

# Bessie the Wonder Cow

**Author** Natalie Milbrodt | **Illustrator** Will Goertzel



## Distributor



Age

11

Genre

Fiction / Fairy Tale

Word Count

412 Words

## Story at a Glance

All the animals on the farm were happy except for Bessie, who was bored. Bessie snuck out to get a closer look at the traveling circus. The ringleader, Mr. Horace, decided to buy Bessie from the farmer. Bessie became a tightrope walker. People came to the circus just to see Bessie the Wonder Cow. The farmer and the other cows were very proud of her.

## Activity Ideas

After reading the story, *Bessie the Wonder Cow*, let's learn the new words in the story. And, dig deeper into the story!



## Key Words

**terribly**

extremely

**travel**

to go from one place to another

**sneak**

to move in a secret way

**trapeze**

a bar in the circus for people to hold and swing on

**thrill**

to give sudden excitement

**wrap**

to surround and cover

**spike**

a long heavy nail

**snap**

a quick second (like the time it takes to snap one's fingers)

## Words Use

Choose the word that best completes each sentence.

**01** Unlike the other happy animals, Bessie was \_\_\_\_\_ bored.

- ① terribly
- ② thrilled
- ③ wrapped

**02** 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ circus goes from place to place.

- ① traveling
- ② reared
- ③ trapeze

**03** Bessie \_\_\_\_\_ back to balance on her back two legs.

- ① thrilled
- ② reared
- ③ wrapped

**04** The crowd was \_\_\_\_\_ to see the artists walk across the tightrope.

- ① terribly
- ② trapeze
- ③ thrilled

**05** Bessie \_\_\_\_\_ a rope around two tent spikes.

- ① thrilled
- ② traveling
- ③ wrapped

# Words Building

After reading *Bessie the Wonder Cow*, write the meaning of each word in your own words.

**terribly**

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**travel**

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**sneak**

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**trapeze**

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**thrill**

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**wrap**

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**spike**

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**snap**

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# Grammar

Write the past-tense form of the verb in each sentence in the typing box. Solve the sample question before you start.

<Sample>

She wags her tail proudly.

**01** The ringleader, Mr. Horace, spots Bessie.

**02** He pays the farmer for Bessie and let her come to town with the rest of the circus.

**03** They swing high above the ground.

**04** Bessie wraps a rope around two tent spikes.

**05** The farmer hangs a poster of Bessie in the barn back at home.

## Understanding #1

Select 'True' if the statement is correct and 'False' if the statement is not correct. If you choose 'False' as an answer, think about what the right answer is.

- 01 Bessie came out to get a closer look at the soldiers. T / F**
- 02 Everyone in the circus loved Bessie's milk. T / F**
- 03 The farmer hung a poster of Bessie in the barn back at home. T / F**
- 04 Mr. Horace paid the farmer for Bessie and let her come to town with the rest of the circus. T / F**

## Understanding #2

### 01 What is the main idea of the story?

- ① Bessie was useful for her milk.
- ② Bessie was terribly bored on the farm and joined the traveling circus.
- ③ The farmer was proud of the circus.

### 02 Mr. Horace had the men make a double tightrope so \_\_\_\_\_.

- ① Bessie could walk with two hooves on each rope
- ② the trapeze artists could swing high above the ground
- ③ the farmer would be proud of Bessie
- ④ the clowns could play

### 03 When the circus passed the farm, Bessie saw \_\_\_\_\_.

- ① seals and tigers
- ② elephants and lions
- ③ cats and dogs
- ④ rabbits and foxes

### 04 Bessie even reared back to balance \_\_\_\_\_.

- ① on her head
- ② on her two hind legs
- ③ on her back
- ④ on her two front legs

## Understanding #3

Choose the order of the pictures that shows what happened in the story.

A



B



C



D



① B-C-A-D

② C-A-D-B

③ A-D-B-C

④ D-B-C-A

Read the passage below and choose the matching picture.

Weeks and months passed. Everyone in the circus loved Bessie's milk and she was happy to be useful. Every night she watched the lions roar and the clowns play. She watched the lovely white horses carry ladies who stood on their backs. But her favorite by far were the trapeze artists.

①



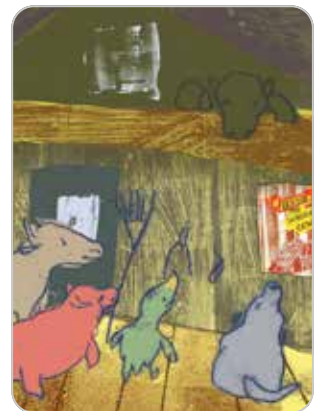
②



③



④



# Coloring Sheet

📅 DATE:

👤 NAME:



# Speaking Fluency

Speak about the picture out loud.



One day, a traveling \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Bessie snuck out \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

She saw \_\_\_\_\_.

She saw \_\_\_\_\_.



Mr. Horace had \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

so Bessie could \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

It took \_\_\_\_\_,

but Bessie \_\_\_\_\_.

## Critical Thinking

Think about the questions and express your ideas or opinions about them.

**01** Why was a double tightrope better for Bessie than a single tightrope?

**02** Why did Bessie leave the farm for the circus?

**03** If you were to join a circus, what would you do?

# Writing

Write about the story on a separate piece of paper.

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Title

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Author



Can this story happen in real life?

Yes

No



This story is about

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(a little boy and a dog, a scarecrow, an old tree, etc.)

Draw a picture about the story and write a sentence or two about the picture.

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# Making Your Own Story

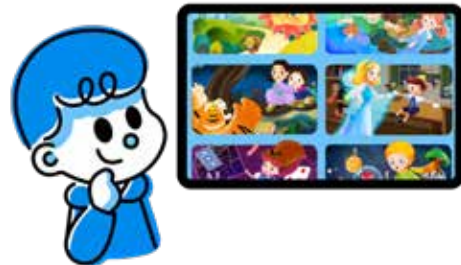


Download and make your own story in StorySelf.

Become a main character in the storybook



① Make your own face character in StorySelf.



② Choose *Bessie the Wonder Cow* story.



③ Choose your face character.



④ Enter the story and become the main character of the story.

Make your own voice storybook



① Enter the story, *Bessie the Wonder Cow*.



② Press the subtitle.



③ Record your voice for the subtitle.



④ Enjoy your voice in the storybook.

# Answer Sheet

## Words Use

- 1 - ①
- 2 - ①
- 3 - ②
- 4 - ③
- 5 - ③

## Grammar

- 1 - spotted
- 2 - paid
- 3 - swung
- 4 - wrapped
- 5 - hung

## Understanding #1

- 1 - F
- 2 - T
- 3 - T
- 4 - T

## Understanding #2

- 1 - ②
- 2 - ①
- 3 - ②
- 4 - ②

## Understanding #3

- Top - ①
- Bottom - ③

## Speaking Fluency

[Left]

One day, a traveling circus passed by the farm on its way to town. Bessie snuck out through an open gate to get a closer look.

She saw elephants and lions. She saw handsome white horses.

[Right]

Mr. Horace had the men make a double tightrope so Bessie could walk with two hooves on each rope. It took a long time to learn, but Bessie never gave up.

## Critical Thinking

### **Possible Answer**

1. A double tightrope was better for Bessie than a single tightrope because she would be able to balance better by walking with two hooves on each tightrope.
2. Bessie left the farm for the circus because she was terribly bored living on the farm. She wanted to do something more fun and interesting.
3. If I were to join a circus, I would want to learn how to walk the tightrope like Bessie. I would also want to jump and spin in the air and then be caught by someone else on a trapeze.