

The Man Who Didn't Like Animals

Written By: Deborah Underwood

Illustrated By: LeUyen Pham

Synopsis: Once, a man who loved his tidy home and didn't like animals was visited by a cat who was then followed by more and more animals until he needed a bigger, different space.

Suggested Reading Date: October 12 (National Farmer's Day); April 11 (National Pet Day); May (National Pet Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Suggestion: Do NOT read the sentence on the cover that says this is the story of Old MacDonald – let the students figure it out.
- Ask who has a pet. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of pet ownership.
- Have children name their favorite songs or nursery rhymes ("Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," etc). Sing some of them, including "Old Macdonald" after reading the story.
- Use the book as a jumping off point for research on nursery rhymes or songs.
- Make a pet care guidebook (Research animal adoption, specific things certain animals need, etc)
- Discuss Prequels - this is a prequel to a well-known song. Choose another nursery rhyme or song and make up what happened before, or have children share any origin stories.
- Illustrations Study: Notice how the house changes, pictures on walls, etc.
- Review animal sounds.
- Discuss changed opinions: "Have you changed your opinions about (food, or a book, a place)?"
- Does this book have a good title? Does it fit the ending? What would you title this book?
- Makerspace: Design a space with blocks or other materials that could safely hold several different animals.

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.deborahunderwoodbooks.com/>
- Activity Guide: <https://b0f646cfbd7462424f7a-f9758a43fb7c33cc8adda0fd36101899.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/activity-guides/AG-9780358567134.pdf>
- Interview with the illustrator, LeUyen Pham (use first minute): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVIY81Yv1H4>
- "Old Macdonald Had a Farm" Song "No Copyright Music": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaQk_sds7Ek-

Text to Text Connections:

- *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- *A Creature of Habit* by Jennifer E. Smith
- *Mercy Watson* series by Kate DiCamillo

Created By: Jodie Purcell