



The Cow That Jumped Over the Moon

Once upon a time there was a cow called Munch who lived on Cowpat farm with Farmer Puffer. By day, Farmer Puffer tended his fields of vegetables and looked after all the animals, but by night Farmer Puffer tried to be an inventor and make different things to help him to be a better farmer. Unfortunately he hadn't quite got the hang of it yet.

"Now what have you made?" his wife Mrs Puffer would say when he showed her his latest attempt. When it failed she would roll her eyes and heave a big sigh.

"I don't know why you waste your time with these inventions," she grumbled. **"They never seem to work."**

What she didn't know was that Farmer Puffer was trying to invent a special fertiliser for his prize marrows to make them grow really big and strong. Every year at the County Fair, Farmer Puffer entered his marrows and every year he came second to Farmer Beet. This year he was determined to win so he was trying to invent a special fertiliser to make his marrows the biggest in the land.

One evening Farmer Puffer was mixing his potions up out in the barn. He didn't want his wife Mrs Puffer to see him as he knew it would make her cross.

"Now just you hurry up out of that barn," she called through the barn door to Farmer Puffer. **"The chickens need feeding."**

Farmer Puffer had poured all sorts of things into a rig. He went off to feed the chickens and took the rig with him so Mrs Puffer wouldn't find it. He put it down by the cow's field while he went off to feed the chickens.

Munch the cow had been eating a lot of grass that day and all the chewing and chomping had made her thirsty. When she saw that Farmer Puffer had put a rig of water down by the field she poked her head through the fence and took a big gulp. Immediately she felt a bit strange.

Later that evening Munch and the other cows were talking.

"The rhyme 'Hey Diddle Diddle' isn't about a real cow," said Spoldge.

"What do you mean?" said Daisy and recounted the rhyme. **"Hey diddle diddle the cat and the fiddle the cow jumped over the moon, the little dog laughed to see such fun and the dish rang away with the spoon."**

"There is no way that a cow could jump over the moon," said Spoldge.

"I disagree," said Mooley. **"Cows can jump over all sorts of things. What do you think Munch?"**

Munch who was still feeling slightly strange after drinking the water just nodded.

"Why don't you try and see how high you can jump to see who is right," moored Munch.

"Good idea," said Spoldge determined that she should be right.

The cows all stood in a line at the edge of the field. Each of them tried to do the biggest jump that they could. One by one they all leapt into the air. Daisy did the highest jump out of all of them but even that wasn't very high.



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"You see," said Splodge. **"I said that a cow couldn't jump over the moon. We're cows and we can't jump very high."**

"Well Munch hasn't had her turn, has she?" said Mooey. **"Go on Munch; show us how high you can jump."**

Munch really didn't feel like it. The strange water that she had drunk earlier still seemed to be having an effect on her. She ran forward as fast as she could and launched into the air, expecting to land with a heavy thud. To her enormous surprise she sprang off her legs and feet which pushed her so hard that she flew straight through the air. Up and up she went, higher and higher and then with a whiz and a wee she went over the moon and down the other side where she landed back in the field.

"I told you that the rhyme Hey Diddle Diddle was true, didn't I?" said Daisy to the other cows and the astonished Munch.

Meanwhile, Mrs Puffer was sitting in the kitchen with Farmer Puffer nagging him.

"I have told you before, not to waste time on your inventions," she said. **"There's too much to be done around the farm."** Just at that moment, she glanced out of the window and saw Munch flying over the moon.

"Oh my, oh my...." She stuttered and rubbed her eyes. **"She must be imagining things,"** she thought and said nothing. **"Cows don't jump over the moon."** The next day Farmer Puffer took the pot of potion and tipped it onto his vegetable patch.

"Well I guess I won't be doing any more inventions for a while," he said. **"I may as well put this on the marrows anyway."** And with that he went inside for a cup of tea.