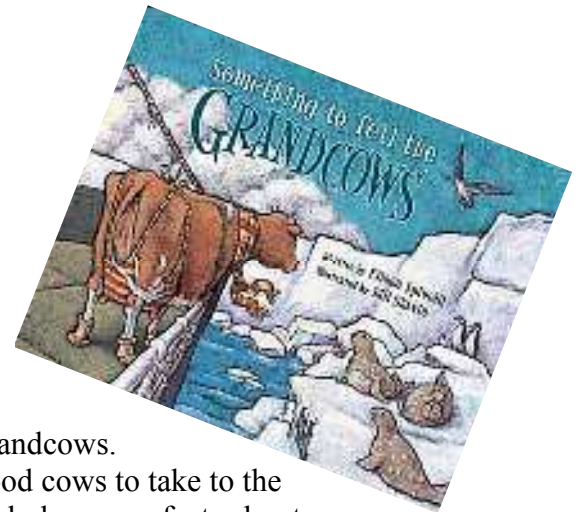


Something to Tell the Grandcows

Written by Eileen Spinelli
Illustrated by Bill Slavin



Emmadine is looking for an adventure to share with her grandcows. When she learns that Admiral Byrd is looking for a few good cows to take to the South Pole, she volunteers. This historical fiction book includes many facts about Antarctica that will help the students understand more about this frozen continent.

About the Author/Illustrator

Award-winning author Eileen Spinelli has been writing since she was six years old. As a young child she spent many hours at the public library. She says it was there that she fell in love with words and decided to become a writer. Eileen is the author of many children's books including *Sophie's Masterpiece*, *Song for the Whooping Crane*, *Summerbath*, *Winterbath*, *Someone Loves You Mr. Hatch*, and *When Mama Comes Home Tonight*. Eileen Spinelli lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Bill Slavin, who was born in Ontario, illustrated his first book, *The Adventures of Zok*, when he was only seven. He has illustrated more than fifty children's books including *The Bone Talker*, *The Bear on the Bed*, and *Stanley's Party*. He prefers to use ink and watercolors, but he occasionally does use acrylics in some of his picture books.

Accompanying Activities

1. Geography

Using a beginning globe with just the continents, help the students identify all the seven continents. Explain that the setting for our story is one of the seven continents. Have them raise their hand when they hear which continent is the setting of the story.

a. Social Studies Skills/Maps - Identify the physical characteristics of places such as landforms, bodies of water, natural resources, and weather.

TEKS: *SS 113.2 (b) 5 A; SS 113.3 (b) 6 A*

b. Social Studies Skills/Maps - Identify major landforms and bodies of water, including continents and oceans, on maps and globes.

TEKS: *SS 113.4 (b) 6 A*

2. Pre-Reading

Ask the students what they know about the South Pole. What information do they already know about Antarctica? What would they like to learn? After reading the book, pair the students and let each pair discuss their answers to the questions. Have each group share.

a. Reading/inquiry/research - Identify relevant questions for inquiry.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 12 A; ELA 110.3 (b) 15 A; ELA 110.4 (b) 12 A*

3. Fiction/Nonfiction

Read a nonfiction book such as *Arctic and Antarctic Regions* by Francene Sabin to the students after reading *Something to Tell the Grandcows*. Pair the students and have them identify parts of the fiction book that are factual. Identify parts of the fiction book that are fantasy.

- a. **Reading/literacy concepts** - Distinguish fiction from nonfiction including fact and fantasy.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 11 C; ELA 110.3 (b) 14 C; ELA 110.4 (b) 11 C*

4. Author Website

Research Eileen Spinelli by accessing her website. The website includes sections on the author, upcoming events, writing tips, her books, fun stuff, and more. After viewing the website, have students make a list of questions they would like to ask the author.

Website address is : http://www.eileenspinelli.com/heart_001.htm

- a. **Technology application**-Use electronic tools and research skills to build a knowledge base regarding a topic, task or assignment.

TEKS: *TA 126.2 (b) 8 B*

Companion Books

Other Books by Eileen Spinelli (partial list)

Boy, Can He Dance. Simon and Schuster, 1993.

Coming Through the Blizzard: a Christmas Story. Simon and Schuster, 1999.

Lizzie Logan Wears Purple. Simon Schuster, 1995.

Lizzie Logan, Second Banana. Simon Schuster, 1998.

Naptime, Laptime. Scholastic, 1995.

Night Shift Daddy. Hyperion Books for Children, 2000.

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch. Simon and Schuster, 1991.

Song for the Whooping Crane. Eerdmans, 2000.

Summerbath, Winterbath. Eerdmans, 2001.

Sophie's Masterpiece. Simon Schuster, 1998.

Tea Party Today: Poems to Sip and Savor. Simon and Schuster, 1999.

Thanksgiving at the Tappletons. HarperCollins, 1982 & 2003.

Three Pebbles and a Song. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000.

When Mama Comes Home From Work. Simon and Schuster, 1991.

When Mama Comes Home Tonight. Simon and Schuster, 1998.

Other Books Illustrated by Bill Slavin (partial list)

Bailey, Linda. *Stanley's Party*. Kids Can Press, 2003.

Leedahl, Shelly. *The Bone Talker*. Red Deer Press, 2000.

Miller, Ruth. *Bear on the Bed*. Kids Can Press, 2002.

Nicolson, Cynthia. *Exploring Space*. Kids Can Press, 2000.

Zimelmann, Nathan. *How the Second Grade got \$8,205.50 to Visit the Statue of Liberty*. A Whitman, 1992.

Antarctica

Hovanec, Erin. *An Online Visit to Antarctica*. PowerKids Press, 2001.

Levinson, Nancy. *North Pole, South Pole*. Holiday House, 2002.
Markle, Sandra. *Super Cool Science: South Pole Stations Past, Present, and Future*. Walker, 1998.
Mastro, Jim. *Antarctic Ice*. Henry Holt and Company, 2003.
McMillan, Bruce. *Summer Ice: Life Along the Antarctic Peninsula*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1995.
Pipes, Rose. *Tundra and Cold Deserts*. Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1999.
Sabin, Francene. *Arctic and Antarctic Regions*. Troll Associates, 1985.
Webb, Sophie. *My Season With Penguins: an Antarctic Journal*. Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Websites About Eileen Spinelli

Eileen Spinelli's Website

http://www.eileenspinelli.com/heart_001.htm

Boyd's Mills Press Author Profile

<http://www.boydsmillspress.com/authors.tpl?command=showpage&authorid=0372>

Giggle Poetry – Ask the Poet

<http://www.gigglepoetry.com/askthepoet/espoet.html>

Simon & Schuster Author Information

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/content.cfm?sid=33&pid=351617>