

# Kiss the Cow!

by Phyllis Root

Illustrations in mixed media on vellum help tell the story of a curious but stubborn girl who milks the magic cow - without giving her a kiss!



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Can anyone tell me what "mixed media" means?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why the little girl is kissing the cow?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Kiss the Cow!*

- vellum: a heavy, high-quality paper
- medium: the different materials and methods used to create art
- prairie: a large, flat and mostly treeless grassy area
- velvety: soft and smooth to the touch
- bristly: rough and prickly
- stubborn: unwilling to change or to think or do something differently
- curious: eager to know something
- scrunched: to crumple or squeeze something
- clover: various herbs in the pea family
- slobbery: wet with drool
- pasture: an area of land that has grass or other plants for grazing animals to eat

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did Mama May's house need to be as wide as the prairie?
- Who was the most curious and the most stubborn of Mama May's children?
- Why do you think Luella is called a magic cow?
- Do you think Annalisa should have milked the magic cow? Why or why not?
- Why do you think it didn't take Mama May long to figure out why Luella would not give any more milk?
- How do you think the rest of Mama May's children felt about Annalisa and her refusal to kiss the cow?
- If you were Annalisa, would you have kissed the cow? Why or why not?
- Look closely at the illustrations. What do you think are some of the mediums the illustrator might have used to create the pictures?

**Do**

## Make a Mixed Media Magic Cow

Use a pen or pencil to draw the outline and watercolor paint or crayons to color it in. Does your magic cow have spots? Add them using construction paper. Add wiggly eyes and a pipe cleaner tail.

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