

# COWPOKE CLYDE AND DIRTY DAWG

LORI MORTENSEN ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL ALLEN AUSTIN

ISBN-13: 978-0547239934 / Hardcover / \$16.95 9-7/8 x 10 / 32 pages / Children's, Ages 4-8

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS

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### ABOUT THE BOOK

Cowpoke Clyde reckons life is pretty sweet. His house is clean, his chores are done, and he's got a pot of soup just waiting for a spoon. Then he spies Dawg, all caked with mud from end to end and smelling none too fresh. Clyde figures a scrub in the tub will take care of *that!* But dirty Dawg hightails it out the door, and quick as a wink, every critter on the ranch is caught up in the chase. There's got to be a better way to make a body take a bath!

### THEMES

- Rhyming Words
- Dogs
- Cowboys
- Health/Hygiene
- Character Education: Resourcefulness, Effort, Patience, Creativity, Determination

### BEFORE YOU READ

- Discuss the meaning of resourcefulness.
- Have students discuss advantages of being clean and consequences of being dirty.

### AS YOU READ

- Have students find clues in the illustrations for what comes next in the story.
- Get the students to make a list of ways Clyde and Dawg are opposites.

### AFTER YOU READ

#### Language Arts

- Invite students to write a new scene where Cowpoke Clyde tries to catch Dirty Dawg. Create a new page-turning rhyme to go with it.
- At the end of the story, Cowpoke Clyde sings and croons. Have students write the song Cowpoke Clyde sang as he bathed beneath the full moon.
- Asking questions leads to creative thinking. Have students break into two teams. One team should write five questions they would like to ask Clyde and the other team, five questions they would like to ask Dawg. When they have finished, give each team the other's questions and have them give a presentation on the answers.
- Have students describe the smells in *Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg*. Be sure to include the good smells as well as bad ones.

## Language Arts (continued)

- People learn from failure as well as success. Clyde tries everything he can think of to get Dawg into a bath, but it isn't until he gives up that he finds the solution. Have students write about something they gave up on or failed at and be sure to have them include something they learned from the experience.

## Geography

- Illustrations show that Cowpoke Clyde lives in a hot, dry part of the country. Using a map, discuss the states where Cowpoke Clyde might live.

## Art

- *Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg* is full of interesting characters that get swept up in the mess as Clyde tries to give Dawg a bath. Have students find three unusual animals and draw how they imagine them to have reacted to the bath time chaos.
- Have students draw how they would go about giving their pet or favorite animal a bath.
- Have students draw how Dawg or the other animals might act differently after getting clean.
- Cowpoke Clyde tidied up his shack so well, he even shooed the horseflies out the floor. On a large sheet of paper, have one student begin a drawing of Clyde's shack or farm *after* it was cleaned. One at a time, have each student add to the scene until it becomes messy. Discuss what happens when things get too messy. Discuss the easiest ways to keep a place clean.

## Mathematics

- Cowpoke Clyde was looking forward to eating his black bean soup. Ask students to create a recipe for black bean soup, listing the ingredients, the amounts, and the instructions.

## Social Studies

- In this story, Cowpoke Clyde chases Dirty Dawg to give him a bath. Invite students to research bathing practices in different countries or in different periods in American history.
- Have students define what a cowboy is and then research what they are called in other countries such as "vaquero" in Mexico, "buttero" in Italy and "Guardians" in France.

## Health

- Discuss why we take baths by asking students to answer the following questions:
  - 1) Why does Clyde use a "bucket, brush, and soap?"
  - 2) What are germs?
  - 3) Why are baths important?
  - 4) How do you feel when you look and smell bad?
  - 5) When should you wash your hands?
- Have students create a bath time checklist, including hand washing and tooth brushing.

## Character Education

- Ask students to answer the following questions:
  - 1) How was Clyde resourceful throughout the story?
  - 2) How was Clyde responsible?
  - 3) Do you think Clyde is a good pet owner? Why or why not?
  - 4) Why do you think the animals decided to get in the bath on their own at the end of the book?

## Research

- Have students research famous cowboys and cowgirls (real and fictional).
- "Cowpoke" is a nickname for cowboy. Have students research other nicknames for cowboys such as buckaroo and cowpuncher (Keep in mind different types of cowboys, such as cowboys of the old west, rodeo and circus.)

## Fun Facts

### Dogs

- Dogs sweat through the pads of their feet.
- A city dog lives on average three years longer than an country dog.
- A dog's nose print is as unique as a human's finger print and can be used to accurately identify them.

Read more: <http://weirdfacts.com/animal-facts/2499-dog-facts.html#ixzz29CxKFSbA>

### Cowboys and Cowgirls

- Many cowboys were recruited from Native American tribes.
- Cowboys sang to their cows in order to calm them and reduce the likelihood that they would stampede after being spooked by something such as thunder and lightning.
- Empty flour sacks were used by almost all cowboys as face and hand towels.
- In the late 1800's, a rifle cost a cowboy about 1 month's pay (\$30 to \$60) and his boots cost about half a month's pay.

Read more: Cowboy Facts for Kids | eHow.com  
[http://www.ehow.com/info\\_8171301\\_cowboy-kids.html#ixzz2BekcFCEo](http://www.ehow.com/info_8171301_cowboy-kids.html#ixzz2BekcFCEo)

## HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

### January

- National Book Month
- Bean Day—January 6
- Bubble Bath Day—January 8
- Hat Day—January 15
- National Reading Day—January 23
- Belly Laugh Day—January 24

### February

- Library Lovers Month
- Responsible Pet Owner Month
- Children's Authors and Illustrators Week—first week in February—see [canetwork.weebly.com](http://canetwork.weebly.com)
- Love Your Pet Day—February 20
- Walking the Dog Day—February 22
- Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day—February 23
- Spay Day USA—February 26

### March

- Youth Art Month
- National Pig Day—March 1

### April

- National Pet Month
- School Library Month
- Books to Brighten Young Minds Month
- No Housework Day—April 7
- National Library Week—April 14-20
- Pet Owners Independence Day—April 17
- Children's Book Day—April 2

### May

- Be Kind to Animals Week—first week in May
- Clean Up Your Room Day—May 10

### June

- Adopt a Shelter Cat Month
- Hug Your Cat Day—June 4

### July

- National Day of the Cowboy—July 27
- Mutt's Day—July 31

### August

- Friendship Day  
*(Celebrated the first Sunday in August)*
- Work Like a Dog Day—August 5
- World Cat Day 2013—August 8
- Book Lover's Day—August 9
- National Dog Day—August 26

### September

- Read a Book Day—September 6
- Dogs in Politics Day—September 23

### October

- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- World Animal Day 2013—October 4

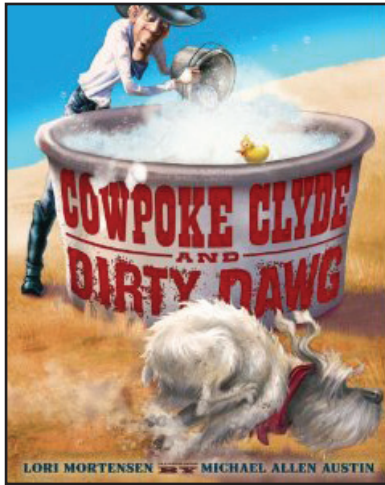
### November

- Young Reader's Day—second Tuesday

### December

- Bathtub Party Day—December 5

## BIOS



**Lori Mortensen** is the award-winning author of more than three dozen books for children. Recent titles include her “moo-velous” picture book, *Cindy Moo* (HarperCollins) and her picture book biography *Come See the Earth Turn: The Story of Léon Foucault* (Random House). *Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg* is her first book for Clarion. She lives in Northern California with her family and their cat, Max, and reckons that—unlike Clyde—she’ll never complete her chores. Visit Lori online at [www.lorimortensen.com](http://www.lorimortensen.com).

**Michael Allen Austin** is the award-winning illustrator of many books for children, including *Railroad John and the Red Rock Run*, *Ten Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break if You Want to Survive the School Bus* and *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*, which received the Pura Belpré medal. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Kim, and their sheepdog, Riley, who—unlike Dawg—likes to roll in clean laundry. Visit Michael online at: [www.michaelallenaustin.com](http://www.michaelallenaustin.com)