

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary

pregnant	having a baby growing inside the body
calf	baby cow
sanctuary	place where animals are safe and cared for
bond	feeling of closeness or connection with someone
dairy	made from cow's milk

Note: This version of Idabelle's rescue story is ideal for reading aloud to students in grades K-2. For images to accompany the text, please visit the blog feature at TeachKind.org/Idabelle. Discuss the comprehension questions that follow as a class. For a passage and questions that your students can read and complete independently, see pages 4 and 5.

Idabelle's Great Escape

If there was one thing that Idabelle knew for sure, it was that she was not staying on that boat. It was docked in Virginia but would soon be going somewhere far, far away. Her future did not look good: Once she and the other cows on the boat got to where they were going, they would be milked until they had no milk left. She didn't want to think about what would happen after that.

Like most cows raised for their milk, Idabelle was **pregnant**. That's the only way a cow can make milk. Just like human moms, cows produce milk for their own babies. Idabelle knew that staying on the boat would lead to disaster for

both herself and her **calf**. She had to do something. So she made her way to the boat's railing, broke through the ropes, and jumped into the James River! Even though she was probably scared, she was able to swim all the way to an island.

Idabelle climbed out of the river and disappeared into the woods. Thankfully, somebody found her and took her to a **sanctuary**, where she gave birth to her calf, who was named Jimmy. She got to spend every day with him, grazing peacefully and taking care of him, just like all mothers want to do. Thanks to her bravery, they would be together for the rest of her life.



Like all animals, cows love their families. Mothers and their babies have a strong **bond**. They lick and groom their calves and even take turns babysitting for each other. Normally, mother cows would spend their whole lives with their babies, but that's not allowed on **dairy** farms.

On dairy farms, baby cows are taken away from their mothers when they're just a day or two old so that their milk can be sold in stores instead of given to them. Cow's milk is for baby cows, just like human milk is for baby humans. Instead of cow's milk, you can enjoy delicious dairy-free versions of foods like macaroni and cheese, pizza, and ice cream.

Comprehension Questions and Answers: Idabelle's Great Escape

1. Why do cows produce milk?

Answer: Cows produce milk for their babies, not for humans.
(Literal)

2. Why do you think Idabelle jumped off the boat?

Possible answer: She was scared and wanted to save her baby. (Evaluative)

3. What can you do to help cows?

Answer: You can choose not to eat or drink anything made from milk and instead enjoy delicious vegan versions of your favorite dairy foods. (Literal)

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Idabelle's Great Escape

Idabelle was a **pregnant** cow on a boat sailing far, far away. She knew that if she wanted to save her **calf**, she had to do something. So she jumped off the boat and into the river. Even though she was scared, she swam and made it to the woods. Kind people found her and took her to a **sanctuary**, where she gave birth to her calf, who was named Jimmy.



Cow's milk is for baby cows. You can enjoy foods like macaroni and cheese, pizza, and ice cream that are not made with cow's milk.

Comprehension Questions: Idabelle's Great Escape

1. Why do cows produce milk?

2. Why do you think Idabelle jumped off the boat?

3. What can you do to help cows?
