

# Cindy Moo

Written by Lori Mortensen, Illustrated by Jeff Mack

**HarperCollins, 2012**

Rhyming Picture Book

Hardcover, 32 pages, Children's, Ages 4-8

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## Activities for Teachers and Librarians

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### About the book

One night on the farm, the cows overhear a fantastic tale.

*“Hey, Diddle, Diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon!”*

Inspired by this classic rhyme, a plucky cow named Cindy Moo sets out to prove that cows really can leap over the moon. The other cows laugh, but that doesn't stop Cindy Moo from trying night after night. Could a cow really jump over the moon? This delightfully silly picture book will have readers of all ages cheering for its determined heroine.

### Themes

- Nursery rhymes
- Rhyming words
- Cows
- Character Education: effort, creativity, determination, and persistence.

### Art

- Cindy Moo tried all sorts of ways to jump over the moon. Have students draw another way Cindy Moo could try and jump over the moon.

- In this story, Cindy Moo is a brown and white cow. Have students draw a picture of a different kind of cow.

### Character Education

- Cindy Moo struggled to jump over the moon before she came up with her winning solution. Ask the students to describe things they've tried to accomplish and how they finally succeeded or learned something in the end.
- Were Cindy Moo's friends supportive in the beginning? Why or why not? After Cindy Moo succeeded, she shared her success. How did this affect their friendship?

### Geography

- Cows are raised in states across the country. Using a map, show which states raise the most cows.

### Health

- Trying to jump over the moon was a big goal. To even try, Cindy Moo needed to be in good physical shape. Discuss what Cindy Moo could do to train to make herself stronger to achieve her lofty goal.

- Cindy Moo tried to jump over the moon. What other exercises or athletic events involve jumping?

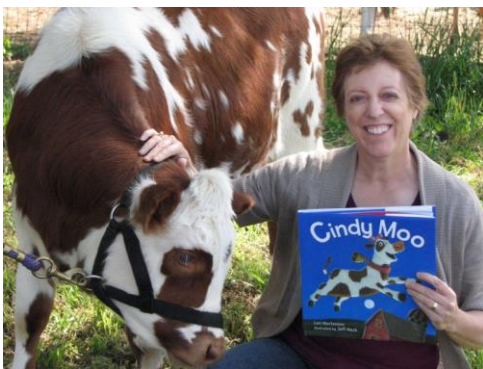
## Language Arts

- Cindy Moo’s story starts by hearing a nursery rhyme. Ask students to write their own nursery rhyme with a cow.
- In the beginning of the story, the cows began to argue about the cow that jumped the moon. Ask students to write what the cows might have said to each other, each taking a different side of the argument.

## Research

- Cindy Moo is a brown and white cow. Ask students to research different breeds of cows.
- *Cindy Moo* was inspired by a Mother Goose rhyme. Ask students to research Mother Goose. Was there a real Mother Goose? Where did this character come from?

## Author Information



**Lori Mortensen** is an award-winning children’s book author of more than 70 books and over 350 stories and articles. Recent releases include *Chicken Lily*, (Henry Holt 2016), *Mousequerade Ball* (Bloomsbury, 2016) illustrated by *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Betsy Lewin, and *Cowpoke Clyde Rides the Range* (Clarion, 2016) a sequel to *Cowpoke Clyde & Dirty Dawg*, one of Amazon’s best picture books of 2013. When she’s not letting her cat in, or out, or in--she’s tapping away at her computer, conjuring, coaxing, and prodding her latest stories to life. To learn more about Lori’s books and other activity guides, visit her website at [www.lorimortensen.com](http://www.lorimortensen.com).

## Social Studies

- Cindy Moo succeeded in spite of what the other cows said. What qualities would she need to do this? How else might the other cows have reacted before she tried, during, and after her success? How would that affect Cindy Moo’s efforts?

## Fun Cow and Moon Facts

- The first cow arrived in America at Jamestown colony in 1611.
- Cows are called foster mothers of the human race because they produce most of the milk that people drink.
- Water buffalos, sheep, horses and reindeer are also milked.
- The moon orbits the Earth every 27.3 days.
- Mons Huygens is the tallest mountain on the moon, just over half the height of Mt. Everest.
- The first person to set foot on the moon was American Neil Armstrong