

WELCOME TO AUNT BEA'S FARM

Educator & Librarian Read-Aloud Guide

By Sabrina Sewell • Tildon-Sewell Publishing

Suggested audience: Preschool–Grade 1

Adapt questions and activities to your group.

A visit to Aunt Bea's farm gives Joy and Thea opportunities to discover new things, connect with family, and find comfort while their parents are away.

BEFORE YOU READ

Look closely

Explore the cover together. What do children notice? What do they think Joy and Thea might do on the farm?

Make a connection

Ask: "What helps you feel comfortable when you visit somewhere new?" Children may answer, point, act out an idea, or simply listen.

DURING THE STORY

Choose a few natural pauses to ask:

- What do you notice in this picture?
- How might Joy or Thea be feeling? What clues do you see?
- What do you think will happen next?

Leave time to enjoy the illustrations and hear children's observations. There is no need to ask every question.

AFTER YOU READ

Feelings and family

- How did the girls feel when their parents said goodbye? Could they have had more than one feeling?
- Why did their parents give them the lamb and duck?
- What did Aunt Bea and Uncle Dave do to help the girls feel welcome?

Discoveries on the farm

- What did you notice about Whinny, the piglets, the goats, and the chickens?
- How were the animals alike? How were they different?
- Which part of the visit would you most like to join? Why?

Remembering the story

- What happened before the girls met the farm animals?
- How did their day end?

Explore, Remember & Share

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Farm Animal Sounds

Say “neigh,” “oink,” “baa,” or “cluck” and invite children to identify the animal. Use the matching sheet individually or display it for the group. Children can respond by pointing, speaking, or making the sound.

My Favorite Farm Memory

Invite children to draw their favorite moment from the story. Ask them to describe their picture, and offer to record their words. Display the drawings or let children take them home to share.

First, Next, Last

Revisit three illustrations from the book: arriving at the farm, meeting an animal, and going to sleep. Ask children to tell what happened first, next, and last. Older children can add another event.

A Farm Welcome

Ask: “If someone were visiting your classroom or library for the first time, how could we help them feel welcome?” Choose one idea to practice together.

LEARNING CONNECTIONS

These activities offer opportunities to practice:

- Listening and taking turns in conversation
- Using illustrations to explain an idea
- Identifying feelings and considering others’ perspectives
- Comparing animals and noticing details
- Recalling and sequencing story events
- Expressing ideas through drawing and spoken words

A NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS

Children’s experiences with family, travel, and separation vary. Invite connections to any trusted grown-up or welcoming place. Sharing personal experiences is always optional.

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