



**Reading level:** Ages 4-8

**Paperback:** 32 pages

**Publisher:** Boyds Mills Press

**Language:** English

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## **When Cows Come Home**

### **From Publishers Weekly**

Memorable stanzas and animated spreads jazz up this look at the silly things cows just might do when people stop paying attention to them. "You never saw / Such cow horseplay / When Farmer looks / The other way!" writes Harrison ( *Somebody Catch My Homework* ) as several holsteins peek expectantly around the corner of a barn door. Liberated from Farmer's watchful eye, the members of the herd pedal bicycles, swim in a pond and clown around with some braying donkeys. Although Harrison's litany of heifer high jinks sags a bit in the middle, rhyme and repetition subtly encourage beginning readers to recognize and practice key words. Demarest's ( *Smart Dog ; My Little Red Car* ) splashy watercolors lend a sense of playful motion and fluidity to his characters; the cows--who, modestly, have only the barest suggestion of udders--execute nary a clumsy move and appear practically weightless as they finally "swish their tails / And gently sway / . . . / And head for home / In a cowlike way." A bright, appealing volume with a mischievous nature. Ages 2-8. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### **From School Library Journal**

PreSchool-Grade 1-"When cows come home at the end of the day,/They swish their tails and gently sway," behaving in a most "cowlike way." When Farmer turns his back, however, his bovine herd kicks up its heels and has a rollicking good time playing tag, fiddling, dancing, biking, and swimming. As the beasts return to the barn, though, they once again act like cows. With a tweak of illustrative humor at the end, Farmer winks at readers-he knows what those cows have been up to all day. The romping activity of the expansive, cartoonlike watercolor illustrations fully complements the motion in the rhythmic and evocative text. With the exception of a few difficult words, beginning readers will find this to be pure fun to read on their own, and younger children will enjoy listening to it.

*Mary Lou Budd, Milford South Elementary School, OH*

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**Anonymous**

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Posted March 24, 2000, 8:08 AM EST: This book is so much fun to read, I read it again and again to my children and never tire of it. The pictures are adorable, the cows faces are so expressive. This is my favorite of all of our children's books.