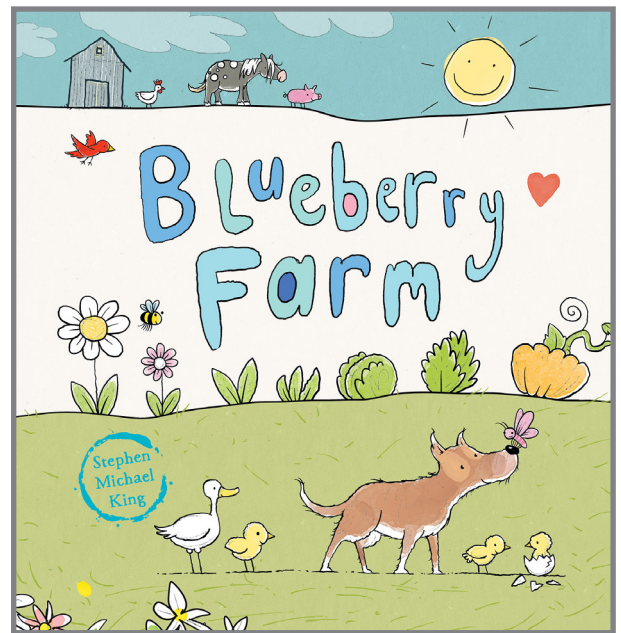


Blueberry Farm

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
STEPHEN MICHAEL KING

SCIS: 5445917

ISBN: 9781761205644



SYNOPSIS

Welcome to Blueberry Farm.
The sun is shining, and the trees are filled with song.
It's going to be another beautiful day.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Award-winning author and illustrator Stephen Michael King has illustrated more than twenty books for Scholastic. His first picture book, *The Man Who Loved Boxes*, skyrocketed to popularity, winning the Family Award for Children's Books in 1996. It was also shortlisted in the Crichton Award for Children's Book Illustration and has been sold around the world. He was awarded the CBCA Honour Book for *Leaf* in 2009 and *Mutt Dog* in 2015, was shortlisted for the CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year for *Rainbow Bear*. In 2020, *Three* was the CBCA Honour Book for Picture Book of the Year. Stephen works mainly with watercolours and ink.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - What can you see happening on the cover of this book?
 - Where do you think this story is set, and why do you think this?
 - What are all the different animals you can identify on the front and back covers, and what are they all doing?
 - Read the back cover of the book. What does this tell you about the story? How does this make you feel about the book?
 - What are some words that you can think of that describe how the picture on the cover of the book makes you feel?
- What type of bird is going 'squawk squawk' on the first page of the story? Why do you think it is hanging upside down?
- What other birds can you see in the tree? Can you identify any of them by name? Do any of them live in your local area? Which of the birds shown is your favourite and why?
- Do you have sulphur crested cockatoos flocking around where you live? If so, what types of things do they often do?
- As a class, go on a walk around the local area, and see if you can spot any of the birds that are pictured in the book. When you get back to class, write a recount of your experience, and include both what you saw and how you felt about it. Illustrate your recount with a picture of some of the local birds in a tree or on a building.

- What is happening in the meadow?
- Why are bees so important to everyone? As a class discuss the importance of bees, and what they do to help all of us. Some things to include in your conversation might be:
 - What might happen to the meadow flowers without the bees?
 - What other plants rely on bees to pollinate them?
 - Why are these plants so important to us all?
 - What else do bees do that helps us?
 - What would happen if all the bees vanished one day?
- Look at the picture at the front of the book where it asks ‘Who will you meet today at Blueberry Farm?’ Who did you meet when reading the book? Which characters, who appear on this page, also appeared on other pages but weren’t mentioned in the text at the time? What can you see them doing? How many different birds, animals and insects can you find in the pages of this book, who also don’t appear on the this page?
- At the very end of the book, Henna, Ziggs and Moe sing a short song about how happy they are to live on Blueberry Farm. What do you think this song sounds like? As a class, discuss what you think this song should sound like, and compose a melody to sing it to. Create a percussion line to go along with these words, and practise singing and performing your percussion backing line together. Your percussion might be mostly drums, maracas and triangles, or you can choose to have it all be body-percussion using clapping, finger snaps, tongue-clicks and foot stomping or even a combination of both. Once you are happy with how your composition sounds, perform it for another class or for an audience of adults.
- How do you think the people on Blueberry Farm feel about living there? Why do you think this? How does the author/illustrator of the story show the reader what the Farm’s inhabitants are feeling?
- Where do you think Blueberry Farm might be located? Look carefully at all the illustrations for clues as to its possible location. You will probably not be able to locate it exactly, but if you think about where the different birds live, and what you can see of the landscape, you should be able to guess at a general area!
- What do they grow on Blueberry Farm? How can we tell? Can you find a picture of someone harvesting their main crop (or maybe just picking some to eat with breakfast)?
- If you lived on Blueberry Farm, what would you like to do after breakfast, and who would you like to do it with? Paint a watercolour picture of the Farm, and use coloured pencils to draw in the details of what you are doing, who you are doing it with, and what other animals might be there with you.
- How many different words can you make using the letters in BLUEBERRY FARM?
- Make a Blueberry Farm board game. Draw a picture of a big blueberry bush, and make a lot of small cards with pictures of blueberries on them. Place the blueberry cards in a tall stack in the middle of your blueberry bush. Using a black pen, draw a path around the outside of your bush (or even over the top of it), and divide your path into at least 30 different squares. Some squares can be left blank, but other squares should hold an activity that you have to do to earn blueberries. For example you might be able to earn five blueberries by standing on one leg for a minute, or two blueberries by hopping on one leg five times. Roll a dice to move around the track, doing activities and collecting blueberries—the track should be a loop, with no start or finish. Once all the blueberry cards have been collected, the game is over, and the player with the most blueberries wins.
- What would you eat for breakfast if you lived on Blueberry Farm? In small groups create a blueberry themed breakfast menu that you would like to eat. You might even like to make one or two of the items on your menu and have a Blueberry Farm class picnic where you eat the menu items!

AUTHOR OF NOTES

RAE CARLYLE