

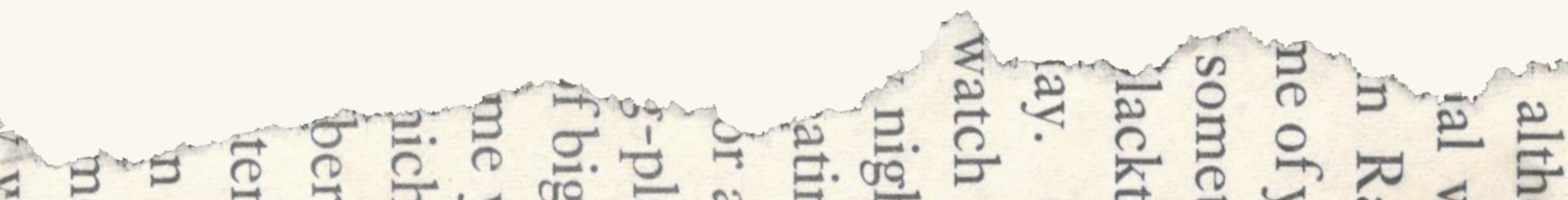


# A Reading Companion Guide



from

**Illinois**  
**A**GRICULTURE  
in the Classroom<sup>SM</sup>



# Introduction

The *Beef Princess of Practical County* tackles some unique issues facing agriculture today. The story is told through the perspective of a 7th grade girl, Libby, as she experiences showing cattle at the county fair for the first time.

In this companion guide, you will find a variety of activities for each chapter including discussion questions, vocabulary, writing prompts, literary devices, art focused activities, and extension activities.

## Questions

Use these questions as discussion starters or as reading checks for whole-class reading.

## Write Away

Use these reading prompts as a way to focus student attention on a specific topic from the chapter. These prompts will challenge students to think more critically about various events that took place in the chapter.

## Power Words & Vo-Cow-Bulary Words

These are vocabulary words that can be found through each chapter that students may be unfamiliar with. "Power Words" are more traditional vocabulary words where "Vo-Cow-Bulary Words" are words that are associated with agriculture.

## Literary Devices

Use these prompts to help strengthen your students' understanding of various literary devices. Some literary devices you'll see throughout the guide include using metaphors, foreshadowing, character analysis, hyperboles, and more!

## Art-Wise

Have fun and get crafty with these art activities that are a fun way to integrate ELA and art! Get students thinking about the story and about agriculture while encouraging various art skills.

## Extension Activity

Use these extension activities to further strengthen student understanding about agriculture. These extension activities challenge students to connect themes in the story to real life topics and information in the world of agriculture.





# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## PROLOGUE

### QUESTIONS

- What purpose does the prologue serve?
- After reading the prologue, name and describe the main characters.
- Skim ahead and notice the chapter names. What name would you give this chapter?

### WRITE AWAY

After reading the prologue, skimming the chapter titles and examining the front cover, write your version of the story. What do you think will happen throughout the novel?

#### POWER WORDS

Prologue  
Arena  
Comprehend  
Inevitable

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Steer  
Lead rope  
Straw  
Shorthorn

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## CHAPTER 1: GRANDDAD'S PASTURE

### QUESTIONS

- Why is there so little pasture ground in northern Indiana?
- Practical County is a fictitious location. Given the description of its location, what area would you think it could be located near?
- Hay can be baled in round or square bales. Discuss why it might be baled in different forms.
- Why do you think farmers keep such accurate measurement of rainfall?

### WRITE AWAY

Page 7 describes the fair food. Have you ever had fair food? How would you describe it?

#### POWER WORDS

Teetering	Sweltering
County seat	Exhibitors
Doubt	Skittish

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Pasture	Grange
Acres	Hay
Herdmates	Angus

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## PROLOGUE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Define foreshadowing. After reading the prologue, what could be the outcome of the Practical County Fair Beef Contest? Why do authors use foreshadowing in their writing?

### ART-WISE

After skimming the titles of each chapter, design a new front cover for the book.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Read through the AITC Beef Ag Mag. Then, use the “Ag-Venture With Beef” activity to strengthen students’ non-fiction text comprehension.

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## CHAPTER 1: GRANDDAD’S PASTURE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Character Analysis: Describe the differences between Libby and Frannie.

### ART-WISE

Libby describes the old home place like a folk art painting. Research folk art painting and style and draw your interpretation of this location.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Watch this video that puts a fun twist on farming! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48H7zOQrX3U>





# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 2: FAIR CALVES DON ' T NEED NAMES

### QUESTIONS

- Carol Ann's dog has a unique name, Phydeaux. How would you pronounce this? How would you typically spell this name?
- When deciding names, what Presidents do you think Carol Ann was describing?
- According to this chapter, why don't calves need names?

### WRITE AWAY

Frannie has an active imagination and a powerful vocabulary. Give examples of each and describe why you think this is the case.

#### POWER WORDS

Bellowing	Gusto
Scowl	Vehemence
Panache	

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Calf	Pipe gate
Corncrib	Crop rotation
Granary	Bovine
Chicken house	

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## CHAPTER 3: MEET THE DARLINGS

### QUESTIONS

- Why did Mr. and Mrs. Darling choose the names they did for their daughters?
- How does the Ryans' farm differ from the Darlings' farm?
- What would it be like to live in a small town where everyone knows each other so well?
- What vocabulary does the author use that makes it obvious that the Darling girls don't spend much time in the barn?

### WRITE AWAY

"Ohma was definitely a different Darling." Why does Libby share this and how does Libby know her so well?

#### POWER WORDS

Precious	Manicured
Indestructible	Perennial
Scrawny	

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Dualies
Pitchfork

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 2: FAIR CALVES DON ' T NEED NAMES

### LITERARY DEVICES

Character analysis: Carol Ann and Libby are very different. Describe how they are different and how they are alike. How do they make their friendship work?

### ART-WISE

Libby didn't know what panache was, do you? Draw a picture of Libby and Carol Ann in the barn during that discussion. Be sure to include the eyeroll!

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Learn more about different cattle breeds at [www.thebeefsite.com/breeds](http://www.thebeefsite.com/breeds)

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## CHAPTER 3: MEET THE DARLINGS

### LITERARY DEVICES

Define alliteration. The author uses several examples of alliteration. Find those examples and then create your own that would fit into this chapter!

### ART-WISE

Draw a picture of the Darling sisters based on their description from the book.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Check out some of these fun activities from the "Adventures Around the Farm" Agri-Learning Kit! You can find the activities at [http://www.ilaged.org/docs/Adventures%20Around%20The%20Farm\\_14617\\_60070.pdf](http://www.ilaged.org/docs/Adventures%20Around%20The%20Farm_14617_60070.pdf)



# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 4: STUBBORN AS A MULE

### QUESTIONS

- Describe what Mom does for a living and what she does around the farm.
- What does it mean when Libby says this calf thing would be a 'dad thing' not a 'mom thing'?
- Libby seems to help out a lot on the farm. What are some of her responsibilities?

### WRITE AWAY

Piggy and Mule are developing distinct personalities. Describe each of them.

#### POWER WORDS

Startle  
Stubborn

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Mow  
Halter  
Feed bank

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## CHAPTER 5: AUTUMN SURPRISE

### QUESTIONS

- What is comfort food? What is comfort food for you?
- What does it mean to 'bring in' the corn?
- How many chores are there associated with keeping an animal on the farm? How is this different than a house pet, like a dog or cat?

### WRITE AWAY

Why do you think the title of this chapter is called "Autumn Surprise"? Be sure to include all details to support your answer!

#### POWER WORDS

Technology  
Vocational  
Ambled  
Self-absorbed

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Harvest  
Corn  
Soybeans  
Barn clothes



# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 4: STUBBORN AS A MULE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Simile: The chapter title is an example of a simile. Re-write the titles of Chapters 1-3 as similes. Make sure the simile make sense as a title for that specific chapter.

### ART-WISE

The author paints pictures with words — she describes Mule’s eyes as having the color of a dark blue summer night. How would that look on a black calf? Draw and color a picture of Mule to match that description. What would be in the background?

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Responsibilities on the farm look a lot different than in a normal household, especially when it comes to raising a show cow. Watch this video that shows some of the responsibilities of caring for a show cow: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YyT\\_VpUACk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YyT_VpUACk)

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## CHAPTER 5: AUTUMN SURPRISE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Point of View: Libby says, “technology that made farming more efficient also changed the face of the family farm.” What does she mean by this? Do you think her family members would agree or disagree and why?

### ART-WISE

Color or paint a picture of an autumn sunrise!

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Persuasive writing: Some say that our current school calendars were set up to help support agriculture so that children could be home to help on the farm during planting and harvest. Would you support moving to a full year school calendar since you are likely not involved in planting and harvest? What changes would need to be made to your school to allow this to happen?



# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 6: SOUP FOR THANKSGIVING

### QUESTIONS

- What is a 'hopper' that Mom makes Frannie?
- Why is everyone shocked to see the Darlings in a soup kitchen?
- Why were the Darlings serving at Thanksgiving?

### WRITE AWAY

The Ryans have several traditions, including how they open their Christmas presents and working in the soup kitchen on Thanksgiving. What traditions do you have in your family?

#### POWER WORDS

Voracious	Frail	Inevitable
Bustling	Sarcasm	Screeching
Enormous	Intensely	Deceit
Emphasizing	Teetered	Ornery

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## CHAPTER 7 & 8: CHRISTMAS AT RYANSMEAD & LEARNING TO WALK

### QUESTIONS

- In a discussion with Frannie, Libby tells herself to "Pick your battles." What does she mean?
- Why does Ronnie worry about Libby naming her calves?
- What does Carol Ann know about BSE and where does she get her information?
- Dad has a list of qualities it takes to be a champion. How is his list different than Libby's list?

### WRITE AWAY

Libby considers Mule as champion material for a brief moment. Describe why she is confident that Piggy is the best show animal.

#### POWER WORDS

Emphatic	Resentment	Contaminated
Precocious	Insidious	Reluctant
Boilermaker	Cantankerous	Obstinate

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Dualies  
Pitchfork

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 6: SOUP FOR THANKSGIVING

### LITERARY DEVICES

Flashback: The Ryans have been volunteering at the soup kitchen for a few years. Write your own flashback from Libby's point of view of something that could have happened at the soup kitchen in a previous year.

### ART-WISE

Design a flyer that would be hung around town with information for the Thanksgiving meal at the soup kitchen.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have students list their favorite Thanksgiving/holiday meals and then list all the ingredients that it takes to make that meal. Where do those ingredients come from?

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## CHAPTER 7 & 8: CHRISTMAS AT RYANSMEAD & LEARNING TO WALK

### LITERARY DEVICES

Imagery: Use descriptive adjectives to describe the barn clothes of both Carol Ann and Libby.

### ART-WISE

Check out some of the arts and crafts and music activities from the "Seasons on the Farm" Agri-Learning Kit that can be found at [http://www.ilaged.org/docs/Seasons%20on%20the%20Farm\\_08910\\_39861.pdf](http://www.ilaged.org/docs/Seasons%20on%20the%20Farm_08910_39861.pdf)

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

What does it mean to be a champion? Dad has his own list, but do you? Have your students create their own lists of the qualities it takes to be a champion. Does that list change depending on what you're a champion of? Have students compare their lists to their classmates' lists.





# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 9 & 10: JUNG CHOW'S AND A REALLY BAD IDEA & THE DAY THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED

### QUESTIONS

- Why are farm prices unpredictable?
- Why does Mom want Libby to enter the Beef Princess contest? What do you think Libby thinks about this idea?
- Describe the spring weather in Indiana.

### WRITE AWAY

Libby has a harsh reaction to her mother when she suggests shopping. Why do you think she is so strong in her words? Be sure to include with whom she shares her true feelings.

#### POWER WORDS

Unpredictable  
Pathetic

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Premium	Flank
Vet	Rice brush

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## CHAPTER 11: THINKING PRACTICALLY

### QUESTIONS

- Why does Susan think Piggy won't gain much more weight?
- How does Carol Ann reach her decision that Piggy should be sold?
- How does Carol Ann react to the suggestion of entering the Beef Princess contest?

### WRITE AWAY

In this chapter, Libby refers to Piggy as her "pet," but her dad talks about how the farm raises good quality beef. How do you distinguish between pets and livestock?

#### POWER WORDS

Antics	Forte	Logical
Disposition	Travesty	Mockery
Insensitive	Atrocious	Vicious

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Freezer beef

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 9 & 10: JUNG CHOW'S AND A REALLY BAD IDEA & THE DAY THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED

### LITERARY DEVICES

Point of View: What do you think Libby really thinks of the idea of entering the Beef Princess Contest? How would you feel about entering?

### ART-WISE

Design your own County Prince or Princess outfit using a variety of small pieces of fabric!

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Whether Libby is wearing her barn clothes or her outfit for the County Princess contest, many of her (and our!) clothes come from fibers from livestock. Check out the "Unraveling Fibers: More Than Just Clothes" Agri-Learning Kit! Activities can be found at [http://www.ilaged.org/docs/Unraveling%20Fibers-More%20Than%20Just%20Clothes\\_74098\\_01745.pdf](http://www.ilaged.org/docs/Unraveling%20Fibers-More%20Than%20Just%20Clothes_74098_01745.pdf)

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## CHAPTER 11: THINKING PRACTICALLY

### LITERARY DEVICES

Metaphor: Create a sentence that includes a metaphor about the way Carol Ann reacts to Libby about Piggy and about the Princess contest.

### ART-WISE

Draw a picture of the metaphor you created above!

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

In order to show a cow, you have to earn its trust. This is because cows naturally have a 'flight zone.' Watch this video to learn more about flight zones: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwu8NcrI0z0>



# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 12 & 13: THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET & FEATHERS AND FLUFFY STUFF

### QUESTIONS

- Libby thinks Mom gives a 'typical mother answer.' What does this mean?
- Describe how Libby says goodbye to Piggy.
- At the end of chapter 12, Mule acts like Piggy. Why is this so surprising to Libby?
- Why does Libby wish the store owner wouldn't refer to her as "darling" and "precious"?
- What is wrong with the way Libby is showing Mule?

### WRITE AWAY

Ronnie discusses how it is important to remain calm and in control. Why do you think it is important to remain calm and in control when showing an animal?

#### POWER WORDS

Boutique	Coaxed
Robust	Exasperated
Cooed	Technique
Tulle	

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Slaughter  
Show stick

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## CHAPTER 14 & 15: THE CLOCK STARTED TICKING & A GIRL THING

### QUESTIONS

- How does the way Libby views the Princess contest differ from the Darling Sisters' view?
- Describe how Mule has developed a personality.
- What does Dad think the reason really is for raising cattle?

### WRITE AWAY

What do you think: Can Libby part with Mule? Would you be able to if you were Libby?

#### POWER WORDS

Anticipation  
Contender  
Sustain

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Show soap



# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 12 & 13: THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET & FEATHERS AND FLUFFY STUFF

### LITERARY DEVICES

Tone: Libby replays a conversation with Dad about why cows don't need names. What tone do you think the author is using?

### ART-WISE

Page 107 describes the pile on the floor of the dressing room looking like a clown had melted on the floor. Take a minute and draw the scene of Libby and her dresses.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Even though Libby names one of her calves Piggy, pigs are very different than cows! Read through the AITC Pork Ag Mag to learn more about pigs. Then, compare and contrast pigs and cows.

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## CHAPTER 14 & 15: THE CLOCK STARTED TICKING & A GIRL THING

### LITERARY DEVICES

Metaphor: Create a sentence with a metaphor that describes Mule's personality.

### ART-WISE

Libby feels differently about the Princess contest than the Darling sisters do. Use emojis to show how they feel.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

What does it take to get a cow in show condition? Check out all the grooming supplies at [www.sullivansupply.com/product-category/cattle](http://www.sullivansupply.com/product-category/cattle)



# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 16 & 17: INDEPENDENCE DAY & AVOCADO AND ALFALFA SPROUTS

### QUESTIONS

- Why does Carol Ann say Libby becomes a vegetarian?
- What is Libby talking about when she says there isn't a spider in the barn weaving messages over Mule's head?
- Why did Libby set Mule free?

### WRITE AWAY

List and describe all the ways you use animal products and by-products in your daily life.

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Vegetarian	Lacto-vegetarian
Vegan	Lacto-ovo vegetarian

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## CHAPTER 18 & 19: GRANDDAD'S SECRET & ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE

### QUESTIONS

- How does Libby adapt to her new eating lifestyle?
- How does Libby get water from the pump?
- Describe how Libby feels about finding a dress.
- What does Libby mean when she says her enthusiasm has been 'zapped'?

### WRITE AWAY

These two chapters might be the most important in the book— Libby find out things about her family and herself. Does Granddad's reaction surprise you? Using detail, describe what you think.

#### POWER WORDS

Self-sufficiency	Confrontation
Legacy	Pathetic
Intentions	

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 16 & 17: INDEPENDENCE DAY & AVOCADO AND ALFALFA SPROUTS

### LITERARY DEVICES

Hyperbole: Have you ever tasted a new food that you absolutely loved or absolutely hated? Write a sentence using hyperbole to describe your reaction or thoughts of that experience.

### ART-WISE

Libby says there isn't a spider in the barn weaving messages over Mule's head. What message should be there for Mule? Draw a picture of a web with a message.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Mule may not be considered a vegetarian like Libby, but he is an herbivore. The food they eat takes much more to break down than our human stomachs can handle. Learn about the ruminant digestive system!

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## CHAPTER 18 & 19: GRANDDAD'S SECRET & ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Idiom: An idiom that is commonly used is "One man's trash is another man's treasure." What does this mean?

### ART-WISE

Libby says that her enthusiasm has been 'zapped.' Draw a cartoon of this onomatopoeia.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Grandad is proud of his heritage. What is your heritage? Interview an adult in your family to create a family tree and learn about your family's heritage.





# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 20 & 21: OFF TO THE FAIR & A VERY LONG DAY

### QUESTIONS

- Describe how the Darlings participate in the fair.
- What do you think Ohma's problem really is? Why is she so cross all the time?
- What does Libby notice about the Darling steer?
- How does Carol Ann defend Libby and help her mother?
- Why does Libby feel sorry for Ohma and her steer?

### WRITE AWAY

Dad asks Libby if she has any doubts. Describe Libby's doubts and think back to the beginning of the book for other examples. You might refer back to Chapter 8 (page 72) for Libby's thoughts of Mule at the fair.

#### POWER WORDS

Bloated	Cohabiting
Gondola	Scenarios
Multitude	Commotion

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Show box  
Bovine

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## CHAPTER 22 & 23: A STRANGE ENCOUNTER & CHAOS IN THE RING

### QUESTIONS

- What really happened to Ohma's steer?
- Why does Ohma feel she can't live up to her sisters?
- How did Ohma and Libby become friendly?
- Lil Darling doesn't have much control in the ring. Describe the reaction of her mom, dad, and sisters to her predicament in the ring. Compare Lil's handling to Libby's handling of Mule.

### WRITE AWAY

The fair was unnaturally silent at night. Write about an experience you have had in a situation similar to Libby's fair encounter.

#### POWER WORDS

Allegedly  
Chaos  
Unsympathetic

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Underbelly	Class winner
Prod	Hereford

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 20 & 21: OFF TO THE FAIR & A VERY LONG DAY

### LITERARY DEVICES

Imagery: The author, Michelle Houts, completely describes the bumper car ride. Write about your favorite amusement park, fair, or festival ride and use as many adjectives and imagery as possible! Try to include language that appeals to all five senses.

### ART-WISE

Fairs are known for their food and refreshments! Make lemon-shake ups to enjoy. Where did the ingredients come from?

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Illinois has a proud heritage of County Fairs. Find out more information about Illinois County Fairs at [www.illinoiscountyfairs.org](http://www.illinoiscountyfairs.org).

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## CHAPTER 22 & 23: A STRANGE ENCOUNTER & CHAOS IN THE RING

### LITERARY DEVICES

Irony: In Chapter 19 (page 150) Precious accuses Libby of poisoning Piggy by giving him the wrong feed. Describe the irony in this twist of the plot.

### ART-WISE

Use art supplies to create a 3D picture of healthy cow feed.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Bloat is a real problem with cattle. Learn more about bloat at <https://www.thecattlesite.com/diseaseinfo/199/bloat-in-cattle/>



# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 24 & 25: A FAIR FIGHT & THE FINAL DRIVE

### QUESTIONS

- Libby catches Precious and her family cheating. How does Precious threaten Libby if she tells the truth?
- Why do you think Ohma turned her sister in?
- Although Josh wins Grand Champion, how does Libby feel about being Reserve Champion?
- What does Dad mean when he says showing cattle can be a girl thing?
- What is going to happen on Saturday to all the cattle shown in the fair?

### WRITE AWAY

In Chapter 25, Libby calls her and Mule “a team, a super duo.” How different is that from the beginning of the book?

#### POWER WORDS

Massive      Triumphant  
Counterfeit      Fidget

#### VO-COW-BULARY WORDS

Grand Champion  
Reserve Champion  
Rosette

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## CHAPTER 26: THE END OF AN ERA

### QUESTIONS

- Why is Libby so nervous with the pageant but not in the show ring?
- How does Lil Darling answer her question about the beef industry?
- How does Lil Darling accept not winning the pageant contest?
- Mom says, “Libby, we are family. Win or lose, we support you.” Who else has shown that support for Libby?

### WRITE AWAY

Chapter 26 ends with the hardest part yet to come. What is the hardest part? Describe a time when you had a similar experience and how you overcame those feelings.

#### POWER WORDS

Poise

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 24 & 25: A FAIR FIGHT & THE FINAL DRIVE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Libby won the Reserve Champion title! Write a sentence using hyperbole to describe how she feels.

### ART-WISE

The contestants who placed in their groups won a ribbon. Design a ribbon for Libby's Reserve Champion title.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

How does beef get from a cattle farm to a fork? Learn more about the beef life cycle! A Power Point can be found at <https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/604/>

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## CHAPTER 26: THE END OF AN ERA

### LITERARY DEVICES

Symbolism: How does Libby decide to honor Mule and Piggy?

### ART-WISE

What would you do if you won? Have students create their very own celebratory dance to perform if they were to win!

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Libby is nervous with her answer about Corn and Beef. Use secondary sources to research and then take some time and write your answer to the questions listed below.

1. More and more corn being raised by American farmers is going to manufacturing rather than to feed livestock. What are these new uses for corn?
2. What can farmers do to keep their food costs at an acceptable level?

Suggested Secondary Resources:

Beef Ag Mag

Corn Ag Mag

[www.explorebeef.org](http://www.explorebeef.org)

[www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org)



# CHAPTER READING GUIDE

## CHAPTER 27: GOING, GOING...

### QUESTIONS

- What does the auctioneer's voice sound like?
- What is a "seller's song"?
- Why is Libby so impatient with the auctioneer?
- Why was Lil Darling trying to cry?
- What surprise did Libby learn about her mom?

### WRITE AWAY

Mom describes what Libby learned from the steers and what the steers learned from Libby. Write about something that has taught you a lesson, and where you might have taught a lesson to someone else.

#### POWER WORDS

Inevitable  
Instinctively

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## CHAPTER 28: THE FUTURE OF RYANSMEADE

### QUESTIONS

- Explain what Libby meant when she said, "Ohma Darling was positive proof that a little kindness could go a long way."
- How did Mule make a contribution to Libby's education fund?

### WRITE AWAY

At the end of the story, as Libby picks out two new calves, she tells her mother that show cattle don't need names. Describe how this is different from the beginning of the story. What caused her thoughts to change?



# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHAPTER 27: GOING, GOING...

### LITERARY DEVICES

Onomatopoeia: The author describes the sound of the crowd as a chattery buzz. Create a list of onomatopoeias to describe other sounds you might hear at a fair. Make sure to include what that noise is describing.

### ART-WISE

Have students act out the auctioneer scene. Who can do the best auctioneer impression?

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have you ever heard an auctioneer? Watch this video that features an Illinois Auctioneer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFXAIUIDcJ8>

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## CHAPTER 28: THE FUTURE OF RYANSMEADE

### LITERARY DEVICES

Alliteration: Write a sentence using alliteration that summarizes this chapter.

### ART-WISE

The coloring of cattle breeds is caused by the traits they get from their mom and dad! Complete the “Build a Calf” activity and then draw what your calf will look like. <https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/529/>

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have students play the “Steaks are High” farm game and see if they have what it takes to raise cattle. This game, along with many other farm-focused games can be found at [http://www.myamericanfarm.org/index.php?gid=steaks\\_are\\_high](http://www.myamericanfarm.org/index.php?gid=steaks_are_high)