



## A Moose That Says Moo

*Jennifer Hamburg , Sue Truesdell (Illustrations)*

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From jump-roping skunks to book-reading sharks, the animals in this girl's make-believe zoo will do whatever she wants. Messing with nature is fun at first, until we see how hilariously wrong things go. Oinking otters! Picketing ground hogs! Stage-crashing pigs! What could be next? With deadpan text and eye-popping art, this raucous picture book builds gleefully to a riot of craziness that brings the whole fantasy tumbling down?in a comedic warning against imaginary menageries that kids will find hilarious.

## A Moose That Says Moo Details

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (first published September 24th 2013)

ISBN : 9780374350581

Author : Jennifer Hamburg , Sue Truesdell (Illustrations)

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Storytime

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## From Reader Review A Moose That Says Moo for online ebook

### Barbara says

This story told in rhyming text allows an imaginative girl to envision a zoo in which a moose might make the sounds of a cow and sharks are voracious readers. Although her ideas are imaginative, she quickly sees that things might become rather messy and promises never to consider that idea again. Still, the possibilities that lie around her seem unlimited. Readers may smile as they read this quirky book with its animals behaving in decidedly unusual ways. The illustrations show the problems that arise when animals behave in uncharacteristic ways.

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### Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: A MOOSE THAT SAYS MOOOOOOOOO by Jennifer Hamburg and Sue Truesdell, ill., Farrar Straus and Giroux, October 2013, 32p., ISBN: 978-0-374-35058-1

"Not in a box.  
Not with a fox.  
Not in a house.  
Not with a mouse.  
I would not eat them here or there.  
I would not eat them anywhere.  
I would not eat green eggs and ham.  
I do not like them, Sam-I-am."  
-- Dr. Seuss (1960)

According to a 2001 article in *Publisher's Weekly*, *GREEN EGGS AND HAM* is the number-four all-time best-selling children's book. While that didn't surprise me, I was actually a bit surprised to learn from the article that it is Dr. Seuss's biggest seller, several places ahead of *THE CAT IN THE HAT* on the list.

To note that Dr. Seuss holds six of the top twenty spots on that list of all-time best-selling children's books is to recognize that growing up with Dr. Seuss is a relatively universal experience in mainstream America. Therefore, given the good Doctor's immortality and hefty, never-ending sales numbers, it is not surprising that many an aspiring children's author will seek to strike gold by writing a rhyming picture book.

In my opinion, far too many rhyming picture books make their way into print. I encounter so many of them that do not roll off the tongue effortlessly in the manner of Sam-I-am or of faithful Horton. Encountering scores and scores of rhyming picture books over the years, including so many that just don't make the grade, has caused me to approach them skeptically, cautiously, with a bit of trepidation.

But I also have the great memories of leading a couple of circle times every day during my many years at the childcare center. And my take-away from those years is that there is nothing better than an absolutely killer rhyming picture book to make for a great read-aloud circle time experience.

This morning, I found one of this kind. The great ones.

"Feathers would flit! Feathers would float!  
Feathers would wake up a sound-asleep goat.

The goat would get mad and throw handfuls of dough,  
interrupting a tap-dancing singing pig show.  
The pigs, quite surprised at this turn of events,  
would scamper and squeal and knock over a fence.  
The fence would crash into an all-duck jazz band.  
And this is where things would get way out of hand."

Lots of action, serious mayhem, and a great rhythm, are brought together here with equally exciting artwork by a veteran illustrator at the top of her game.

In *A MOOSE THAT SAYS MOOOOOOOOO*, a girl who has been out in her expansive back yard, reading picture books, working in her toy kitchen, playing with plastic animals, and hanging with the family dog in the tall grass, imagines their back yard transformed into a zoo-full of animal misbehavior.

"The goose would spill juice.  
The snakes would all yelp.  
The cheetah would pick up the phone and say, 'Help!'  
Otters would oink!  
Chipmunks would chirp!  
Rabbits would ribbet and hiccup and burp!  
The turtle would trip and land in a pie,  
while trying to calm a hysterical fly."

I keep going back and looking at the illustrations that are so full of action and great detail: of the night scenes with the pigs in bowties hoofing it on a bench, and the many animals in their blue-and-white night shirts; then the jazz band with the duck percussionist knocked on his butt, his wings over his eyes, as we see before him the south end of a pig sticking out of what had been his bass drum. The expression on the cheetah on the phone. The action sequence of the turtle becoming airborne and heading for the pie. One after the other, the ink-and-watercolor spreads here are really notable, exciting, and memorable.

This one made my morning.

Richie Partington, MLIS  
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## **Aeicha says**

In Jennifer Hamburg's *A Moose That Says Moo* silly chaos erupts when a little girl imagines her own unique zoo filled with animals that do unexpected things. A mooing moose, book reading sharks, tap dancing pig, car driving bears, oh my!

Young readers will be absolutely charmed by Hamburg's delightfully deadpan, yet whimsical rhymes. The heroine's imagined zoo is filled to the brim with wacky, exciting fun and surprises in every corner. Sue Truesdell's bright, comical illustrations are the perfect companion to the little girl's wild imagination. And little readers will love looking at the busy, eye-popping pages and will delight in all they find.

A Moose That Says Moo will surely entertain all the little ones in your life and will encourage their own imaginative musings.

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### **Heidi-Marie says**

Good rhyming and pacing. A fun, silly idea that I think the kids will enjoy. Lots of details in pictures best seen in lap-read or read-alone, but I still think will work in storytime.

7/27/16 Used in X, Y, Z theme (zoo). The kids liked the silliness. I'm not sure if it was as amazing since I had just done another silly animal book right before. But overall it was good.

9/13/17 Used in "Loads of Laughs" theme. Not as funny as I remember. But then I had a fairly new-ish crowd and they aren't sure about laughing out loud yet. But I was also limited in what I could do, and having done a toddler beforehand I think I was a little spent in being creative.

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### **Syntha Green says**

A rollicking, rhyming story in which a girl describes what would happen if she ran a zoo. Perfect for storytime.

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### **Wanda says**

An imaginative story about what sort of animals would be in the protagonist's zoo. Very strange critters indeed. Lively illustrations and craziness. I'm sure children would like this book

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### **Jan says**

The opening double page artwork on the title page of this picture book helps introduce this entertaining rhyming story. In it, a girl is reading in a summer back yard, surrounded by evidence of her recent play: small toy cars and animals, a little kitchen set, book, crayons, and papers with drawings on them. All these and more become the imaginative playground in A Moose That Says Moo.

"If I were allowed to invent my own zoo, the first thing I'd have is a moose that said 'moo,'" announces the girl. From here on, the menagerie is the product of her inventive mind -- sharks who read books, an ox who can cook, tigers in trees who make mac and cheese, and more. Sue Truesdell's lively watercolor, pen, and ink illustrations dance across the pages in sketchbook style, to give a sense of increasingly frenetic action.

Ideas for teachers: To use this book in a school, preschool, or home learning situation, you could first read just the rhyming text, concealing the book cover to temporarily conceal the illustrations, and ask the children to draw pictures to go with the poem. ("What would an ape dancing with a zebra look like?")

Another teaching idea would be to read the book to the children, then ask them what animals they'd like to have in their own zoo, and what unusual things they'd have the animals do. Finally, an older class could

actually write out their own zoo ideas.

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### **Kevin Doyle says**

Anytime I come across a library book that's written in rhyme, I cringe when there are rough spots and I stand up and applaud when there are none. Thankfully, this book has no truly bad rhyming missteps and overall it's really written quite well. The sentences flow together nicely and there are some slight change ups to the rhythm here and there which make the story fun to read aloud.

If you enjoy the "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" type books, you'll definitely like this one. Our kids enjoyed the busy, detailed illustrations that cleverly match what's happening in the text. And most of the crazy, chaotic art images will give you a nice laugh at the same time. Particularly when a grumpy goat starts chucking dough balls at some dancing pigs or when the goose inevitably spills the juice!

I liked this one for it's creative imagery and well-written, well-crafted rhyming text. A fine book for boys or girls and fun for parents to read aloud as well!

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### **Jennifer Heise says**

Silly zoology, in the vein of "If you give a Mouse a Muffin" and some of the more ridiculous Dr. Seuss stories.

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### **Stefany Boleyn says**

For my moose storytime. The second book I read.

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### **Derelict Space Sheep says**

42 WORD REVIEW:

The moose barely features but it does start the fun, Hamburg letting her hair down in a freewheeling animals-gone-wild story (spoilt only by occasional stumbles in her Dr Seuss-like amphibrachic tetrameter). Truesdell captures the chaos with vibrant illustrations à la Quentin Blake.

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### **Amanda Castle says**

A Moose That Says Moooooo

By: Jennifer Hamburg

Summary: This is a cute little book that has rhyming throughout. It goes through the day when a little child decides to make their own zoo. Except at this zoo all of the animals do very strange things. The Moose says

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moo, the Hens take baths in bird baths with bubbles, etc. This book will keep the kids engaged with its silly animals and funny rhymes.

Activity: Since this book has so much humor and silliness, I would use this book as a fun activity. I would read the book to my class and have them all act out the different animals. I will read it at a pace that is slow enough so the students have enough time to get some wiggles and giggles out. I really think students of any age would enjoy this activity!

Citation:

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### **Rachel says**

I rather enjoyed this very silly book, probably more than my son did. With rhyming text, we find a girl is sitting in the backyard who says that if “a moose ever says moo then she will decide to create her own zoo, which would include sharks reading books.” There are singing tap-dancing pigs, an all-duck jazz band, a goose serving juice, and tigers lazing in trees and making macaroni and cheese. Then the animals start causing mayhem and things start getting out of control, and she must step in to save everyone. Recommended for ages 3-6, 4 stars.

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### **Tasha says**

Sitting near the laundry drying on the line, a little girl is reading books about animals. She starts to think about having a zoo of her very own and what sorts of animals it would have. It’s guaranteed that no other zoo has animals like hers! There is a moose that says “moo,” bears that drive cars, tigers that swing in the trees, and sharks that read books. At night, the animals have a big pillow fight that turns into one silly brawl with awakened goats, tap-dancing pigs that startle easily, tripping turtles, and even groundhogs that protest. It will take one smart young girl to get everything put back together again even in this imaginary zoo.

Written in a rollicking rhyme, this book really celebrates the ridiculous and the silly. Hamburg manages to create zoo animals with wild qualities that make the book a surprise on each page. The result is a book that dances on the edge of losing control, but the firm hand Hamburg takes with the rhyme and rhythm keeps it within control and makes for a book that begs to be shared aloud.

Truesdell does an amazing job of managing to take all of the wild chaotic silliness of the book and turn it into illustrations that help it all make sense. At the same time, she too revels in the silliness on the page and adds to it with small touches like a reading shark accidentally eating a book, the offer of many tissues to a sneezing tiger, and goggled bears in cars.

Pure silliness, this book could merrily be wedged into many storytime themes. Use it as a finisher since even antsy children will sit still for this wild ride. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

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### **Nicola says**

Miss 3 and I like to explore different books and authors at the library, sometimes around particular topics or

themes. We try to get different ones out every week or so; it's fun for both of us to have the variety and to look at a mix of new & favourite authors.

A randomly chosen book. It's a fun read that's visually interesting as a girl imagines the non-traditional zoo she would create (and how she would step-in to fix the funny chaos).

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