

The Farm Octopus

Use the questions and prompt below to encourage your students to discuss and think about the poem.

Before Reading Questions

1. Is the title “The Farm Octopus” strange? Why?
2. How could an octopus become a helper on a farm?
3. Where do octopuses usually live?



After Reading Questions

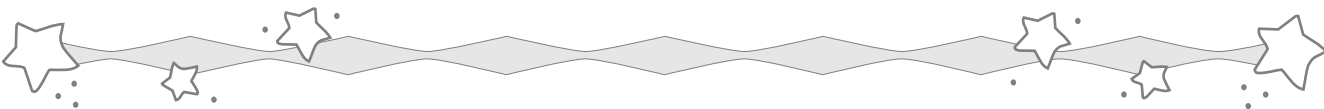
1. Why did the other farm animals complain about the octopus?
2. Why was it difficult for the octopus to do a good job?
3. How do you think the farmer felt when he took the octopus back to the ocean? Why?



Writing Prompt

- ✎ Why do you think the octopus might be happier in the ocean?





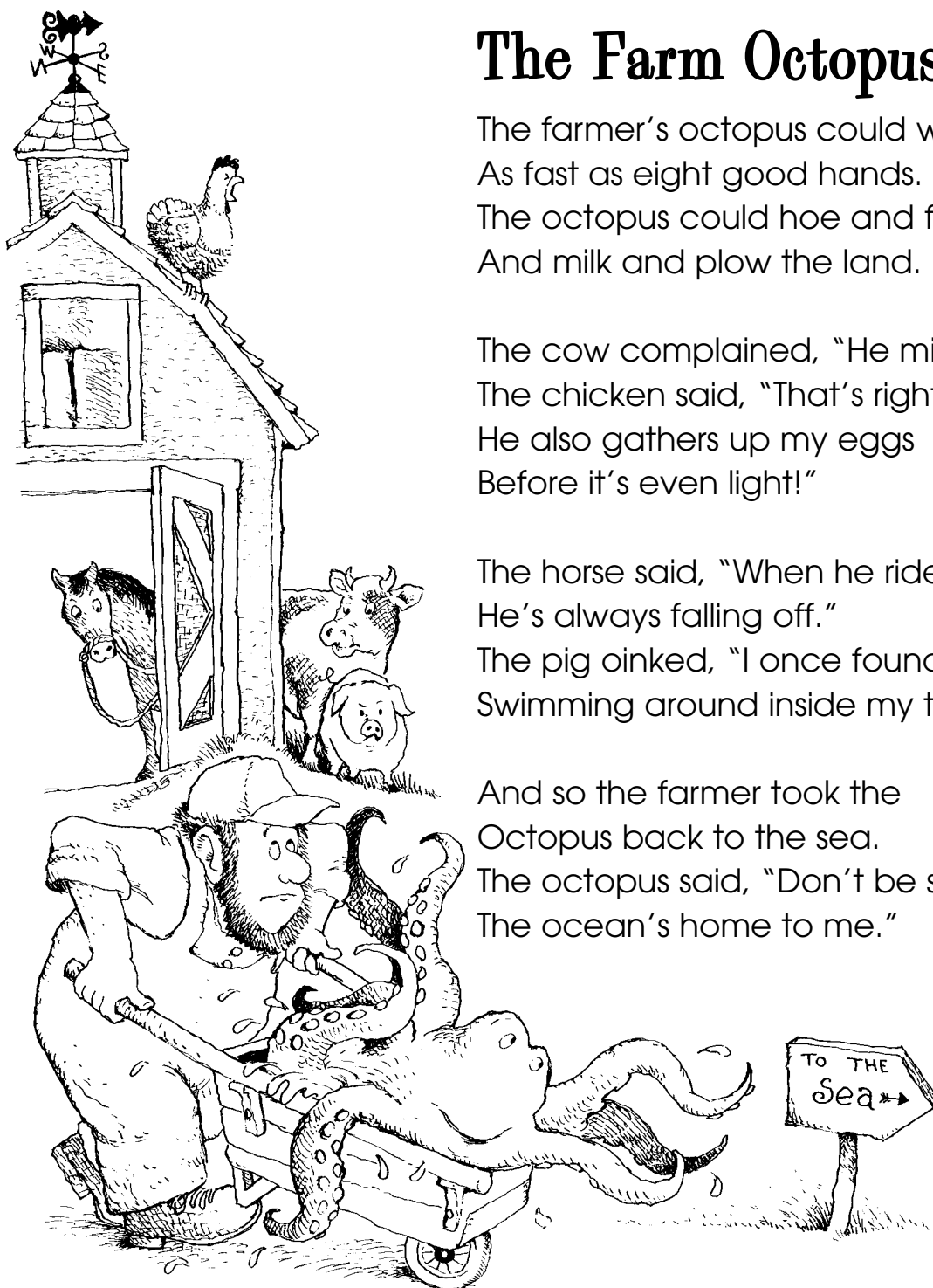
The Farm Octopus

The farmer's octopus could work
As fast as eight good hands.
The octopus could hoe and feed
And milk and plow the land.

The cow complained, "He milks too fast."
The chicken said, "That's right.
He also gathers up my eggs
Before it's even light!"

The horse said, "When he rides my back
He's always falling off."
The pig oinked, "I once found him
Swimming around inside my trough!"

And so the farmer took the
Octopus back to the sea.
The octopus said, "Don't be sad.
The ocean's home to me."



SPECIAL WORDS

good

hoe

plow

light

found

took

The Farm Octopus



READING COMPREHENSION

Fill in the blanks with the word that best completes the sentence.

- 1 The octopus could work as fast as _____ good hands.
two five six eight
- 2 He could hoe and feed and milk and _____ the land.
rake seed plow water
- 3 The cow complained, "He _____ too fast."
walks swims milks eats
- 4 The chicken said, "He gathers up my eggs before the day is even _____!"
over light here ready
- 5 The _____ said, "When he rides my back, he's always falling off."
bull horse hen duck

RHYME TIME

Circle the words in each column that rhyme with the word in bold. What other words rhyme with that word? Write them in the spaces below.

good	hoe	plow	light	found	took
wood	toe	how	night	around	cook
stood	sew	please	like	hound	shook
could	row	bow	right	four	book

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

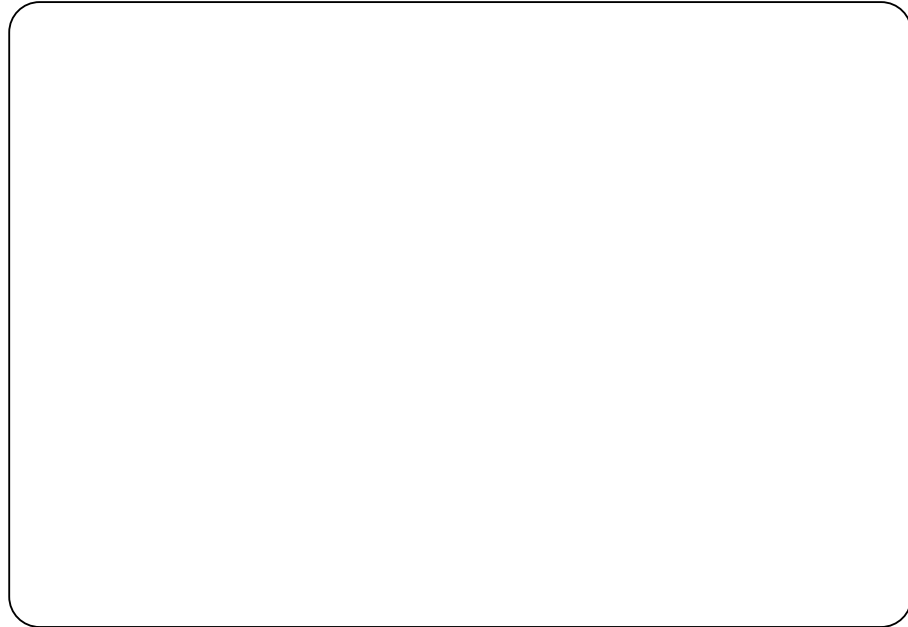
Name

The Farm Octopus



READ, THINK, DRAW

- ◆ Draw the pig's trough.
- ◆ Show the octopus swimming inside it.



WORD WORK

Unscramble the letters to write the words listed in the box below.

good hoe plow light found took

thgil _____

heo _____

doog _____

pwol _____

koot _____

dnufu _____

Fill in the blanks using the words listed in the box above.

1 "He gathers up my eggs before it's even _____!"

2 The farmer _____ the octopus back to the sea.