

Minnesota Storytime  
Reading Guide

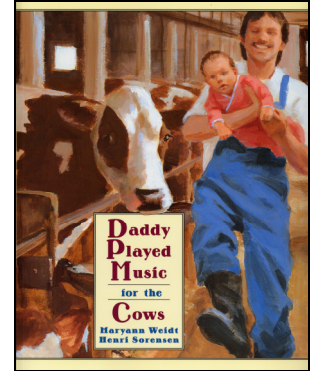
**Title:** *Daddy Played Music for the Cows*

**Author:** Maryann Weidt

**Illustrator:** Henri Sorensen

**Publisher and Copyright Date** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1995 (hc); Windward Publishing, 2004 (pap.)

**Connection to Minnesota:** Minnesota author, Minnesota theme, Minnesota setting, Minnesota publisher (reprint)



**Summary:** This is a story of a little girl growing up on a farm. She plays in the haymow; she drives the tractor for putting up hay, and she plays hide and seek behind the cows. All the while, the music plays in the barn and she tries to learn to yodel just like the cowgirls she hears on the radio. This Minnesota Book Award winner was recently reprinted in paperback by a Minnesota publisher.

**Suggested ages:** 4-6, 7-10, all ages

**Tips for Reading:**

- Listen to some country western and yodeling music and practice the singing and yodeling lines in the book before you read the book aloud to children.
- When you read the story a second time, ask the children to yodel along with you.
- Use a cow puppet or any farm toy as a prop to help you tell the story.

**Questions before reading:**

- Do you know what yodeling music sounds like?
- What is your favorite kind of music?
- Do you have any pet animals? What are their names?
- Have you ever visited a farm?
- Where does milk come from? How is milk used to make other foods?

**To Introduce this story say:** We're going to read a story about a little girl growing up on a farm. As you listen to the story, think about your five senses. What does the little girl see, hear, taste, smell and touch?

**Questions  
After Reading:**

- What does the little girl see, hear, taste, smell and touch?
- What does the little girl want to learn to do?
- What was the relationship like between the little girl and her father?
- The little girl and her friends play hide and seek behind the cows. What kinds of games do you play with your friends?
- For her eighth birthday party, the little girl and her friends dress up as cowgirls. Have you ever dressed in costume for a party? What did you wear?

**RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**Art:**

- Make a collage of pictures of cows from magazines.

**Language:**

- Write about a real or imaginary visit to a farm.
- Use sensory details to describe a favorite memory you have about a pet or animal you saw.

**Music:**

- Listen to old-time country music, such as Patsy Montana's "I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart" or Dale Evans and Roy Rogers singing, "Happy Trails to You."

**Other:**

- Shake a jar of cream until it turns to butter. Yummmmm.

**Suggestions for  
English Language  
Learners:**

- Explore the sounds of the world's languages through the sounds of the world's animals. Visit "Sounds of the World's Animals" on the internet at <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/personal/language/animals/sounds.html>

**Related Books:**

- ***How Now, Brown Cow?*** by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Amanda Schaffer (Harcourt, 1994)
- ***Something to Tell the Grandcows*** by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Bill Slavin (Eerdmans, 2004)
- ***Mrs. Brown Went to Town*** by Wong Yee (Houghton Mifflin, 1996)
- ***Kiss the Cow!*** by Phyllis Root, illustrated by Will Hillenbrand (Candlewick, 2003)
- ***Cow*** by Malachy Doyle, illustrated by Angelo Rinaldi (Simon & Schuster, 2002)
- ***Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*** by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin (Simon & Schuster, 2000)
- ***Santa Cows*** by Cooper Edens, illustrated by Daniel Lane (Sagebrush, 1998)

