

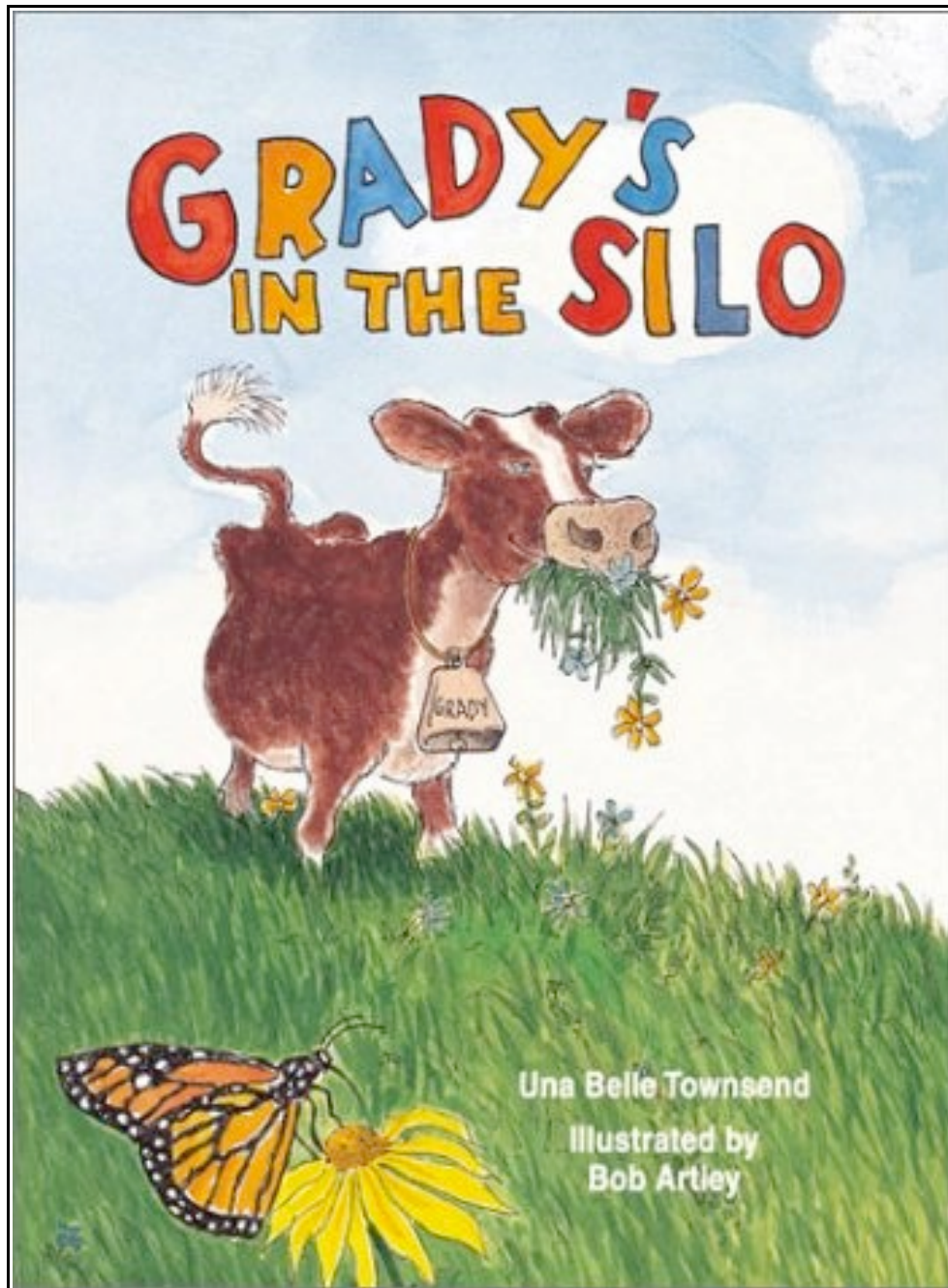


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## Classroom Activity Guide for **Grady's In The Silo**

By Una Belle Townsend  
Illustrated by Bob Artley



Activity Guide created by  
Una Belle Townsend

*Worksheets to  
Photocopy*

# Arts and Crafts Projects

## Art Projects:

Make a silo from a potato-chip can or oatmeal box. It is best to draw the silo on construction paper first and then glue it to the box or can. Be sure to cut a small opening near the bottom of the can or box. If you have a small set of farm animals, put the cow in the silo. Many silos are made from cinder blocks; some are made from bricks; some silos have tops; some do not. The one Grady fell into did not have a top. Design your own.

**Farm Mural:** For a group project, divide the class into four or more groups. Let each group decide what part of a farm they would like to draw. Then, divide a large piece of butcher paper into sections and let the students make a mural of a farm. Parts of the mural could include a house, barn(s), pond, machine sheds, silo, storage sheds, fields, pastures, orchards, hen-houses, creek, animals, and a big garden.

**Collage:** Have students do a collage of Grady or of a farm scene. Ask parents or grandparents if they have farm-type magazines that students can bring to class to use for the collages.

**For younger students:** Have the students find farm-related pictures in magazines. For example, they could find pictures that begin with certain letters: "T" for tractor, and Tom Turkey, "C" for cowboy or combine, etc.

Make an outline of a cow on heavy paper or cardboard and then use different materials to make the cow 3-D. For example, you can use popcorn, beans, small candies (red hots), dyed rice, pasta, crushed eggshells, etc. Eggshells dyed red can be used with white eggshells to make a Hereford cow.

Use a paper sack to make a vest. Draw pictures of Grady and all of her animal friends on the vest.

Make a visor out of heavy paper. Decorate with drawings of anything pertaining to farm life.

## Design Your Own T-shirt (on paper)

Have students brainstorm about farm products. Then have them design their own paper T-shirts using farm products. For example, on a T-shirt have a pig and bacon, a cow and hamburger, vegetables and salad, fruits and fruit salad or wheat and bread as part of a unit on nutrition. Using a large, piece of heavy construction paper, draw the outline of a T-shirt then draw the design on the front. When students have finished the shirts, cut them out. Shirts could then be hung on a clothesline strung on the bulletin board.



# Writing and Poetry Ideas

After reading and discussing *Grady's in the Silo*, allow students to pick a topic to write about. Suggested topics:

If you were a member of the family who owned Grady, what would be the first three things that you would do for Grady after she got stuck in the Silo?

If you were the vet, how would you try to help Grady? Is there anything that you would be able to do?

You are neighbors with the family that owns Grady and you would like to go visit her. Your parents think that you should not disturb the family since they are so busy. Convince your parents to let you visit Grady.

Describe the way that you would rescue Grady.

The little Yukon, Oklahoma post office has never had so many letters-and all of them are about a cow! There are thousands of letters. If you were the postmaster, how would you handle all of the extra mail?

Pretend you are an animal on the farm (dog, cat, chicken, bull, goat, etc.). If you could rescue Grady, how would you do it?

You are a writer for the biggest newspaper in the state. Your editor wants your viewpoint and those of others in the article you are to write. What are some of the questions you would ask, and who would you ask?

You want to write a letter to the family who owns Grady because you have "the best" solution about how to get Grady out of the silo. Write the letter and include step-by-step directions.

Write a play about Grady.

Write a puppet show about Grady. You can make your own pictures or cut pictures out of magazines or coloring books and glue them to popsicle sticks.

You have heard that Grady will be butchered if no one can find a way to get her out of the silo. Write a persuasive letter to the editor of the newspaper that includes why you think that butchering her is not a good idea. Also include your ideas about how to get Grady out of the silo so that her life can be spared.

The Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom group often mentions that "You can't have an Ag-less Day". From cotton sheets to wool rugs, many of life's everyday items are related to agriculture. Write about the many items we see, feel, smell, taste, touch, and hear that pertain to agriculture.

# Moouooooove Over. We Have Poetry to Read!

The poem shown below is one that could be read as a group after reading the book. **Teachers:** You can encourage students to write and illustrate their own poems about farm life. Hang the work on the bulletin board with a title such as "Something to Moouoooooo About," "Moouoooovey Groouooovey Poetry," or "Moouoooooove Over, We Have Poetry to Read."

## Grady the Cow

Grady the Cow,  
Was really so fine.  
She made worldwide news,  
Back in '49.

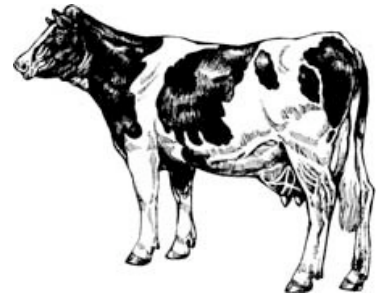
She decided one day,  
That away she would go,  
And she rushed right in  
To the nearest silo.

"Bill Mach-let me out!"  
Said Grady-said she.  
And she bellowed and bawled,  
'Cause she wanted to be free.

Bill just couldn't free her,  
But he kept her alive,  
And they greased her and freed her  
On day number five.

She became famous  
And Yukon did too -  
A silo, a cow,  
And a worldwide moouooo!

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# Before and After

Before reading the story *Grady's in the Silo*, go over these vocabulary words with younger students. Older students may want to review them.

**Silo:** a place to store silage, vegetation, or chopped-up plants for animal food

**Pasture:** land used by animals to graze

**Silage:** chopped-up plants for animal food that is put into a silo

**Bovine:** another name for cattle

**Hereford:** a breed of cattle, usually red and white

**Livestock:** the animals on a farm

**Machinery:** types of equipment used on the farm, such as discs, plows, tractors, diggers, spriggers, combines, brush hogs, cultivators, etc.

**Farm:** a place to raise plants and animals for food consumption, for livelihood, and for pleasure

**Barn:** a place on the farm to store items such as seeds, equipment, implements, hay, and food.  
Barns are often used to house animals.

**Sheds:** a large structure (but smaller than a barn) that is used to store equipment and other items not stored in the barn. Sometimes, this kind of structure is open at both ends.

## After reading the story:

Where did Grady live?

Who owned Grady?

Why was Grady in the shed?

What time of the year did this story take place?

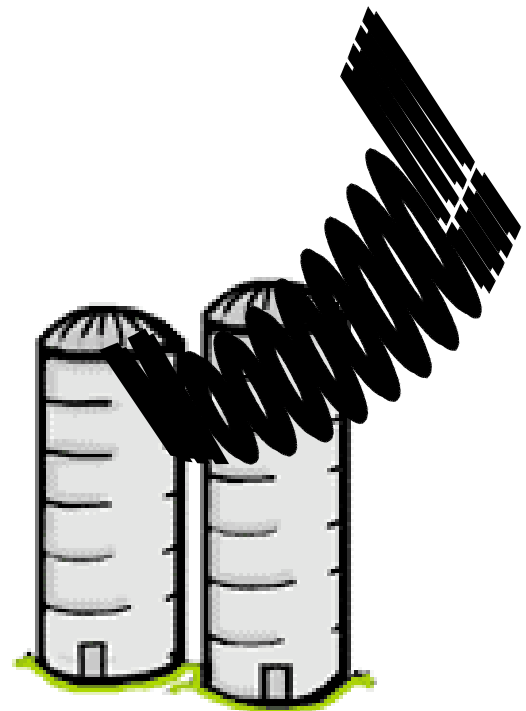
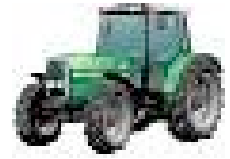
How do you know?

Why did the vet visit Grady?

What happened when the vet gave her a shot?

How long did she stay in the silo?

How did she get out?



# Concentration!!

Using the vocabulary words, and any other words pertaining to farm life, students can make their own concentration game using index cards.

Divide each index card in half, and write the same vocabulary word on each side.

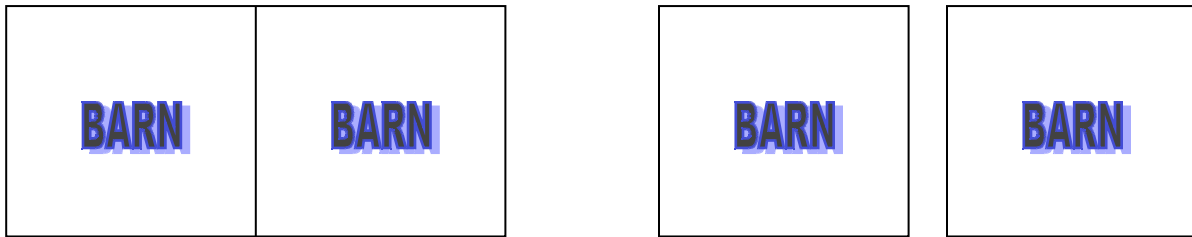
Do that until you can't think of any more farm related vocabulary words.

Then, cut each card in half. Keep each set of cards separate.

Shuffle each set of cards and then place them face down on the table.

Let each student pick 2 cards. If both cards match, they keep the cards. If not, the cards go back to the bottom of the deck.

The winner will have the most cards at the end of the game.



## Matching Game

Draw a line from the definition to the word it defines.

A place to store items, machinery, seed  
hay, and food

silo

A breed of cattle that is usually red  
and white

silage

A place to store silage, and food for animals

machinery

Chopped-up plants for food

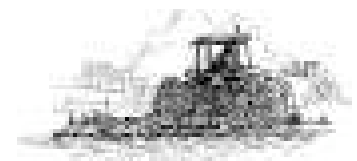
barn

The animals on the farm

Hereford

Types of equipment used on the farm, such  
as discs and plows

livestock



# Grady Does Math and You Can Too!!



To the teacher: Word problems are not the favorite kind of math problem for most students, but try these out, and you might find your students enjoying themselves.

1. Grady was asked to visit the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. It is 16 miles from the farm to the fairgrounds. How many miles will she travel **round trip**.
2. **This problem uses a map.** Figure out how many miles Grady's farm is from YOUR house. To figure this out, you need to remember that Grady lived 16 miles from Oklahoma City.
3. In the winter months, Bill Mach had to feed his herd of 6 Herefords hay. If each Hereford eats 1 bale of hay per day, how many bales of hay will they eat in one week.
4. Bill would feed "sweet feed" to his cattle. If he fed them 10 pounds **per day**, how many days would a 50-pound sack last?
5. **For this question you need to know what cattle are selling for at the local cattle auction house.** If Grady weighed 1,200 pounds, what would she sell for at an auction?
6. Grady's friend, Speckled Chicken, ate a lot of insects during the day. If she ate 6 grasshoppers, and 9 small beetles in the morning, 14 grasshoppers at lunch, 3 beetles in the afternoon, and 7 more grasshoppers before going to roost, how many insects did she eat? How many were grasshoppers?
7. One pen where Grady sometimes stayed was 10 feet by 12 feet. How many **square feet** is that?
8. Design your own cattle pen. Write how many yards, feet, and inches are in your cattle pen or pasture area. How many square feet?

## Let's Cook up a Little Math (But ask an adult to help out)

Following a recipe is an excellent, and **tasty**, way to reinforce math skills and the ability to follow directions.

### Cow Patties

**Materials:** ingredients listed below, measuring cup, medium saucepan, large spoon, teaspoon, tablespoon, large mixing bowl, waxed paper

2 cups of sugar	3 cups of raw, quick-cooking oats
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk	1 teaspoon of vanilla
3 tablespoons of cocoa	5 tablespoons of peanut butter
1 stick of margarine (8 tablespoons)	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of chopped nuts (optional)
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt	1 cup of flaked coconut (optional)



Place sugar, milk, margarine, cocoa, and salt in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the oats, peanut butter, and vanilla. Add optional ingredients if desired.

Stir quickly and drop by spoonfuls on waxed paper. Let cool. Enjoy with some cold milk!



# Science in the classroom with Grady

## Erosion and Runoff

### What is it and how to prevent it

Farmers depend on good soil to grow crops for food. Whether it is food for humans, or food for animals, the topsoil must be rich and fertile. If there are not enough plants to hold the good soil in place, it will be worn away by the action of water running over it (**runoff**), causing **erosion**.

### In the classroom

It is easy to demonstrate this concept in the classroom with a few simple materials.

**Materials:** 3 old trays, plastic dishpans, or old sturdy boxes, water in a bucket or watering can, and grass seed, or grass sprigs and a place outside to work, as the project is a bit messy.

In the first of the 3 containers, plant just a little grass seed or grass sprigs in enough soil to reach the top of the container. In the second container, plant more grass seed or sprigs than in the first container and in the third container plant a lot of seed or sprigs. The idea is to have more grass in the third container than in the other two. Be sure the seeds or sprigs get adequate water.

After the seed has grown about two inches, or the sprigs have rooted, you are ready to finish the activity. Place the containers on a raised surface and place a bucket below each container to catch the water you will be using.

Pour **equal amounts** of water on each container as if a big rain has occurred. Watch the runoff from each container. The container with only a little grass will have much more water that will fall into the bucket than the container with a lot of grass.

**Object of the exercise is to demonstrate how plants keep the soil in place and lessen the effects of erosion on the soil.**

### Growing plants in containers

This is an easy project and lots of fun for younger students.

**Materials:** Sweet potato, carrot-tops, or onion; glass jar; soil; watering can with water.

The size of the glass jar used depends on the vegetable. Place enough soil in the glass jar to root your vegetable. Provide sunlight and water and watch them grow!! Students will be able to observe root formation and watch the difference in the growth rates of the different vegetables.

**Extended lesson:** Keep a diary of the growth rate of your vegetables and compare the growth every few weeks.

**Vocabulary words to explore:** germination, root, photosynthesis, evaporation, osmosis, erosion, runoff, soil conservation.





# Sing, Sing a Song. . .



Music activities can help students refine their math and listening skills. Listed are some fun, farm-type songs that students can learn and then sing to other grades.

Three Blind Mice  
Turkey in the Straw  
Froggie Went a Courtin'  
Baa-Baa Black Sheep  
Mary Had a Little Lamb  
Eentsy, Weentsy Spider  
Chicken Dance

Hickory Dickory Dock  
Old McDonald  
Pop Goes the Weasel  
Little Miss Muffet  
Old Grey Mare

## B.I.N.G.O.

This song about a farmer and his dog, BINGO, can become a song about a farmer and his cow, GRADY.



There was a farmer had a cow  
And Grady was her name-o.

G-R-A-D-Y

G-R-A-D-Y

G-R-A-D-y

And Grady was her name-o.



There was a farmer had a cow  
And Grady was her name-o.

(clap) R-A-D-y

(clap) R-A-D-Y

(clap) R-A-D-Y

And Grady was her name-o.

**Continue the song as B.I.N.G.O. is sung.**

### Internet Search

Use your computer skills to find other animal songs on the Internet.

These will get you started

[www.proteacher.com](http://www.proteacher.com) - This particular Web site is loaded with farm-related material from games to writing activities to songs.

[www.entl.org.il](http://www.entl.org.il) - This Web site has elementary-school songs by category. There are lots of animal songs listed.

# Grady Cooks (and you can too!)

## Purple Cow (or any other color you wish)

In a small 8 oz. or 12 oz. cup put one or two scoops of ice cream. Pour grape drink (or any colored drink) over the ice cream. Serve with a spoon or straw.

## Shake It up - Purple Cow

3 cups of vanilla frozen yogurt

1 cup milk

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup thawed frozen grape-juice concentrate

1 teaspoon lemon juice

Place all four ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Serve immediately. Makes about 4 cups.

Grady ate from a haystack - but these haystacks are for people.

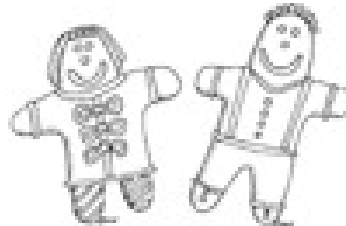
## Peanut Butter Haystacks

1 pkg. (6 oz.) butterscotch morsels

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup creamy peanut butter

1 cup roasted peanuts

1 can chow mein noodles



Melt chips and peanut butter on top of a double boiler over hot (but not boiling) water. (You can also microwave chips in a 2-quart, microwave-safe container for one minute on high). Stir and microwave one more minute. Stir until blended. Add peanut butter. Stir. Then add peanuts and noodles, stirring until well covered. Drop little clusters, resembling haystacks, on waxed paper. Let harden. Makes about 36 haystacks.

## Crispy Treat Animals

Make Rice Crispy treats according to directions. Press out onto waxed paper. Using farm-animal cookie cutters, cut into animal shapes. Use candies to add eyes and noses.

## Crazy Halloween Desert

1 8 oz. package of cream cheese, softened

4 scoops of pre-sweetened soft-drink mix (orange or green is best for Halloween)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of milk

1 8 oz. Container of whipped topping - thawed

12 sponge-cake desert shells (pound cake will work, too)

Beat cream cheese and soft-drink mix in a large bowl until well mixed. Slowly add milk and beat until smooth. Very gently add whipped topping. Spoon about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of mixture into dessert shells or on top of cake. Decorate with candies, cookies, etc., to resemble Halloween spiders, bats, pumpkins, etc. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Makes about 12 servings.

## Web sites for Kids



USDA Kids Pages [www.usda.gov/news/usdakids](http://www.usda.gov/news/usdakids)

4H Virtual Farms [www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h)

National Ag in the Classroom [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org)

Agriculture for Kids in Montana [www.kids.state.mt.us](http://www.kids.state.mt.us)

Elmo Minds the Farm [pbskids.org/sesame](http://pbskids.org/sesame)

The Cyber Farm [www.cyberspaceag.com](http://www.cyberspaceag.com)

Planet Ag [www.fl-ag.co./planetag](http://www.fl-ag.co./planetag)

Pizza Farm [www.pizzafarm.org](http://www.pizzafarm.org)

Farm Safety Just 4 Kids [www.fs4jk.org](http://www.fs4jk.org)

John Deere For Kids [www.deere.com/deerecom/\\_kids](http://www.deere.com/deerecom/_kids)

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*About the book:*

### ***GRADY'S IN THE SILO***

By Una Belle Townsend  
Illustrated by Bob Artley

Grady is a 1,200-pound Hereford cow that gets herself mysteriously stuck in a silo. No one can figure out how to free her until a heroic reporter from Denver solves the problem.

***Grady's in the Silo*** is a charming story about patience and perseverance.

Based on a true story, this tale humorously translates a part of Oklahoma folklore in a way that is equally appealing to both parents and children. Grady's story, which began in a small Oklahoma town named Yukon, reached around the world in 1949. Now, more than fifty years later, Una Belle Townsend brings it to life on the page.

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