

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Minnie and Moo

IN

The Seven Wonders of the World



written and illustrated by **Denys Cazet**

teacher's guide by **Dr. Sherrye Dee Garrett**

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INTRODUCTION

Minnie and Moo in The Seven Wonders of the World is a whimsical story of two cows who create the seven wonders of the world out of common items and locations on their farm in an effort to raise money to save it. Their experiences and barnyard friends create a delightful and zany world. The story and illustrations are by Denys Cazet.

Lesson Plans

The chapter lessons are divided into five parts:

Just the Facts are literal-level questions. Students will find each answer stated in one sentence in the chapter being examined.

Between the Lines questions require students to make connections between information that appears in two or more sentences.

Let's Discuss questions encourage students to think about what is happening in the story. One question invites students to make a prediction about what is going to happen in the next chapter.

In the Real World activities lead students in the step-by-step creation of their own "seven wonders" by selecting people, items and events from the newspaper.

Vocabulary words are identified in each chapter. Teachers may use instructional vocabulary activities as they choose, such as for identifying phonic elements, using root words and affixes, or determining meaning from context.

Games

This guide includes questions and puzzles related to character names and vocabulary in the story, a crossword puzzle, and a word search.

Additional Activities

These activities encourage students to combine research and creative activities. Internet sites related to the story are provided.

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Not So Good News

CHAPTER

1

Just the Facts

1. What was Minnie wearing when Moo came up to see her?
2. Where does Mr. Farmer go when he argues with the mayor?
3. What is special about Minnie's favorite red dress?

Between the Lines

4. Why is Moo nervous?
5. What previous adventure had the cows had with Mr. Farmer's tractor?
6. What will the cows have to give up if Mr. Farmer sells the farm?

Let's Discuss

7. Why isn't Minnie as worried as Moo?
8. Why would "thinking" make someone grumpy?
9. Why do you think Moo sees a face in Minnie's bunion?
10. Make a prediction: How can a face on a bunion save the farm?



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VOCABULARY

- **bunion**, *n*
a swelling of the small sac on the first joint of the big toe
- **espresso**, *n*
a coffee brewed by forcing steam through finely ground dark roasted coffee beans
- **muttered**, *v*
complained in a low voice
- **sequins**, *n*
small disks of shiny metal or plastic used to decorate clothing

In the Real World

As you read this story, you will be creating your own "Seven Wonders" exhibit. You'll collect your attractions in a notebook. To begin, make up a title for your "wonders" exhibit. To make your notebook cover, cut out words, phrases and pictures from the newspaper and paste them on a piece of paper.

The Seven Wonders

Just the Facts

1. According to Minnie, “Big Hoof” is a missing link between cows and what other animal?
2. The cows’ posters promise what object that was left behind by a UFO?
3. What will happen to animals at The Mystery Spot?

Between the Lines

4. Why is Moo sure that everyone will come to see the Presidential Bunion?
5. Why doesn’t Moo think her Seven Wonders attraction is cheating?
6. In what scary location will one of the Seven Wonders be located?

Let’s Discuss

7. Why is George Washington called “the father of our country”?
8. What is the Bermuda Triangle? Why are people afraid of it today?
9. Do you think it is all right for Moo to present common objects as “wonders” to others? Does her desire to save the farm make it all right for her to create the “oddities”?
10. Make a prediction: What are the actual objects and places that make up Moo’s Seven Wonders?



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In the Real World

Pick your exhibit announcer. Find someone in the newspaper who would make a good announcer or emcee for your exhibit. Paste the person’s photo and/or name on page 2 in your notebook. Write several sentences explaining why this person is a good choice.

Draw a costume for your announcer.

VOCABULARY

- **donation**, *n*
money given to a worthy cause
- **long johns**, *n*
one-piece underwear with long sleeves and long legs
- **mock (turtle soup)**, *adj*
a soup that imitates real green turtle soup; here, something that isn’t what it seems to be
- **oddy**, *n*
something unusual or unique

The Presidential Bunion

Just the Facts

1. What did Moo wear as her costume?
2. Who were Minnie and Moo's best friends?
3. Who saw the face of "he with the electric clippers" in the bunion?

Between the Lines

4. Why didn't the bunion look like George Washington anymore?
5. Who recognized himself as the someone who was so beautiful he made the sun rise?
6. What was Elvis's confusion about a "gift"?

Let's Discuss

7. Why did Minnie dress the way she did?
8. Would a bowling ball make a good crystal ball? Why or why not?
9. Why did different animals see different things in the bunion?
10. Make a prediction: How will Minnie and Moo explain the missing rock?



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In the Real World

Exhibit #1: What in the World? Find a news story or photo about a new and exciting invention or machine. Create an exciting title for your inventive exhibit. Write a sentence making it sound mysterious and wonderful.

VOCABULARY

- **argyle**, *adj*
a pattern of varicolored diamonds on a solid background
- **Holstein**, *n*
a black-and-white dairy cow
- **milled**, *v*
moved around in a large group
- **modest**, *adj*
shy, not showy
- **turban**, *n*
a headdress made by wrapping a long cloth around a cap