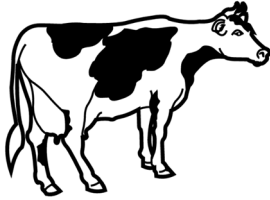


Poems About Cows

The Cow is of the Bovine Ilk by Ogden Nash

The cow is of the bovine ilk;
One end is moo, the other milk.

The New Cow by August Derleth



The new cow came
through the gate,
And her calf came after, a little late.
No longer willing to be led,
The calf went on ahead,
While she stood to look around
Over the hills and lower ground
Stood shyly, defiantly there,
Smelling flower-fragrant air,
And gazed toward the old cows
Grouped on the way before.
Knowing not how she might stay
Among them, stranger still,
She hesitated yet, now they had turned
At the foot of the hill
And seemed to wait for her at the gate,
To wait for her who was strange and thin,
Til she came on,
And they opened their ranks
To take her in.

The Cow by Robert Louis Stevenson

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple tart.
She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;
And blown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

The Cow in Apple Time by Robert Frost

Something inspires the only cow of late
To make no more of a wall than an open gate,
And think no more of wall-builders than fools.
Her face is flecked with pomace and she drools
A cider syrup. Having tasted fruit,
She scorns a pasture withering to the root.
She runs from tree to tree where lie and sweeten
The windfalls spiked with stubble and worm-eaten.
She leaves them bitten when she has to fly.
She bellows on a knoll against the sky.
Her udder shrivels and the milk goes dry.

1. Read and compare the four poems.
2. Which of the four poems tell stories? Write the stories in prose. Look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary.
3. For each poem, decide whether the cows are dairy cows or beef cows.
4. What word would you use to describe the tone of each poem? (serious, funny whimsical, etc.)
5. Determine the poetic structure for each poem (rhyming or free verse).
6. Describe the meter for each poem
7. Identify figurative language in each of the poems.
8. What do these poems teach you about cows that you did not already know?

P.A.S.S.: Grade 3 Reading—2.1,4; 4.1abd,2a,3ab; 5.1ab,3. Writing—2.1. Grade 4 Reading—1.1,4b; 3.1b,2ab,3a; 4.ab,2b,3ab. Writing—2.5a. Grade 5 Reading—1.b,4b; 3.1a,2a,3ab,4a; 4.1abc,3bcd. Writing—2.7abc. Grade 6 Reading—1.1b,3ab; 3.1a,2b,3b,4d; 4.1a,2d3ad. Writing—2.6a. Grade 7 Reading—1.1,3abcd; 3.2a; 4.1a,3ac. Writing—2.7ac. Grade 8 Reading—1.1,3abcd; 3.2ab; 4.1a,3ac. Writing—2.7a