

**ZIG AND WIKKI
in “The Cow”**
*Written by Nadja Spiegelman and
Illustrated by Trade Loeffler*
Hardcover: 978-1-935179-15-3

LESSON PLAN WRITTEN BY DR. KATIE MONNIN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LITERACY AT
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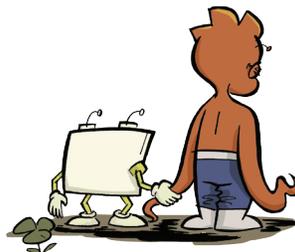
Lexile Level = GN 270
Guided Reading Level = P

Elements of Story in *Zig and Wikki in “The Cow”*

Plot	Zig and Wikki have lost their spaceship. Inside of a cow! Life and learning put together in an engaging story about cows, bugs, aliens, and maybe most importantly to kids, poop, this story is more than just a good read. It’s educational with a charismatic, storytelling twist.
Characters	Zig, Wikki, flies, cows, beetles
Setting	space, a farm, inside a cow
Themes	scientific discovery, friendship, life and life cycles, cause and effect
Suggested Literary Pairings	<i>Zig and Wikki in Something Ate My Homework</i> by Nadja Spiegelman and Trade Loeffler, <i>This is Your Life Cycle</i> by Heather Miller and Michael Chesworth, <i>Life Cycles</i> by Michael Ross and Gustav Moore

**Alignment to Applicable IRA/NCTE Standards for
Teaching Reading and Writing to Early Readers**

2. Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.
3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.



ZIG AND WIKKI IN "THE COW" PAGE 1

Name: _____

Date: _____



Step 1 Focus: Characters

Read **pages 5–7** and keep notes in the column on the right.

- Who are the characters?
- What is their conflict / problem?

Step 2 Focus: Life and Life Cycles

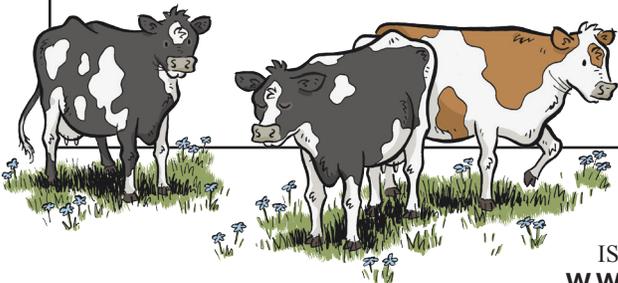
Read **pages 8–9** and keep notes in the column on the right.

- On page 8 what do you learn about **ecosystems**?
- On page 9 what do you learn about **farms**?

Step 3 Focus: Friendship and Scientific Discovery

Read **pages 10–14** and keep notes in the column on the right.

- On these pages, how are Zig and Wikki getting along? How do you know?
- What do you learn about **ruminants**?



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ZIG AND WIKKI IN "THE COW" PAGE 2

Name: _____

Date: _____



Step 4 Focus: Scientific Discovery

Read **pages 15–24** and keep notes in the column on the right.

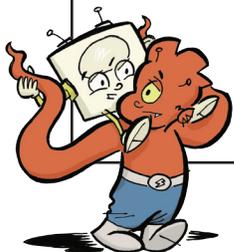
- What is a cow pattie? And how is a cow pattie related to **energy**?
- What do dung beetles do? What is the role of a **decomposer**?

Step 5 Focus: Friendship, life and the life cycle

Read **pages 25–38** and keep notes in the column on the right.

- How are Zig and Wikki getting along now?
- What are **microorganisms**?

Step 6 : Draw how Zig and Wikki escape from their adventure with the cow...



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