

3rd GRADE STATE WINNER

Responsibility Can Be Fun!

By Juliet Olson

Sheila Amaral, Teacher | Hickman Elementary School
STANISLAUS COUNTY

Illustrated by: Monterey Trail High School



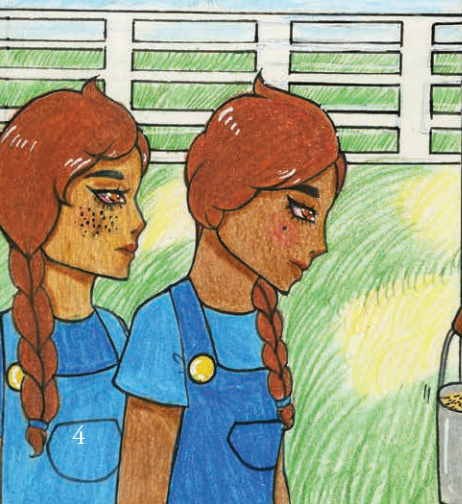
Veronica and Leona were twin girls that lived on a small, 5-acre farm in the Central Valley of California. They were 10 years old and loved Jersey cows.

Their family owned two Jersey heifer calves and a cow. They kept their animals in their small pasture. Their irrigation water allotment was cut back because of the drought, so their pasture wasn't growing enough to feed, which meant that they were going to have to buy hay. Hay is expensive, but their parents loved their animals.

The twins' parents were going out of town for a weekend and needed to teach their daughters how to milk their cow, something that must be done two to three times a day, as a cow produces 6 to 7 gallons of milk per day!



"Let's go to the barn," Mom said to Dad. "Yes!" yelled Dad. "Veronica! Leona!" hollered Mom. "Come to the barn!"



Mom and Dad were very excited to teach Veronica and Leona how to milk their cow. They wanted the extra help. The twins weren't as excited.

"Get Betsy and bring her to the barn, girls. Shake this bucket of grain to call her in," instructed Dad.

"OK, Dad," said Veronica, unenthusiastically. Both girls dragged their boots to the pasture to bring Betsy in.

"Come on, Betsy," whined Leona. "Let's go." Betsy followed the girls, happily. She loved being milked and her yummy treat. They got Betsy situated in the barn.

"Dad and I want to teach you how to milk Betsy," Mom explained.

"We are going to do it by hand?" asked Leona. "Yes," said Dad. "No!" screeched Veronica.

"Please!" pleaded Mom. "We are going out of town and need to know that you will be able to milk Betsy."



“How long will this take?” the girls questioned.

“It will only take 30 to 40 minutes,” Dad responded.

“Let’s get going then,” Veronica said.



Mom began to teach, “First, we give Betsy the grain in the bucket. She loves this treat, and it keeps her distracted while we milk her. Then, with clean rags, we wash her udder with soapy, warm water. Make sure to dry the teats before you begin milking. Jerseys have small udders, and Dad has really big hands, so he uses three fingers. You two have small hands, so you can use your whole hand. Don’t squeeze or pull, just roll your fingers down, applying gentle pressure.





“Place a clean bucket under her teats and begin milking. After about 30 to 40 minutes, Betsy will be done. Pour the milk from the bucket into quart jars.

“Put lids on the jars and twist them tightly so they don’t spill. Remember to label the jar that it is raw milk! Last but not least, you must put the jars in the refrigerator. Then you’re done! Our neighbors will stop by to get their standing orders of milk.”



"We're leaving tomorrow and our neighbor, Chloe, has offered to stay with you," said Dad.

"Tomorrow, you'll have to milk Betsy by yourselves. Can you handle it?" Mom questioned the girls.



"Yes, we can do it," the girls said together.



The next day Veronica and Leona were a little excited and a little nervous to milk Betsy for the first time by themselves. They went to the pasture to bring Betsy in, and Chloe watched them.

“Remember, let’s first clean and dry the udder,” said Leona to Veronica.

“Got it,” replied Veronica. “Now, I’ll start milking.”

“This actually is fun, don’t you think, Veronica?” asked Leona. Veronica nodded her head in agreement.



The girls finished, put the milk in jars, and put them in the refrigerator. As they finished, Chloe walked in and complimented both girls on their great work.

"I can't wait to tell your parents what a great job you did!" Chloe exclaimed. "I noticed some apples on the ground. Do you want to grab a few and feed some to Betsy and her calves with their hay?"

Veronica and Leona gathered apples and hay to feed Betsy and the calves. Mom and Dad returned while the girls were at school on Monday. Dad went to the barn to check on things.

"Wow, our girls did a great job!" Dad told Mom.

When Veronica and Leona got home from school, Dad and Mom were waiting for them with big smiles on their faces.



“You girls were so responsible for doing what we asked. We are so proud of you both,” Mom said proudly.

“We really liked milking Betsy!” exclaimed Veronica.

“We were wondering if that could be one of our chores?” Leona asked. Mom and Dad looked at each other and chimed together, “Of course!”

The girls giggled in excitement. “We love milking Betsy! Responsibility can be fun!”



About the Author



\\ **Juliet Olson** \\\ 8 years old

Juliet got her story idea from her own responsibilities! Her chores include feeding the cats and quail, and collecting chicken eggs. While Juliet doesn't have Jersey cows herself, a trip to the dairy to learn about the topic was her favorite part of the writing process. She also liked learning how to type faster. Juliet hopes that readers will learn that yes, responsibility can indeed be fun!

About the Illustrators



Vivian Ning, Vanessa Palafox, Avalina Duckworth, Savannah Farmer

Monterey Trail High School

Monica Ortega, Art Teacher

This team of sophomore art students loved illustrating “Responsibility Can Be Fun!” Their goal was to make the characters’ personalities come alive and convey the story’s message that chores and responsibilities can truly be enjoyed.

Before they put a pen or colored pencil to paper, they researched. They watched videos on how cows were prepared for milking and the milking process itself. Next, the team divided the story into scenes, sketched out designs, and decided on the color palettes. They used colored pencils, ink pens, white gel pens, and markers to create their illustrations.

The students enjoyed bringing the entertaining and informative story to life and collaborating as a team.