

# The Cult of the Cow

By  
Robin Twiddy

Illustrated By  
Andrew Owens



PHASE 5

/c/g/

# The Cult of the Cow



Level 7 – Turquoise

# Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The graphemes (written letters) and phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are aligned with Letters and Sounds. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

**HERE IS A LIST OF ALTERNATIVE PRONUNCIATIONS OF GRAPHEMES FOR THIS PHASE OF LEARNING. AN EXAMPLE OF THE PRONUNCIATION CAN BE FOUND IN BRACKETS.**

Phase 5 Alternative Pronunciations of Graphemes

a (hat, what)	e (bed, she)	i (fin, find)	o (hot, so)
u (but, unit)	c (cat, cent)	g (got, giant)	ow (cow, blow)
ie (tied, field)	ea (eat, bread)	er (farmer, herb)	ch (chin, school, chef)
y (yes, by, very)	ou (out, shoulder, could, you)		

**HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.**

Phase 5 Tricky Words

oh	their	people	Mr
Mrs	looked	called	asked
could			

GPC focus: /c/g/

## TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Allow children time to break down unfamiliar words into units of sound and then encourage children to string these sounds together to create the word.
- Encourage your child to point out any focus phonics when they are used.
- Read through the book more than once to grow confidence.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage children to use illustrations as prompts.

**PHASE 5**

/c/g/

This book focuses on the phonemes /c/ and /g/ and is a turquoise level 7 book band.

# The Cult of the Cow

**Written by**  
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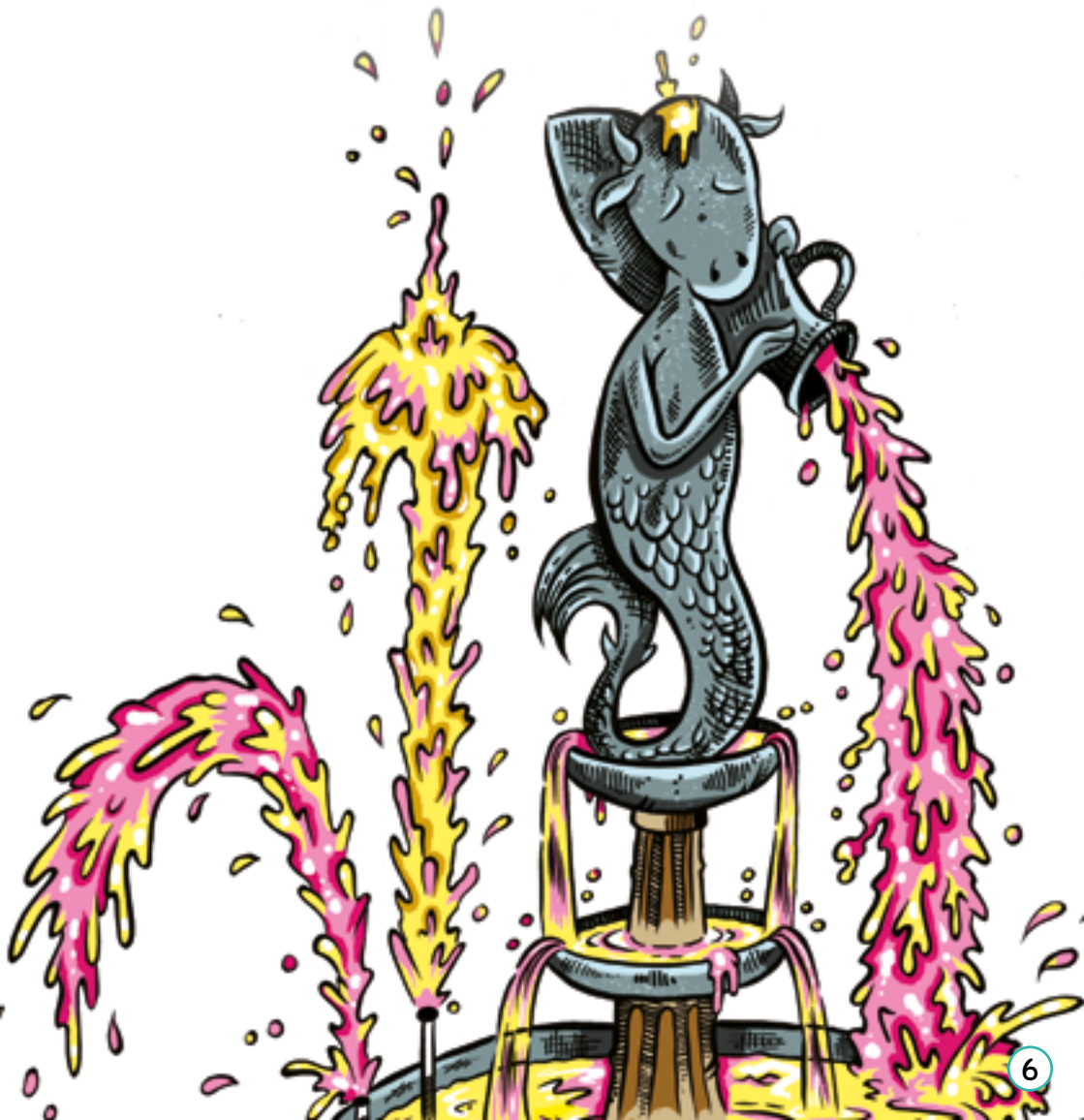




Jive Town was small but strange. Most towns had traffic lights. Jive Town hired clowns to help people cross the roads. Colin often wondered why.



Most towns had water fountains in the park. Jive Town replaced them with banana milkshake fountains. Colin was puzzled by the choices of the town council.



It was the weekend, and Baz, Colin and Sumar were all hanging out in Colin's bedroom. Sumar grabbed Colin's arm and said, "You're it!" before running off.





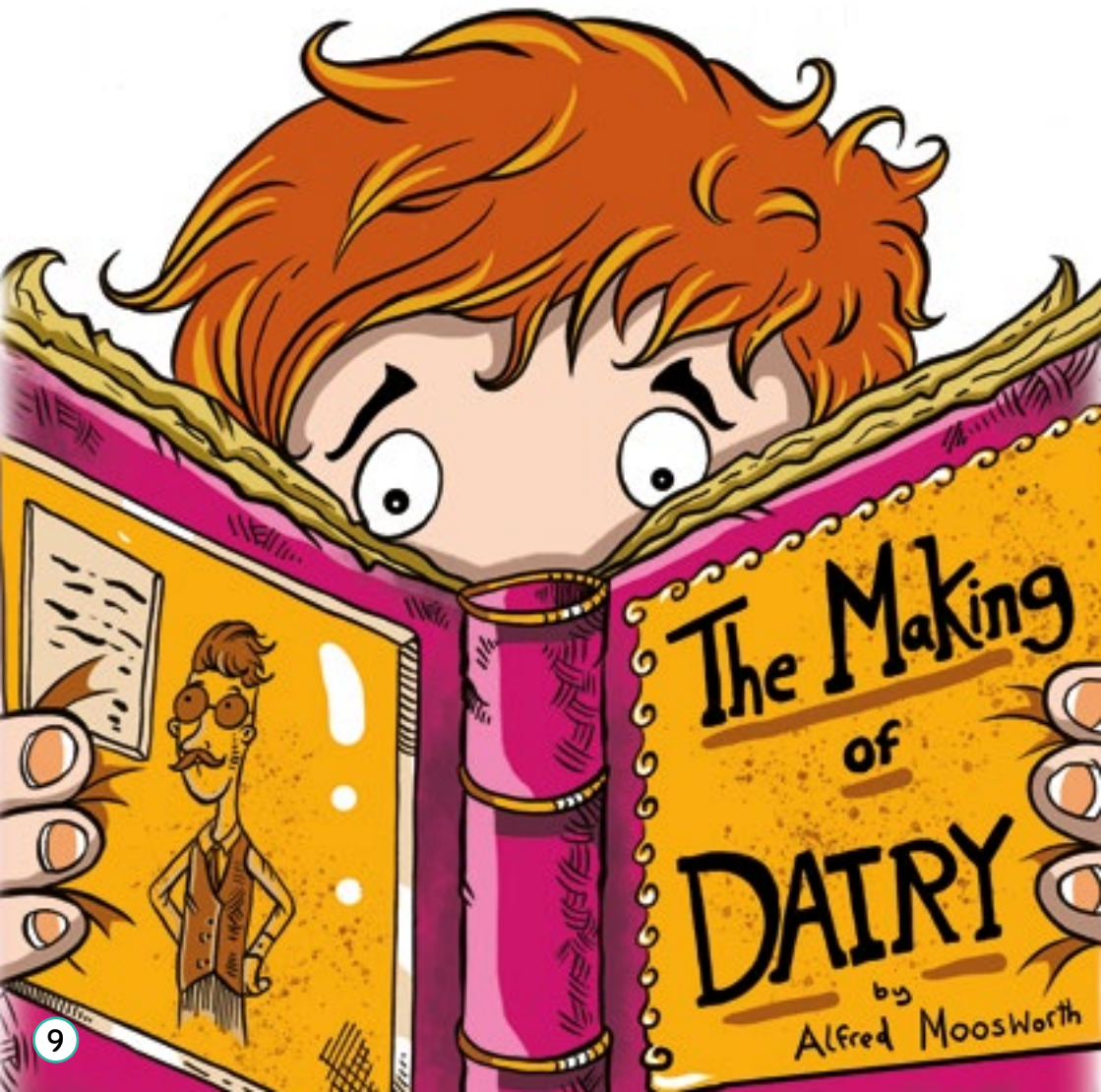


"Not fair," Colin said, running after Sumar into his dad's office. As he tagged Sumar, she stepped back and bumped into a bookcase. A book fell down.



Colin picked up the book and looked at the cover. The book was called *The Making of Dairy*.

"Is it about milk?" asked Sumar.



"No, Dairy is what our town used to be called but they changed the name to Jive Town," came a voice from the hall. It was Baz.



“Wow!” Colin said. “It’s all about the town. But it’s different. They never told us this in class.”







"It says here that the first leader of the town was a cow!" Colin continued.

"What's this?" asked Sumar, holding a small scrap.



"It fell out of the book," said Colin. "The Cult of the Cow. Stamp your right foot twice and moo like a cow."



“What does it mean?” asked Baz. But they were called by voices from downstairs. It was time for Baz and Sumar to go.





They didn't think about the book again until they were in the playground on Monday morning. They were playing near the gate when it happened.



Mr Carter the PE teacher mooed like a cow.  
The three kids looked in amazement.  
"Did he just moo?" Baz said.





Then the dinner lady stamped her right foot  
twice and mooed back at him.  
"The Cult of the Cow," they all said together.



"It's real!" said Colin.

Baz had good hearing. He shushed Sumar and Colin. "They are whispering something," Baz said, and they all fell silent.



"There is a meeting of The Cult of the Cow at lunchtime," said Baz. "It is in the main hall."





"Right," said Colin. "We have to get into that meeting if we want to get to the bottom of this."

"I'm in," said Sumar.

"Me too," said Baz.





When the lunch bell rang, the three kids met at the back entrance to the hall. They snuck upstairs to a room that overlooked the hall.



Hooded people filled the hall.  
“What is happening?” whispered Sumar.  
The hooded people stood in front of the stage.  
“Did something move behind the curtain?”



One of the hooded people got onto the stage.  
“Welcome, fellow members,” he said. Then  
he stamped his right foot twice and mooed.





Each person in the crowd stamped their right foot and mooed back.

"Quiet down," the leader said. "It is time to make some choices."





The curtain was pulled back and there on the stage was a cow. Around its neck was a golden chain. The kind that a town leader might have.



“Oh, cow. Tell us – shall we fix the pothole on Main Road or fill the drains with jam?”  
the hooded man asked the cow.



"Moo," mooed the cow. Then it mooed again.  
"Jam!" cheered the crowd.  
The kids were shocked.  
Just then, one of the hooded people spotted  
them.







The kids tried to run, but they were surrounded by members of the cult.

"Oh, cow! Moo one time to kill them, and moo twice to let them go," shouted the leader.

The room was silent.

Then...

"Mooooooo!"

Silence again, until...

"Mooooooo!"

"Right, kids. Don't say a word or you'll be cow food!" said the leader.





The next day, the drains were filled with jam. Colin understood why the town was so strange now. It was because of The Cult of the Cow.



# The Cult of the Cow

- 1) How did Baz, Sumar and Colin find out about the Cult of the Cow?
- 2) What was behind the curtain in the main hall?
- 3) What job did clowns have in the town?
- 4) What did the town used to be called?
  - (a) Dairy
  - (b) Berry
  - (c) Sumar
- 5) Do you think having a cow make decisions is a good idea?

## An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of Letters and Sounds.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

**BOOK BAND GRADED** using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

**PHONETICALLY DECODABLE** supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

**EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS** to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

**BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED** to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

### AUTHOR INSIGHT: ROBIN TWIDDY

Robin Twiddy is one of BookLife Publishing's most creative and prolific editorial talents, who imbues all his copy with a sense of adventure and energy. Robin's Cambridge-based first class honours degree in psychosocial studies offers a unique viewpoint on factual information and allows him to relay information in a manner that readers of any age are guaranteed to retain. He also holds a certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Sector, and a post graduate certificate in Consumer Psychology.

A father of two, Robin has written over 70 titles for BookLife and specialises in conceptual, role-playing narratives which promote interaction with the reader and inspire even the most reluctant of readers to fully engage with his books.

### PHASE 5

/c/g/

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# The Cult of the Cow

Jive Town isn't like other towns. No, it is much stranger! It has a secret; one that, when Colin, Baz and Sumar discover it, will change the way they see their town forever – The Cult of the Cow.

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