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Hello and Happy April, REACHers!

This month brims with excitement! Both of my children celebrate April birthdays. Plus, it's Picture Book Month, Poetry Month, and School Library Month too. And today? It's International Children's Book Day.

Will you be sharing a book with a special child and stopping loneliness one page at a time? I sure hope so. Let's make this day a celebration of stories, imagination, and the share the joy of reading together!

Here's how I'm celebrating:

- I'm diving into a mountain of manuscripts to choose my next picture book.
- I'll be spreading the love of reading by depositing twenty-five children's books to little free libraries in my hometown. Every book is a ticket to a new world waiting to be explored!
- In the spirit of our REACH goal to bring laughter and literacy to billions, I'll be introducing the REACH initiative on social media in April. Join me in the quest to create meaningful connections while making reading cool and exciting for kids everywhere!

This month's REACH guide, features the picture book *Moo La La Ti Da!*. This charming, farming story about friendship and acceptance will have you moo-ving and grooving with delight! Get ready to join the farmyard fun with discussion questions, crafts & activities, and a little moo-sical fun that will make the story burst off the page and into your interconnected hearts! Don't feel like you need to do every activity; this guide is meant to simplify your life, not create more work. Use only the ones that work best for you.

Thank you for being a part of the REACH community. Together, we're creating meaningful connections through the magic of stories and making a real difference for generations of readers.

See you next month!
Donna B.

REACH Editor & Concierge of Children's Book Fun

This Month's Featured Book: *Moo-La-La-Ti-Da!*

*Suggested for ages 3-9

Ella Bella Bovine takes the bull by the horns and makes some changes around the drab farm. She dips her tail in dazzling paint and...*Moo-la-la-ti-da!*

Most of her friends love the beautified barn and line up for makeovers, but Shania shies away. She simply isn't fancy.

Can friends stay friends even if they are different? You bet your cowtail they can! Being unique is what makes us all so moo-velous.

Moo-La-La-Ti-Da! tells a story of friendship, acceptance, kindness and celebrates the value of being unique.



"Book...masters the art of choosing the perfect words for every page, especially glamorous (and sometimes invented) rhymes: razzled, dazzled, and pizazzled... The friendship lesson here, along with the clever turns of phrase and vivid images, are likely to make this a hit with Fancy Nancy series fans."

—Kirkus Reviews

KIRKUS

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ISBNs: 978-1-951546-14-4 (Hardcover); 978-1-951546-12-0 (Paperback); 978-1-951546-13-7 (ebook)



Discussion Questions

1. What do you think Ella Bella means when she says the farm is "too plain" and "uninteresting"?
2. How does Ella Bella try to make the farm more interesting? Do you think her ideas are good?
3. Why does Shania not want to change her appearance at first? How do her friends react to her decision?
4. Why do you think Ella Bella changes her mind about making everything fancy? What makes her realize she had it "all wrong"?
5. How do the animals make amends with Shania after their jokes hurt her feelings? What does Shania do to show she forgives them?
6. What does Shania's decision to shear her wool and make scarves for her friends teach us about being true to ourselves and accepting others for who they are?
7. Have you ever felt pressured to be like someone else or change something about yourself to fit in? How did you handle that situation?
8. What do you think the animals learned about friendship and acceptance?

Reflective Conversation

Use the story as a springboard for deeper conversations about values, kindness, and embracing differences.

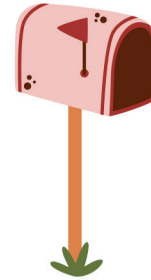
Questions for Youngest Readers

1. Count how many times the little blue bird shows up in the book.
2. What color are Ella Bella's boots?
3. What color is Purcella's bow?
4. What color is Shania's scarf on the last page?
5. Count how many red flowers are on the last page.

REACH Distance Activity: Fancy Farm Animal Greeting Cards

Materials Needed:

- Cardstock, construction or blank paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional: stickers, sequins, glitter, or other decorative materials



Instructions:

1. Designing the Cards:

- Fold cardstock/construction/paper in half to form a card
- Choose a farm animal character from the story to draw on your card (Ella Bella Bovine, Shania the sheep, Delilah the duck, or Purcella the pig).
- Using markers, crayons, or colored pencils, draw your chosen animal on the front of the card.

2. Adding Details:

- After drawing the animal, add additional decorations using stickers, sequins, glitter, or other decorative materials.
- Inside the card, write a message, such as a favorite memory, a joke, or a kind message of love and appreciation.

3. Sharing the Cards:

- Once the cards are complete, mail the cards to one another.
- When the cards are received, they will be a special keepsake of your shared reading & crafting experience.

This craft allows REACH partners to connect creatively and share a meaningful activity, even from a distance.



Let's Get Moo-sical!



Sing these songs together & make up your own verses too:

Moo-La-La-Ti-Da!

(To the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

The pigs in the mud are snout-standing,
Snout-standing, snout-standing.

The pigs in the mud are snout-standing,
Moo-La-La-Ti-Da!

The ducks on the pond are quack-tastic,
Quack-tastic, quack-tastic.

The ducks on the pond are quack-tastic,
Moo-La-La-Ti-Da!



The cows in the barn are moo-ti-ful,
Moo-ti-ful, moo-ti-ful.

The cows in the barn are moo-ti-ful
Moo-la-la-ti-da!

Each of us is Be-You-tiful,
Be-You-tiful, Be-You-tiful.
Each of us is Be-You-tiful,
Moo-la-la-ti-da!



Let's Get Moo-sical!

"The Fancy Farm Boogie"
(To the tune of old MacDonald)



Ella Bella Bovine's Farm's a fancy farm to see,
Where cows wear tutus and high heels
and pigs are prancing free.
Stomp your cow hooves here,
prance your pig feet there,
Cows tap dance,
Piggies prance.
The fancy farm boogie!



On Ella Bella Bovine's farm, chickens cluck in style.
In feathered hats and striped bow ties,
they cha-cha down the aisle.
With a cluck-cluck here, and a cha-cha there.
Cluck, cluck, cluck.
Cha, cha, cha.
The fancy farm boogie!



On Ella Bella Bovine's Farm, you can be yourself.
Be true to you, 'cuz I like you
Exactly as you are.
Posh or plain.
Don't you change.
Let's fancy farm boogie!



Fancy Farm Paper Plate Puppets

Materials Needed:

- Paper plates
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers, crayons or paint
- Scissors
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Various decorations like sequins, feathers, glitter, googly eyes, cotton balls, buttons, etc.
- tape (scotch and masking if available)



Instructions:

1. Choose which farm animals you'd like to make (e.g., cow, pig, sheep, etc.).
2. Fold your paper plate in half to use as the body of your animal.
3. Use markers, crayons, paint or construction paper to color the paper plate to match the animal you've chosen.
4. Cut out shapes from construction paper to create features for your animal (e.g., ears, snout, tail).
5. Glue or tape the construction paper features onto the paper plate to complete the look of your animal.
6. Attach a popsicle stick (a sturdy straw or a pencil will work too) to the back of the paper plate using masking tape or glue, leaving enough space for a handle.
7. Once the glue is dry, your Fancy Farm Animal Paper Plate Puppet is ready to use! Use it to act out scenes from the book or create your own farm adventures.



Enjoy crafting and storytelling!

Be-You-tiful Me! Classroom Writing Activity

Objective: To encourage students to reflect on their unique qualities and write a story or poem celebrating their individuality.

Materials Needed: Pencils, crayons/markers, optional: copies of the next page for each student or blank paper.

Activity Steps:

Introduction: Begin by reading & discussing the story of *Moo La La Ti Da!* with the students. Talk about how each character learns to embrace their uniqueness and appreciate the differences in others.

Brainstorming: Have students brainstorm a list of things that make them unique. Encourage them to think about their talents, interests, and personality traits.

Writing: Using the following prompts, ask students to write a short story or poem about themselves, focusing on what makes them special.

- What are some things you love to do?
- What makes you different from your friends?
- How do you express your creativity?
- What are you proud of about yourself?

Illustrating: After writing, students can illustrate their stories or poems. They can draw pictures of themselves engaging in their favorite activities or showcasing their unique qualities.

Sharing: Provide time for students to share their writing and illustrations with the class. Encourage them to celebrate each other's uniqueness and offer positive feedback.

Reflection: Conclude the activity with a discussion about the importance of embracing individuality and respecting differences in others. Encourage students to continue to be proud of who they are and to always celebrate their "be-you-tiful" selves.

This activity not only reinforces the themes of *Moo La La Ti Da!* but also promotes self-confidence, creativity, and empathy in students.

BE-YOU-TIFUL ME!



A PICTURE OF ME...



THINGS THAT MAKE ME DIFFERENT...



THINGS I LOVE TO DO...



WAYS I AM CREATIVE...



I AM MOST PROUD OF...