

READ-ALoud CONNECTIONS



Your child is learning to express a written request and support it with logical reasons—key skills for literacy! Use these activities, with the book provided, to explore how these farm animals effectively communicated their needs.

Before Reading: Introduce the idea of a written request and build anticipation by discussing the power of written communication.

Activity	Parent Prompt
The Big Problem	Imagine you and your siblings (or classmates) want something important, but I am saying NO. What is it that you want and what is one really good reason for why I should say YES?
Verbal versus Written	Now let's pretend I said, "The only way I will take this seriously is if you submit your request in writing." Why might writing down a request make it seem more important than just asking?
Vocabulary Action	Let's learn some key words. "Demanding" means asking very firmly and "negotiate" means trying to work out a deal. Can you show me a "demanding" face? How would you "negotiate" for an extra ten minutes of screen time?

During Reading: Help your child identify the main argument (claim) and the reasons used to support it.

Activity	Parent Prompt
Feature Focus: The Letter	What exactly are the cows asking for their claim? What are their reasons? Do you think those are good reasons? Why or why not?
Expressing Opinions	Out of all the words the animals used (strike, demanding, neutral), which one is your favorite? Can you use it in a sentence about something that happened today?

After Reading: Enjoy modeling and practicing persuasive writing together!

Activity	Parent Prompt
Write Your Own Request (Focus on Grades 2-3)	Let's choose a real problem at home or school that needs a formal request. Who is your audience? Let's write a letter that includes a Salutation, your Claim, Reason 1, Reason 2, and a Closing/Call to Action, just like in the book.
Celebrate the Author	Let's display your letter on the fridge! We can read it out loud for your Author's Chair moment. Did you make a clear claim? Did you use two reasons to convince your audience?

Bonus Connections: Create hands-on memories that reinforce the story's themes.

Activity	Directions
Craft: Make a "Striking" Sign	Inspired by the animals going on strike, have your child create a fun sign with a clear message about something they want (e.g., "NO MORE BROCCOLI!"). Use crayons, markers, or even torn paper collage, like the illustrator of <i>What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?</i>
Food: "Barnyard" Snacks	Create simple snacks representing the farm setting. Use animal crackers, pretzel sticks for "fences," or green grapes/broccoli florets for "paddock" grass. Have your child set up a scene and pretend the animal crackers are reading the letter.



Fun Fact

Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type was recognized as a Caldecott Honor Book in 2001 for its illustrations. Look up other Caldecott winners together and discuss how the pictures (illustrations) support the story. The illustrator for *Click, Clack, Moo*, Betsy Lewin, used watercolors and bold black lines. Find out more about this award by visiting this [site](#). (This award has been given to illustrators since 1938!)

Explore more!

"Mix and Mingle" Communication Game: Practice giving and receiving a demand versus a request. Have your child state a want two ways: first as a demand ("I demand we get pizza tonight!") and then as a polite, firm request ("I respectfully request that we have pizza for dinner, please"). Discuss which is more likely to make the listener want to agree.

"Two Reasons Why" Family Debate: Choose a minor family rule or situation that could be changed (e.g., a later bedtime, a new chore schedule). Have your child state their claim (what they want changed) and give you at least two supporting reasons. You can write the claim and reasons down on a "Family Request Form" together.

How this works...

This works by building communication and social awareness. It teaches the child to use "polite but firm language" appropriate for a formal request.

This works by connecting the book's main objective—writing a persuasive letter that states a claim and includes two supporting reasons—to a real-world negotiation experience at home.



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