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Book Pair

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Submitted by Sarah Olson

Cows on Strike!

Complementary Fiction

- Babcock, Chris. *No Moon, No Milk!*. Illustrated by Mark Teague. Crown, 1993. ISBN 0-517-58779-3. Not paginated. **Grades K-3.**
- Root, Phyllis. *Kiss the Cow!*. Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Candlewick Press, 2000. ISBN 0-7636-0298-1. 32pp. **Grades K-3.**

Martha wants the moon. Luella wants to be loved. And Rob and Mama May, their respective human caregivers, want Martha and Luella to do one thing—milk. *No Moon, No Milk!* and *Kiss the Cow!* are two delightful picture books that portray the loving relationships of humans and their idiosyncratic cows.

Martha, the main character of *No Moon, No Milk!*, is tired of the pastoral life. She wants to

see action, to experience adventure, and to walk on the moon. "My great-great-grandmother jumped over the moon. If she can jump it, I can walk it," she reasons. When Rob, Martha's owner, tries to tell her that only astronauts can go to the moon, Martha won't listen. "But I never promised you the moon!" Rob pleads to no avail. Martha is utterly unshakable—"NO MOON, NO MILK!" she cries. Rob takes Martha to vacation spots around the country in a desperate effort to quell her bovine desires of lunar travel. Martha remains moonless and Rob remains milkless until they find themselves—and a compromise—in the American Mooseum of Natural History.

Luella is the faithful cow who provides milk for Mama May and her countless numbers of children in *Kiss the Cow!* To coax milk from Luella, Mama May sings two songs, and then, after her pail is full, she kisses Luella right on the nose. Annalisa, who "[isn't] the youngest, and she [isn't] the oldest, but she [is] the most curious and the most stubborn," thinks this practice of cow-kissing is "terribull." Still, Annalisa wants to know what it is like to milk a cow, so, against Mama May's orders, she goes up one day to milk Luella. Annalisa does everything right—she sings the songs and fills the pail, but she refuses to kiss Luella. The next day, Luella won't milk for Mama May. Annalisa has to decide what is more important to her—feeding her family or not kissing a cow.

The cheerful illustrations complement the easy-to-read, easy-to-like text. Teague and Hillenbrand's people are friendly, and their cows priceless. Individually, *No Moon, No Milk!* and *Kiss the Cow!* are the cream of picture books. Together, holy cow! It's an unbeefable combination.