



Moo: A Novel

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Fans of Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech's *Love That Dog and Hate That Cat* will love her newest tween novel, *Moo*. This uplifting tale reminds us that if we're open to new experiences, life is full of surprises. Following one family's momentous move from the city to rural Maine, an unexpected bond develops between twelve-year-old Reena and one very ornery cow.

When Reena, her little brother, Luke, and their parents first move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. She's ready for beaches, blueberries, and all the lobster she can eat. Instead, her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna—and that stubborn cow, Zora.

This heartwarming story, told in a blend of poetry and prose, reveals the bonds that emerge when we let others into our lives.

Moo: A Novel Details

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Author : Sharon Creech

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From Reader Review *Moo: A Novel* for online ebook

Krista Regester says

As fellow reviewers have stated : the parts written in verse were probably better left out. I think I enjoyed this more because I listened to it instead of using a hard copy. Being able to hear the hard accents used and the voice of Reena gave it a better experience.

Did I think I would hear the word *dung* used so many times? no.

Angela Juline says

Delightful...I love Sharon Creech and I will be buying this for my elementary library.

Favorite verse from the book:

Sometimes I had to
close my eyes
to rest them from
all the new everythings
pouring in.

Donna says

Great story about change, neighbors, and finding strength in strange places.

Reena narrates this heartwarming story about one city family's move to rural Maine. There, Reena and her brother Luke are volunteered to an old woman who owns a few animals. Not knowing what to expect from this cranky woman, Reena and Luke come to love the farm and especially the stubborn cow, Zora. As they slowly get to know the older woman, they also learn what life on a farm entails. At the end of the story Reena reflects on what the past eighteen months has been like.

Told in verse and small paragraphs, this story will appeal to many, especially those who wonder "what if?"
Digital copy from Edelweiss / HarperCollins

Rashika (is tired) says

****This review has also been posted on The Social Potato*

THIS BOOK

The truth is that this book was
A M A Z I N G.

Displaced children are a common theme in a lot of middle grade novels but this one was special.

And not just because it is Sharon

C

R

E

E

C

H

(although she really knows what she is doing)

Two children are taken out of their metropolitan setting and forced to

Adapt to a more rural one.

They are out of place, outside of their comfort zone

Yet they adapt. And they make friends

Animal friends

Human

F

R

I

E

N

D

S

And they grow as characters

As people

And transform.

There is s a d n e s s and heartbreak

and change but these kids come out on top and win your

HEARTS.

Note that I received an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Evi says

It was a cute book, but not really until literally the last 45 pages. I didn't especially enjoy this one, but I'm giving it 2 stars because it was worth it in the end. So um, read this if ... well, I guess read this if you enjoy reading about steamy cow poop...

Brandy Painter says

The story here is fine. I guess. Incredibly predictable and cliché, but there's nothing terrible about it. The characters are fairly stock with little development. There is definitely emotional manipulation at the end to tug on your heartstrings and make the book feel important. Yawn. The worst thing about this book is its atrocious formatting. It is a "blank verse" poetry novel, which is often used as a blanket way of covering all

sorts of linguistic sins. This could be the textbook example of a book that didn't need to be blank verse, had no reason to be blank verse, but being blank verse made it easier to fill the required number of pages. The strange (and truly frustrating) part of this is that I use the term "blank verse" VERY loosely. There are paragraphs of narrative prose inserted into the book will-nilly for no other seeming reason than "why not?". There will be a whole chapter that's all narrative followed by a chapter of verse. Or verse, random paragraph, more verse. There is no rhyme or logic to it and it serves no purpose.

Sandra says

How do you fall in love with a black and white cow? Why, read *Moo* by Sharon Creech, of course! Reena's family dares greatly to uproot from the city to move to the countryside in Maine, where they meet an eccentric old lady named Mrs. Falala at her farm. Reena and her little brother Luke are asked to help her tend to her animals, against their free will, as she seems both odd and rude at the same time. They get to know Mrs. Falala and Zora, the stubborn, defiant cow, and unlikely friendships ensue.

This novel is written in creative form, blending both prose and verse, traditional and concrete poetry alike. It makes for a powerful study of character change and figurative language. It also explores friendships, loss, the joy and sadness of the unexpected, and an amazing bond between humans and animals. This is a delightful read for upper elementary to early middle schoolers.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

I liked this simple novel in verse the more and more I read of it. Twelve-year-old Reena and her family move from New York City to a seaside house in Maine, and experience the culture shock/pleasures of a semi-rural and slower-paced life. They're coerced into helping an old Italian lady, Mrs. Falala, tend to the animals on her farm, and to prepare her cow, Zora, to be shown at the local fair. The relationship between Mrs. Falala and the children grows closer as they get to know each other. I love how the story describes the transformation of the two children from reluctant farm hands to enthusiastic lovers of the farm life. I learned a few things about cows here that I'd never known. I'd never heard of the Belted Galloway breed of cow, nor do I think I've ever seen one. Had to look up a picture of one on the internet. I always thought of cows as gentle creatures, but I guess they can be ornery too. I like how Creech also introduced the idea of vegetarianism when the children learn that hamburger comes from cows. The horror of it! I didn't expect the way the story ended, both happy and sad. Upper elementary and middle school readers should enjoy this, especially if they come from rural areas or from Maine. Recommended!

Kellee says

It all revolves around a cow. An ornery, wonderful cow that helps a girl find home, a woman find closure, a boy share a passion, and a family settle down. Fans of any Creech work, though especially *Love that Dog*, will love her word play and imagery in this novel in verse/vignettes.

Laura says

3.5 stars. This was a very fast read, as it was partially written in verse. It tells the story of a 12 year old girl from the city whose family decides, almost on the spur of the moment to move to rural Maine. In that process her family befriends an eccentric old lady with a farm who lives nearby and both the girl's life, Mrs. Falala's life, and indeed the girl's whole family's life is changed as a result. It was at times, funny and touching too. If you're interested in cows as show animals, you might want to move this one up your TBR list.

3.5 stars too for the audio performance and six stars to my library for their subscription to Hoopla, which is an "always there" service for digital audiobooks, ebooks, music and movies. Very convenient and love the iPad app!

Jenny (A Court of Six of Crows) says

Again, too much random scatterings of words for me. It's a very light, easy read, but the plot just felt sort of overused by similar books and... not special, I suppose.

And now I just want to live in Maine even more and learn to speak like Zep.

Patrick says

I've been looking forward to this newest Creech novel for some time. It didn't disappoint. Beautiful writing. The format was fresh and unique. I'll be looking at cows in a whole new way.

Destinee Sutton says

I wanted to like this, but I found it boring. It reminded me too much of Defiance. Both books are about a kid who meets an eccentric old lady with a cow. The old lady helps the kid see the world differently. Thanks, magical old lady! Thanks, cow!

I think the blank verse/concrete poetry/creative typography stuff will appeal to fans of, like, Geronimo Stilton? I wasn't impressed by it. It seemed somehow lazy for a writer as talented as Creech. Like, let's write "drip" like this:

d r i p
r
i
p

and, oh, isn't that cool, don't you just get what drips are like from the way the letters are spaced?

(Now I'm just being mean.)

So, if you want a children's novel in verse about how special cows are, I'd recommend Home of the Brave.

Apologies to Sharon Creech for the snark. I suppose this is a sweet book in it's way. I really do love Love That Dog and Walk Two Moons and recommend them all the time. Maybe I'll try reading MOO again sometime when I'm not feeling pressure to come up with brilliant Mock Newbery picks.

Sara Grochowski says

In elementary school Sharon Creech was one of my favorite authors and, to put it simply, she's still got it. MOO is a sweet story about a young girl whose family leaves the big city, relocating to Maine. Before she's even had a chance to settle in, Reena's parents have promised their grumpy, elderly neighbor that Reena and her brother will help volunteer three days a week, doing chores. Despite Reena protests, she of course comes to love the farm, her neighbor, and participating in the local fair.

Claire says

I guess the ending was good....though it was not exactly my favorite book :(
