

EIEIO

HOW OLD MACDONALD GOT HIS FARM

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Agriculture, Problem Solving, Community, Entrepreneurship

Book Brief: Old MacDonald is tired of mowing his yard. He brings in a smart hen that helps him turn his piece of land into a thriving farm for the community to enjoy!

Author: Judy Sierra

Illustrator:
Matthew Myers

Content Connections:
Science



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Does the cover illustration give any clues about where this farm might be? Does the title sound familiar to you? Where have you heard about Old MacDonald before?

The Pictures: Look at the title page picture. Have students predict what this story might be about. What might be the “problem” of the story? Ask them to explain their reasoning.

Prior Knowledge: Ask where students might typically see a farm. Discuss whether farms can be in urban settings. Have any students ever lived on or visited a farm? Are there different kinds of farms? Why are farms important? Ask students to list different plants or animals they might expect to find on a farm.

Vocabulary: Tell students this is a rhyming story. See if they can predict the words the author will use for the end of each line.

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think of questions you would like to ask the author or illustrator about the characters and the process that Old MacDonald goes through to get his farm.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why does Old MacDonald want a goat?
- ◆ How does the illustrator let you know Hen is intelligent?
- ◆ Why were the neighbors upset?

- ◆ Why is the child the most accepting of Old MacDonald's changes?
- ◆ Which seems harder to maintain, the lawn or the farm?
- ◆ What happened to the lawnmower?
- ◆ What does the acronym EIEIO stand for?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What questions would you want to ask the author or illustrator about this book? How did the illustrator's pictures help you make *inferences* about what was happening?

Extending Our Thinking: What else might Old MacDonald have done to avoid having to mow his lawn? Discuss ideas with a partner. Would any of those ideas have made an interesting book? Are you on the side of Old MacDonald or the neighbor over the issue of the lawn? Explain your position. How would you have felt if you had lived next to Old MacDonald?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.

