

Learn How to Read a Story

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Meet Milk



**Ontario Curriculum Reading Unit**

**Integrated with Writing, Social Studies, and Technology**



Name:

## Ontario Curriculum Unit

### *Integrated Reading with Writing, Social Studies, and Technology*

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## Meet Milk

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# Lesson Expectations and Rubric

<b>Expectation</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
Comprehension Strategies				
Making Inferences, Interpreting Texts				
Extending Understanding				
Reading Unfamiliar Words				
Reading Fluently				
Interconnected Skills				
Technology: THPLink				
Variety of Forms: Story				
Analyzing Text				
Responding to and Evaluating Text				
Text Patterns				

Comments:



# R

## Reading Selection



In this unit you will read and learn about the story form. A story tells about characters who need to solve a problem. Much of the story tells about how the characters solve that problem. Where and when a story takes place is called the setting.

### MEET MILK

Tim was standing in the neighbour's barn with his mom and dad. His family just moved to the country from Windsor, Ontario. Tim loved the city. He missed his friends. He missed his old neighbourhood. He missed the rows of houses. He missed playing on the sidewalks. He missed the lawns and back yards. He missed everything.



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Tim stood still in the barn. He sniffed the smell of the straw and the cows. He heard the sound of the milking machines. He could hear the clop-clop of the cows' feet as they moved into their stalls. He felt like he was all alone on Mars.

Then he heard a new sound. "Mew, mew." Tim looked down. He saw a little kitten rubbing around his ankles. The kitten was meowing and purring. The kitten was almost white.

"Well, where did you come from little one?" Tim said. He bent down and petted the kitten.

All of a sudden, four other kittens came up to Tim. They were bigger, and black and white.

"Did you bring your whole family to meet me?" Tim picked up the first kitten. It snuggled under his chin and purred even louder. His family was beside the milking machines. He carried the kitten over to his family and the neighbour.

Mr. McLaren was explaining how the cows moved down the line to get milked. They got milked two at a time. They were Guernsey cows. Guernseys are brown and white.





The milk flowed through plastic tubes from the milking machine to the holding tank. The holding tank keeps the milk cold until the truck from the dairy picks it up. Mr. McLaren told them about the hard work on the farm. He had to keep the barn clean. He had to keep the cows clean. He had to keep the milk safe and clean. He said some cows had won prizes at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.



Tim thought that was funny. Mr. McLaren took the cows to the city. Tim thought, "I wonder if the country cows are happy in the city. I'm from the city, and I'm not happy in the country."

He looked around the city barn and thought about milk in a new way. To him, milk was cartons and bags in a grocery store. Tim thought, "Now I know where milk comes from. Maybe I'll switch to some other drink like apple juice."

Mr. McLaren looked at Tim. He looked at the kitten and said, "Well, our 'people cat' has found you." By this time, a calico cat was at Tim's feet too. It was the mother.

Tim's mom said to Mr. McLaren, "I'm surprised they're so tame. When I was a child, barn cats scratched me many times." "Oh yes," said Mr. McLaren. "We have one mother cat that hides

her kittens until they're two months old. After that, we feed them milk, so they like us. But, they run from strangers." He picked up the calico cat and said, "This one is different. Someone dropped her off at the side of the road a few days before her kittens were born. She's used to someone feeding her. So we're feeding her while she's nursing the kittens."

Tim asked, "What do you mean she was dropped off?"

"Sometimes people from the city don't want their pets anymore. They don't want to take them to the S.P.C.A. in case they're put to sleep. They bring the animals out to the country and drop them off. They probably think that city cats and dogs can hunt for food.

In the country, animals have to hunt to eat. Usually, city cats and dogs haven't learned how to hunt. They often die when they're dropped off in the country."

"How can people be so cruel?" Tim asked.

He hugged the kitten closer and said, "Let's keep this one, Mom. Then we can save one."

Tim didn't listen as his parents talked with Mr. McLaren about the kitten. He just kept petting the soft fur. He talked quietly to the kitten. Tim's mom and dad could see that Tim and the kitten liked each other. They also knew Tim was unhappy about moving to the country. They thought the kitten might help Tim get used to his new home. Maybe he might start to like his new home.

Tim held his breath. He thought about the kitten in his new house. He thought about sleeping with the kitten and playing with him.

Finally, Tim's parents turned to him. "Yes, Tim, he's yours," Dad said. "But you'll have to look after him."

"I will Dad. I promise." Tim felt happy for the first time since he moved to the country. "Thanks," Tim said, "he'll be in a strange place at our house, but I'll help him get used to it. Do you know what I'm going to call him?"

"No Tim, what are you going to call him?" his parents said together.

"Well, we found him in a dairy barn, and he's all white. I'm going to call him "Milk."

**Low Resolution Sample**

**Download the complete,  
reproducible unit at  
thplinktv.com/100014.html  
ontariocurriculumunits.ca**

Scan the QR Code to the website below. Listen to the story and watch the video presentation. House cats that get dropped off in the country usually go wild and become feral cats. With your teacher or a family member, search online to learn about these wild cats.



<http://thplink.tv/100014.html>







# R

## Reading for Meaning



Read all the questions in this section. Now re-read all or part of the story to answer the questions.

1. Tim missed the city. He missed:
- a. his baseball team
  - b. his mother and father
  - c. everything
  - d. his old room
2. The first paragraph of this story tells us:
- a. how Tim feels
  - b. about Tim's parents
  - c. about Tim's school
  - d. about the farm and cats
3. Mr. McLaren is:
- a. a farmer
  - b. Tim's dad
  - c. Tim's uncle
  - d. a city neighbour
4. What are two sounds Tim hears in the barn?
- a. the tractors and tractors
  - b. the cows bawling and the milking machines
  - c. the milk storage tank and the milk truck
  - d. people talking and the rain on the roof
5. Tim moved from Windsor, Ontario. True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
6. In the barn, Tim smelled straw and manure. True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Tim call the kitten, Milk?

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6. Mr. McLaren explained to his neighbours about his system for milking his cows. He told how the milk traveled from the cows and into the dairy truck. List those steps.

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7. Do you think having a kitten will help Tim get to like the country more? Think about your own life or what you have read or viewed when you give reasons for your answer. List four reasons.

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## nderstanding Form and Style



The story form has a very different format than a movie review or poster. Think about the story form then answer the questions below.

- The main purpose of this story is to:
  - advertise a product
  - tell about a person's life
  - entertain the reader
  - organize factual information
- In paragraph one, why does the author begin six sentences with the same words. ("He missed...")?
  - to emphasize something
  - to make it difficult to read
  - it's easy to write sentences in this way
  - she doesn't know many words
- Think about the characters in this story. How many are there?
  - three
  - six
  - two
  - four
- The setting for this story is:
  - Mr. McLaren's barn
  - Mr. McLaren's farmhouse
  - the barn and the garden
  - Tim's new house
- Mr. McLaren seems to be angry. \_\_\_ True \_\_\_ False



6. Part of many stories is told by examining the illustrations. How do illustrations help us to understand the story? Look at the illustrations on page four. Look at Mr. McLaren's face and at Tim's face. How are these two characters feeling? How do you know?

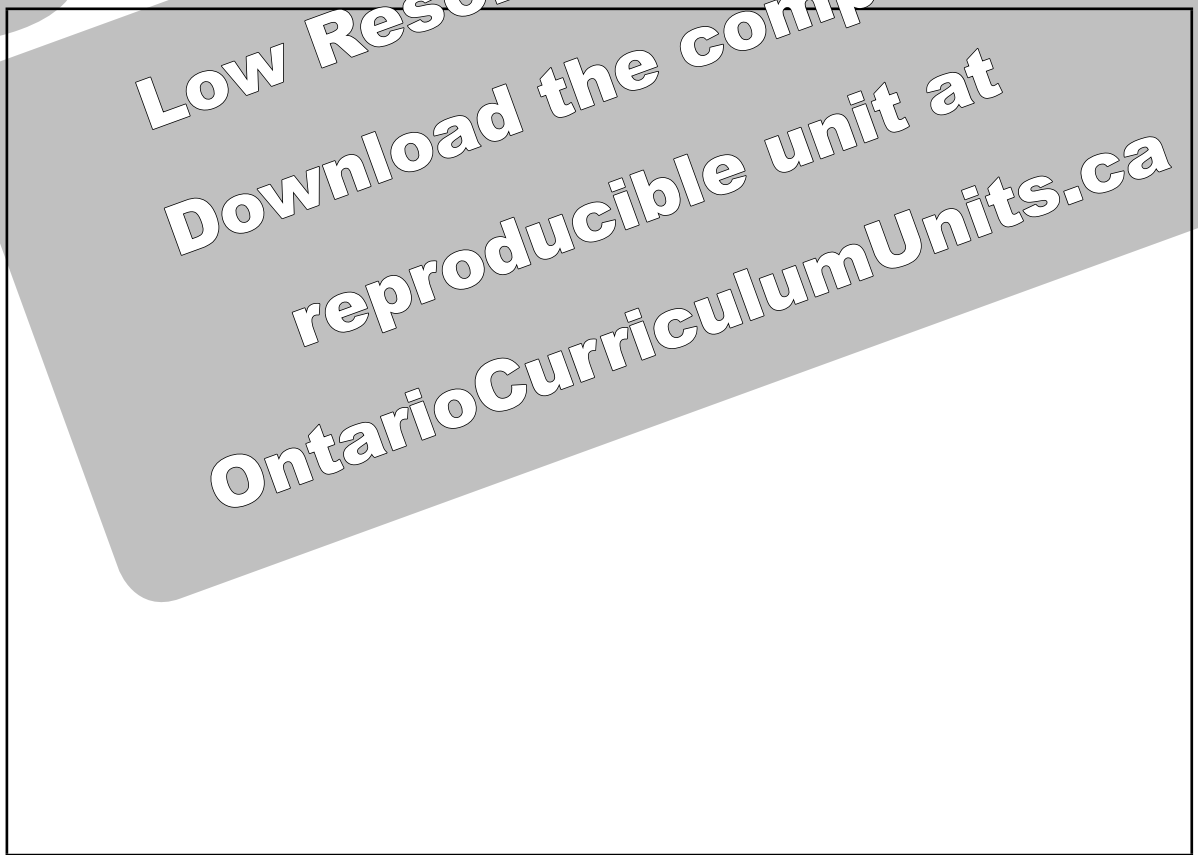
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7. Now it is your turn to be the illustrator. Select a favourite scene from the story then illustrate it below.



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# R

## Reading with Fluency

The more you understand word meanings and the use of words, the more fluent your reading becomes. Answer the word meaning questions below.

1. "He knelt down." In this sentence, "knelt" is:
  - a. an adjective
  - b. an adverb
  - c. a noun
  - d. a verb
2. "Knelt" is:
  - a. the past tense of kneel
  - b. the present tense of kneel
  - c. the future tense of kneel
  - d. a synonym for kneel
3. The "kitten snuggled under Tim's chin." Snuggled means:
  - a. licked him
  - b. when to sleep
  - c. curled up
  - d. reached him
4. Mr. McArthur said that he don't want to take their pets to the S.P.C.A. The acronym stands for:
  - a. Special Place that Cares for Animals
  - b. Special Police who Care for Animals
  - c. Steven Parker's Cottage for Animals
  - d. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

5. The author describes the kittens as “tumbling” up to him. Is that a good word to use? Give reasons for your opinion. Use a dictionary or thesaurus if necessary.

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6. Tim says that being in the country was like being “all alone on Mars.” Explain what Tim means by this.

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7. Tim didn't know much about milk before he visited Mr. McLaren's barn. He said milk was, “in cans and bags in a grocery store.” Now the word “milk” has many new meanings for Tim. What did Tim learn about milk by visiting the barn?

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## eflecting on Reading Skills and Strategies



Readers use different strategies depending on the form of the selection they are reading.

1. Have you lived any part of this story? Do you have a pet? Have you moved and had to leave things you loved behind? Have you really wanted something that was taken away from you? How do your personal experiences help you understand how Tim is feeling in the story?

2. Form groups of three and talk about the story. Talk about how the story made you feel. Talk about what you learned from reading it. Talk about how discussing the story helps you understand it better. Give one example of what someone else in your group said that helped you understand the story in a different way.

**Extend**

1. Think about pets you have known. How did one of these pets show affection for you?

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2. Country life is different than living in the city. Where would you rather live? List five reasons for your opinion.

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3. Many people believe that those who live alone have a happier life if they own a pet. List three reasons why this could be true.

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