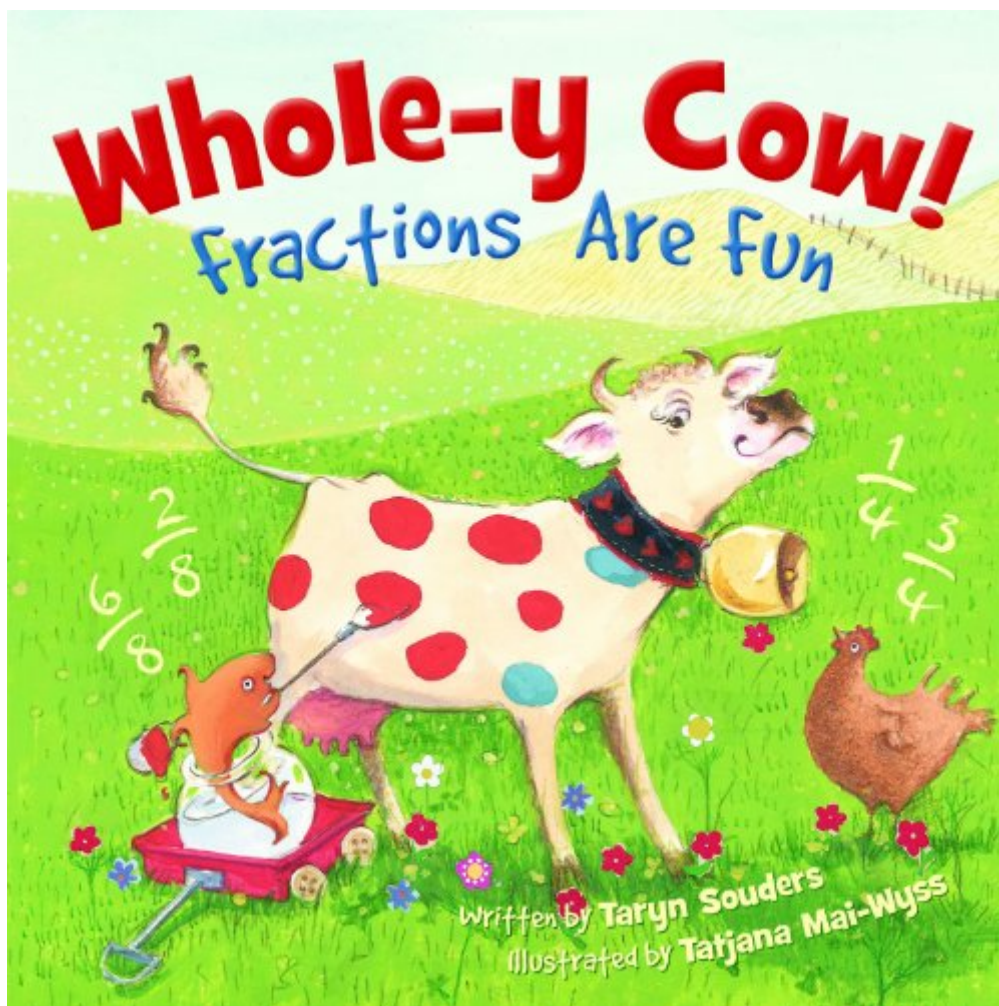


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# Whole-y Cow!: Fractions Are Fun



## Synopsis

Learning about fractions isn't always easy, but who says it can't be fun? Using one very entertaining cow, math teacher Taryn Souders has devised a very clever (and fun) way of explaining fractions to beginning learners. One whole cow, calmly eating hay, decided to act differently on this particular day. One whole cow - what should we do? I know! Let's paint one half blue! Prompted by a poem and a visual clue, students are asked to answer what fraction is illustrated in the cow's antics, starting with halves and progressing into thirds, fourths, eighths, and tenths. What fraction of the cow is blue? Answer:  $\frac{1}{2}$  What fraction of the cow is white? Answer:  $\frac{1}{2}$  With the math problem featured as part of the artwork, students get an immediate sense of how to apply and understand the concept of fractions. How moo-velous! Taryn J. Souders lives in Winter Park, Florida. With a background in math education, she is passionate about keeping math fun for young students. This is her first children's book. Tatjana Mai-Wyss was born in Switzerland. She remembers learning about fractions with the help of a typical Swiss cake. Tatjana has illustrated several children's books and her work has been published in books and magazines in the United States and abroad. She lives in South Carolina.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought "Whole-y Cow! Fractions are Fun" to read to my third grade students. They loved this book! I bought the hard back version so that it would last longer, as I intent to use it for many years to come. This book relates counting to fractions in a way that my students were able to understand easily and have fun with. My favorite part of the book is that there are questions as part of the book. Without having to think, I have ready-made questions available for the students to answer. When the students select this text from the classroom library, or during centers, they have questions on hand to ask their partners. I am getting another one for one of my other third grade teachers soon! I definitely recommend this book to anyone that has students studying fractions.

I love the concept of this book, but I'm troubled by using it to teach fractions. One of the important concepts to teach about fractions is that ALL PARTS MUST BE THE SAME SIZE. For instance, drawing a line between the front and hind quarters of a cow and saying that the parts are EQUAL SIZE is obviously not true, and it confuses children. To say that the swimsuit pictured in the book is  $\frac{1}{3}$  blue (or white or red) is also not correct because the swimsuit is not divided into equal-sized portions. I really hate to criticize any picture book, but I bought this to use with a 2nd grade fractions unit, and it really can't be used for that purpose.

A great way to start off a fraction unit. My class of 2nd graders couldn't get enough of this book! They wanted to read it again and again!

Whole-y Cow! is a great book. The story is so fun that kids don't even realize that they are learning. The illustrations are whimsical and colorful. My 4 year old likes to refer to it as the "silly cow book". He doesn't yet understand all the fractions, but I like that he is hearing the verbiage. He will no doubt be able to better relate to the real life examples behind the concepts. We like the book so much I'm ordering one for my 7 year old niece for her birthday.

Cute and easily used to help understand and teach fractions.

This was a great introduction to naming fractions as part of a set or part of a whole.

Great

Super cute book about fractions! My first graders love it!

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