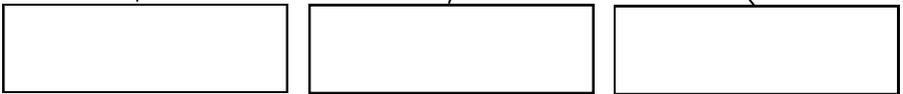
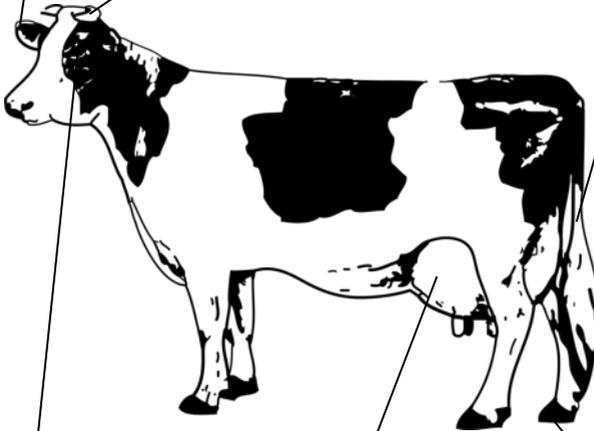
We make the skin into leather for boots and shoes.

Hair.

The hair is used to be mixed with mortar to hold the mortar together.

Use these words to label the picture of a cow.

hoof tail horn ear eye udder



Put a ring around the things we get from milk?

eggs cream butter bread meat cheese

