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HOW OLD MACDONALD GOT HIS FARM

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

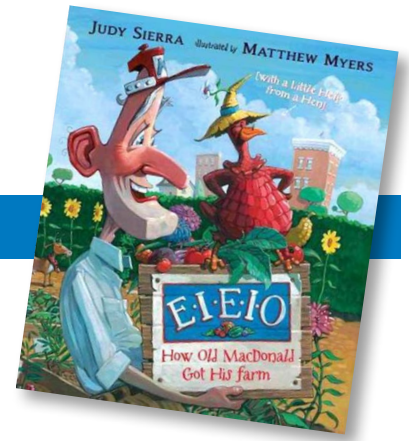
Themes: Agriculture, Problem Solving, Community, Entrepreneurship

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make predictions: Based on the cover illustration, where do you think Old MacDonald's farm is? What type of farm do you think he has? Have you ever heard the song *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*?

While reading, make inferences: What do you think Old MacDonald is thinking while hen helps him? How

does hen know so much? Why is the child the most accepting of Old MacDonald's changes?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ In the end, would you have chosen mowing the yard or creating the farm? Explain.
- ◆ How long do you think the process took?
- ◆ What would be the benefits of having an urban farm?
- ◆ Would you want to live on a farm? Why or why not?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

PLANT A SALSA GARDEN

Materials: seeds, ground space or large pots and soil

Who doesn't love chips and homemade salsa? Start a salsa garden by planting cilantro, onions, peppers, and tomatoes. Each of these can be planted in large pots if no ground space is available. Visit www.veggieharvest.com for information on growing your own herbs and vegetables. Once the plants are mature, pick them and make a homemade salsa. Use your own salsa recipe or search for a simple recipe online.

PRESSED PETALS

Materials: small flowers, paper, heavy books

Pick a couple of small flowers. Fold a piece of paper in half. Place flowers in between the paper. Open a

book and place the paper and flowers inside. Close the book and place it underneath a few other books. Wait about 3 weeks. When you open the book again, the flowers should be dried and flattened. What creative ways could you use your newly pressed petals? Why is nature a popular subject for artists?

HOUSE PLANTS

Think about ways plants have been used in your house. Create a list of things in your house that are made from plants. For fun, challenge a friend or family member to see who can find more plants being used in a specific room in your house. What has to happen to plants before they can be used in the items you found? Can you think of any other creative uses for plants?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Wild About You! (2012)

Suppose You Meet a Dinosaur (2012)

ZooZical (2011)



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