

# Horse Colors

Level B / 23 words / informational text

High frequency words:

*and, is, this*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever seen a horse up close? What colors are horses? Where do you usually see horses?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss the color of each horse in the book: *black, brown, gray, and white*.
- Find the known words *is* and *this*.
- Read the last page and explain to the children about the sound a horse makes. Have them run their finger under the word *Neigh* and notice the letter *N* and its sound.

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.

- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "From the story, what colors can horses be?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Where do horses usually live? Could you have a horse as a pet in your home?"

## Word work

- Have students locate the high-frequency words *this, is* and *and* in the text and practice writing them.
- Ask students to find the color words in the text: *black, gray, white, and brown*.

## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

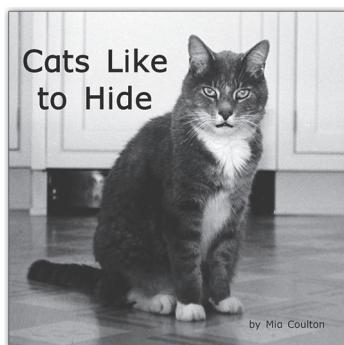
## Writing activity

- Write the word *horse* on the board. Using a color word, have students complete the sentence: "*This horse is \_\_\_\_\_.*" Then have the students draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.

### FUN FACT

Horses have strong legs that help them run fast and sleep standing up. Being able to sleep while standing helps horses stay safe from predators.

**Teaching Points:** Using meaning to connect pictures to text; Matching words to print, one to one; Supporting proper directionality (left to right); Introducing color words.



# Cats Like to Hide

Level C / 36 words / informational text

High frequency words:

*in, is, like, on, this, to*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Do you have a cat? What do cats like to do?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture. Make comments such as, "This cat likes to hide. This cat lives in a house."
- Help the children find the word *this*.
- Help the children find the words that may be new to them: *lives, hide, and under*. Have the children locate these words by predicting how the word begins or ends.

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.

- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "Where do cats like to live? Where do they like to hide?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Do you know any other places a cat may like to hide? Why do you think cats like to hide?"

## Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Practice writing the word *this*. Ask students to write other words that start with the *th* sound.

## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

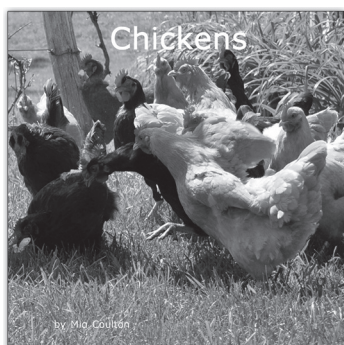
## Writing activity

- Have students write these sentences: "*This is a cat. This cat can hide.*" Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.
- Encourage the use of proper punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

### FUN FACT

Although cats like to drink milk, it's not the best food for them. Milk doesn't contain all of the nutrients cats need to be healthy.

**Teaching Points:** Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Practicing the *th* sound.



# Chickens

Level C / 39 words / informational text

High frequency words:

*and, at, come, look, run*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever seen a chicken or a rooster? What do you know about chickens and roosters? What sounds do chickens and roosters make?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Find the known words *come* and *look*.
- Find the words "*cluck*" and "*cock-a-doodle-doo*" by practicing how the words begin or end. Explain the quotation marks around these words.

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.

### FUN FACT

Chickens can only fly for short distances. The longest recorded flight by a chicken was 13 seconds long.

- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "Can you find a page that tells what chickens say? What does the story tell you about chickens?"

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "What do you think chickens eat? Where do chickens and roosters live?"

## Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Find the new word *run* and practice writing it. Help the children read and write rhyming words for *run* (*sun, bun, and fun*).
- Help the children find the talking marks (quotation marks) in the story. Practice reading what is in the quotation marks.
- Find the action words (verbs) in the story: *cluck, come, eat, run, and walk*.

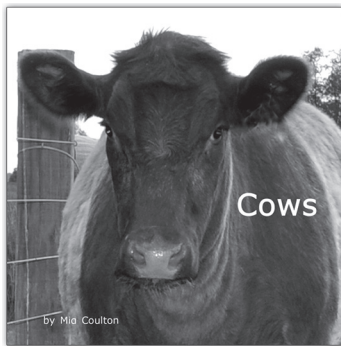
## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at the point of difficulty.

## Writing activity

- Write the word *chicken* on the board. Have the students write and complete the sentence: "*Chickens like to \_\_\_\_\_*." Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.
- Encourage the use of proper punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

**Teaching Points:** Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Practicing rhyming words that end with *-un*; Noticing punctuation (quotation marks); Introducing action words (verbs).



# Cows

Level C / 37 words / informational text

High frequency words:

*and, are, can, fast, her, is, run, this*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever seen a cow? What do you know about cows?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture. Help students find the word *this*.
- Find the known words *fast* and *baby*.
- Find the new word *calf* on page 10. Explain that a calf is a baby cow.

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

### FUN FACT

**Cows spend most of their day eating up to 80 pounds of hay or grass. They also like occasional treats, like a cut up apple or a slice of brown bread.**

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What does a cow eat? What sound does a cow make? What is a baby cow called?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.
- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "What else do you think cows eat? Where do you think cows live?"

## Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Look for words ending in *-ing*: *eating, resting, and running*. Notice that these words are made up of the base word and the *-ing* ending.

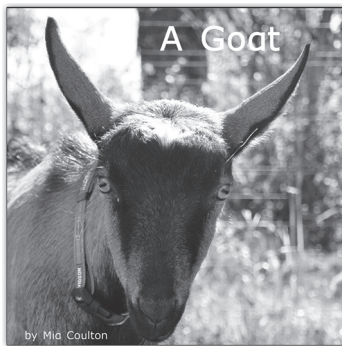
## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

## Writing activity

- Have the children write a sentence and draw a picture about what a cow likes to eat.
- Encourage independent attempts to spell words correctly and the use of proper punctuation.

**Teaching Points:** Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Introducing base words and the *-ing* ending.



# A Goat

Level C / 42 words / informational text

High frequency words:

*can, do, go, here, jump, not, off, on, play*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever seen a goat up close? What do you know about goats? Where do goats live and what do they eat?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Help the children find and learn the high-frequency words *can* and *jump*.
- Have the children find the words that may be new to them: *seesaw*, *table*, and *behind*.

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What are some things a goat can do?" Encourage the use of language from the text. Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Is a goat a better pet for a house or for a farm? Why?"

## Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Help the students locate and clap the two-syllable words in the text: *behind*, *flowers*, and *table*.
- Create a list of the things a goat can do from the story: *eat*, *jump*, *kick*, and *play*. Have the students read the pages that support their answers.

## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

## Writing activity

- Have the children write their own sentence about what a goat can do: "A goat can \_\_\_\_\_." Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.
- Encourage the use of proper punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

### FUN FACT

The idea that goats will eat anything is a myth. They are actually picky eaters, but like to chew on an unfamiliar item to learn more about it.

**Teaching Points:** Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Finding and clapping two-syllable words; Introducing action words.





# Pigs

Level D / 77 words / informational

High frequency words:

*and, are, at, big, come, look, with*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Who is on the cover? What do you know about pigs? Have you ever seen a pig?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Help the children find the high-frequency words: *are, come, and with.*
- Have the children find the words that may be new to them: *piglets, cool, muddy, snout, and roll.*
- Find the words ending in *-ing*: *eating and sleeping.*

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

### FUN FACT

Pigs snuggle close to one another and prefer to sleep nose to nose. They dream, much as humans do. In their natural surroundings, pigs spend hours playing, sunbathing, and exploring.

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you notice students using correctly.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What do pigs like to do? What are baby pigs called? Why do pigs roll in the mud?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.
- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "What would it be like to have a pig?"

## Word work

- Have students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Help the students locate and clap the two-syllable words in the text: *baby, muddy, eating, sleeping, and piglets.*
- Point out that the 's in *pig's* on page 6 means possession, showing that the nose belongs to the pig.

## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

## Writing activity

- Have each student write and complete the following sentence: "*Pigs like to \_\_\_\_\_.*" Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written. Encourage the use of punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

**Teaching Points:** Introducing new words; Introducing possessive words with the 's ending; Introducing words with the -ing ending; Rereading; Finding and clapping two-syllable words.