



2005

Cows Going Past

Charity Martin-Reno

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Balan, Bruce. *Cows Going Past*. Illustrated by Scott Nash. Dial, 2005. ISBN 0803729022. \$9.99. [32 p.]

Reviewer: Charity Martin-Reno

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Picture Books;

Subject: Cows--Juvenile fiction; Automobile travel--Juvenile fiction; Stories in rhyme; Books--Reviews;

Cows Going Past uses simple rhyming words (far/car, past/fast) in a story about what one can see out the window during a car ride. It brushes past a town, a tree, a barn, the sea, and describes most particularly cows, page after page. The illustrations are a little bit silly as they show the cows doing things that the text does not allude to at all. For example, the pictures show cows golfing in a field, fishing, playing in a rock band, and catching dragonflies at night, whereas, the text merely describes cows generally--their location in a field or at night, their color, and so on.

The text is in a large and simple font, easy to read. The story is pleasant and flows despite awkward pairings of text and illustration. It may be that children will find the pictures humorous regardless of the lack of support from the text.