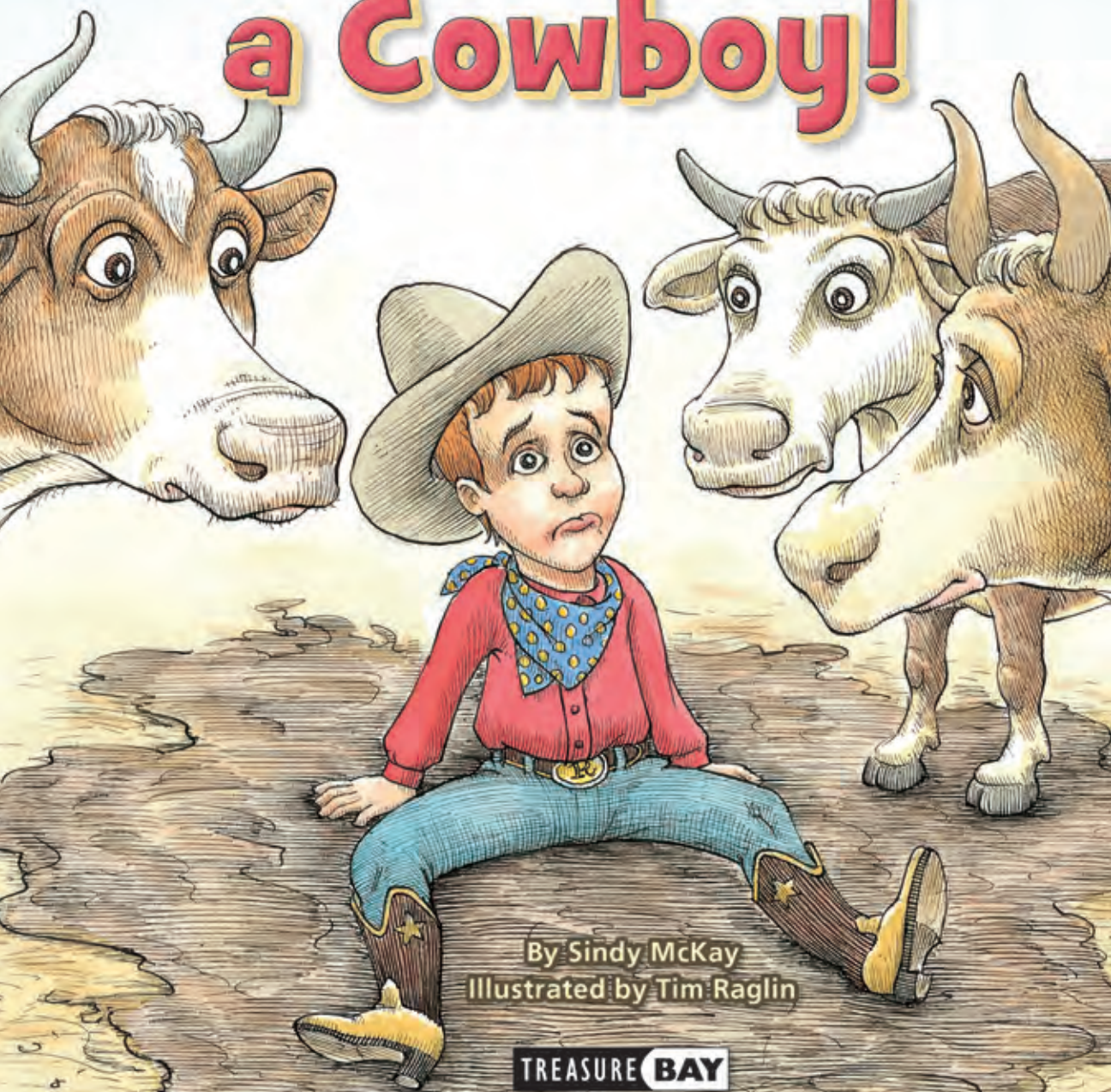


Sample of Cover and Selected Pages

The following sample material
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I Want to Be a Cowboy!



By **Sindy McKay**
Illustrated by **Tim Raglin**

Parent's Introduction

Welcome to **We Read Phonics**! This series is designed to help you assist your child in reading. Each book includes a story, as well as some simple word games to play with your child. The games focus on the phonics skills and sight words your child will use in reading the story.

Here are some recommendations for using this book with your child:

1 Word Play

There are word games both before and after the story. Make these games fun and playful. If your child becomes bored or frustrated, play a different game or take a break.

I made the word *book*!

Now, can you change a letter to make the word *cook*?



Many of the games require printed materials (for example, sight word cards). You can print free game materials from your computer by going online to www.WeReadPhonics.com and clicking on the Game Materials link for this title. However, game materials can also be easily made with paper and a marker—and making them with your child can be a great learning activity.

2 Read the Story

After some word play, read the story aloud to your child—or read the story together, by reading aloud at the same time or by taking turns. As you and your child read, move your finger under the words.

Next, have your child read the entire story to you while you follow along with your finger under the words. If there is some difficulty with a word, either help your child to sound it out or wait about five seconds and then say the word.

3 Discuss and Read Again

After reading the story, talk about it with your child. Ask questions like, “What happened in the story?” and “What was the best part?” It will be helpful for your child to read this story to you several times. Another great way for your child to practice is by reading the book to a younger sibling, a pet, or even a stuffed animal!

In the story,
Roy wanted to be a
cowboy. What would
you like to be?

Either an
astronaut or a
racecar driver!



LEVEL

7

Level 7 introduces words with vowel combinations “ou” and “ow” (as in *out* and *owl*), “oi” and “oy” (as in *oil* and *boy*), “aw” (as in *hawk*), “oo” (as in *book*), and “oo” (as in *cool*).

Phonics Game

Making Words

Creating words with these letter combinations will help your child read the words in this story.



Materials:

Option 1—Fast and Easy: To print free game materials from your computer, go online to www.WeReadPhonics.com, then go to this book title and click on the link to "View & Print: Game Materials."

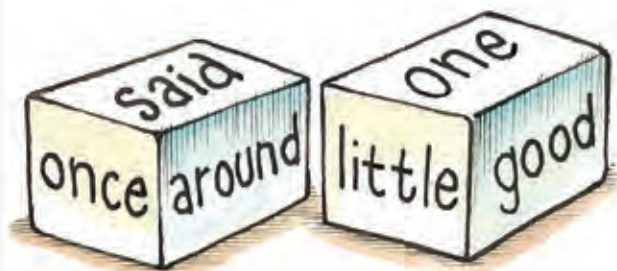
Option 2—Make Your Own: You'll need thick paper or cardboard, crayon or marker, and scissors. Cut fifteen 2 x 2 inch squares from the paper or cardboard and print these letters and letter combinations on the squares: ou, ow, aw, oo, a, b, t, m, n, f, d, s, l, c, r, and k.

- 1 Place the cards letter side up in front of your child.
- 2 Ask your child to make and say words using the letters available. For example, your child could choose the letters "l," "ou," and "d," and make the word *loud*.
- 3 If your child has difficulty, try presenting letters that will make a specific word. For example, present "b," "oo," and "k", and ask your child to make *book*. You could then ask your child to find a letter to change the word to *look*.
- 4 Ask your child to make as many words as possible that use the "ou," "ow," "aw," and "oo" cards. These letter patterns are used in the story. Possible words include *out*, *about*, *mount*, *found*, *sound*, *loud*, *cow*, *now*, *owl*, *books*, *brook*, *broom*, *look*, *soon*, *moon*, *stool* and *boots*.

Sight Word Game

Word Cubes

This is a fun way to practice some sight words used in the story.



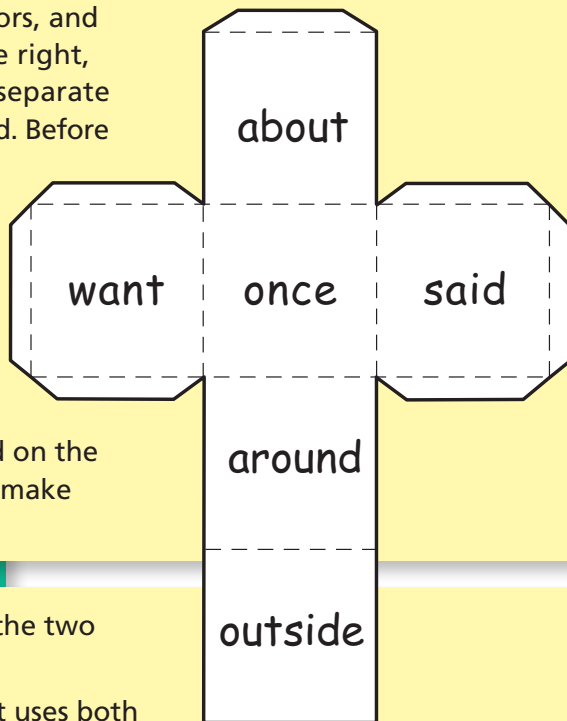
Materials:

Option 1 – Fast and Easy: To print free game materials from your computer, go online to www.WeReadPhonics.com, then go to this book title and click on the link to “View & Print: Game Materials.”

Option 2 – Make Your Own: You'll need paper or thin cardboard, pencil, scissors, and tape. Using the pattern on the right, make two cube outlines on a separate piece of paper or thin cardboard. Before cutting out or folding, write each of the following 12 words on one face of each of the two cube outlines:

about, once, around, outside, want, said, they, could, very, one, little, good

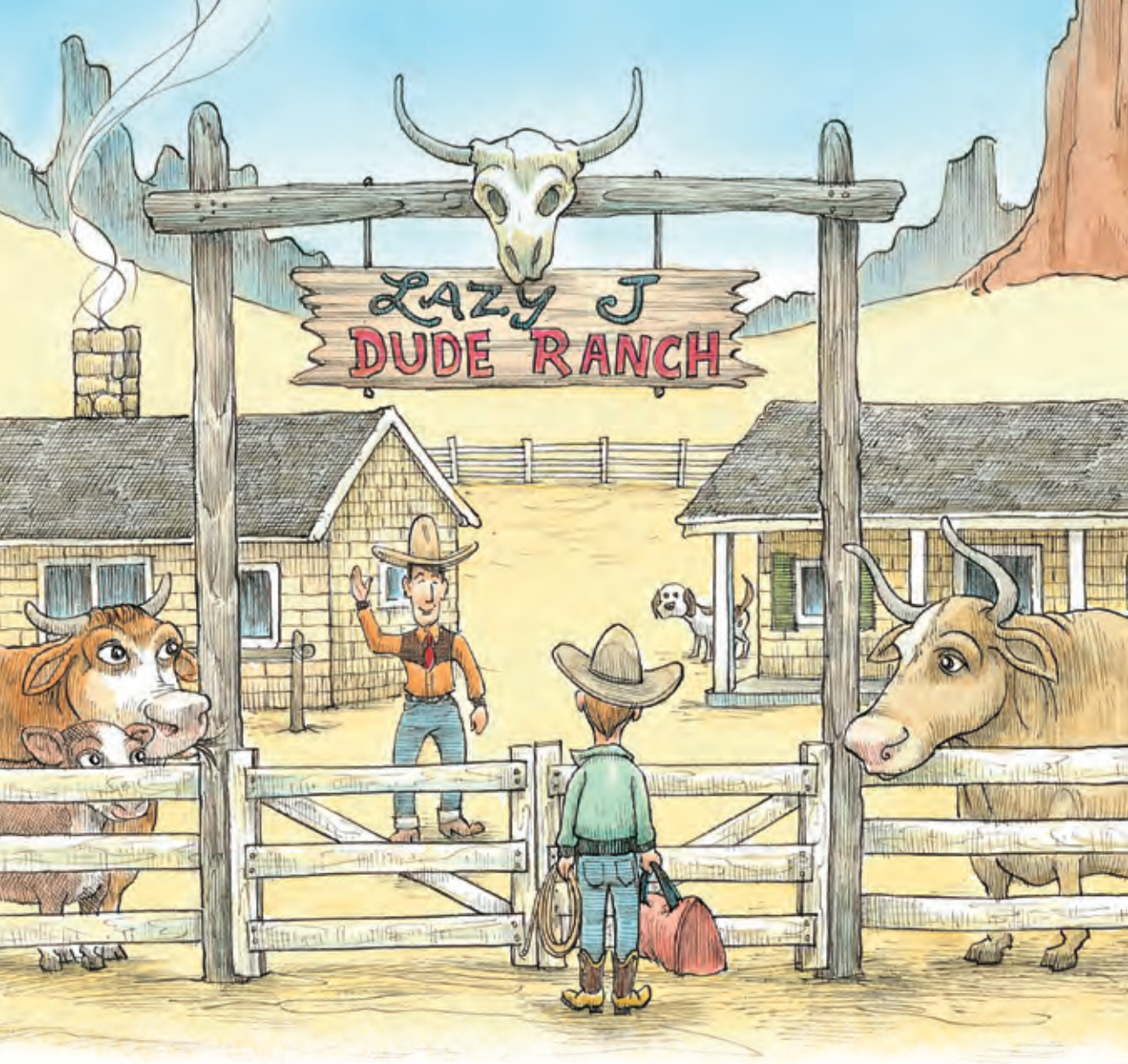
Cut out the cube outlines. Fold on the dotted lines. Tape the flaps to make the two cubes.



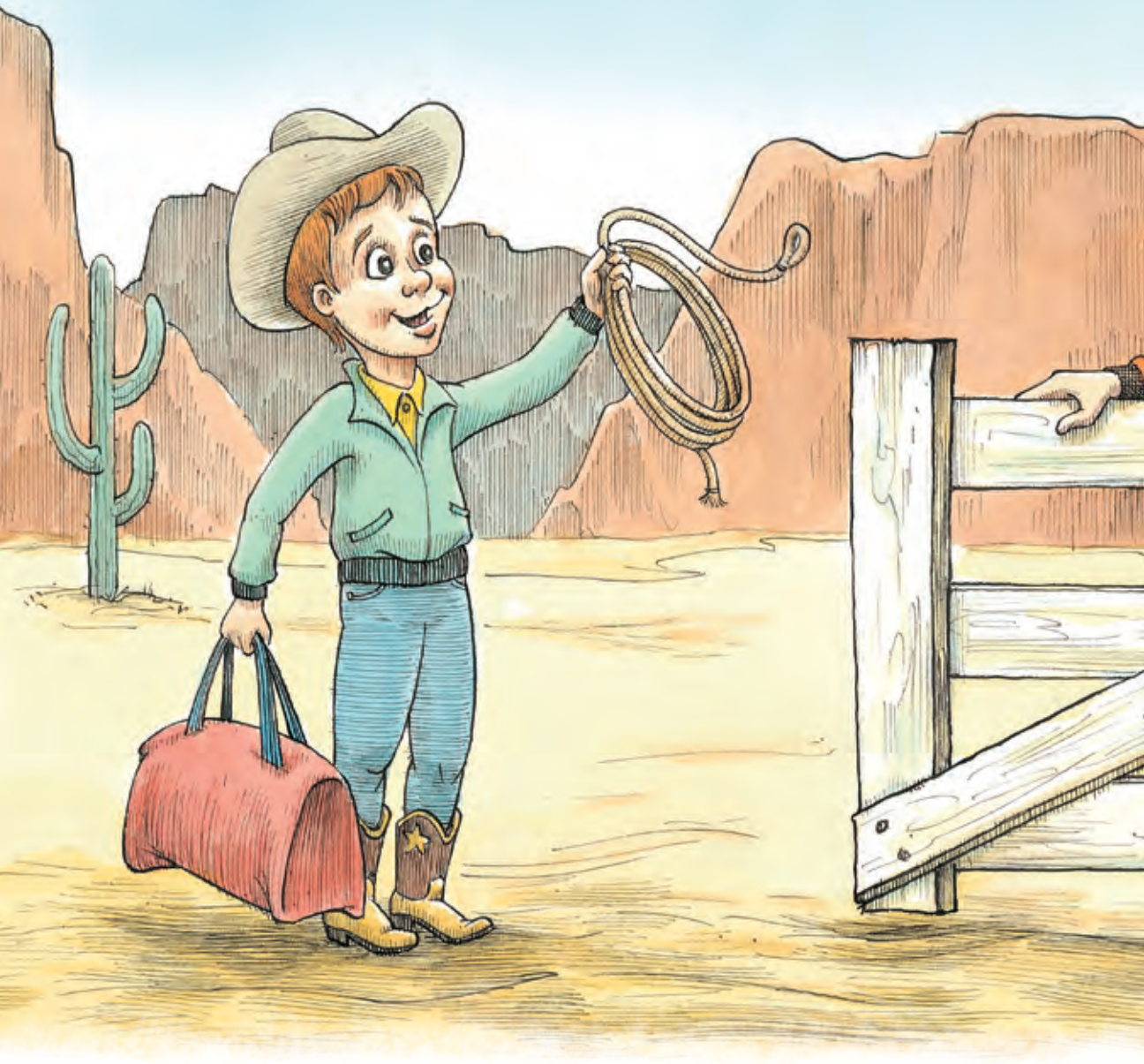
- 1 Roll the cubes. Read out loud the two words shown on top.
- 2 Try to make up a sentence that uses both of the words.



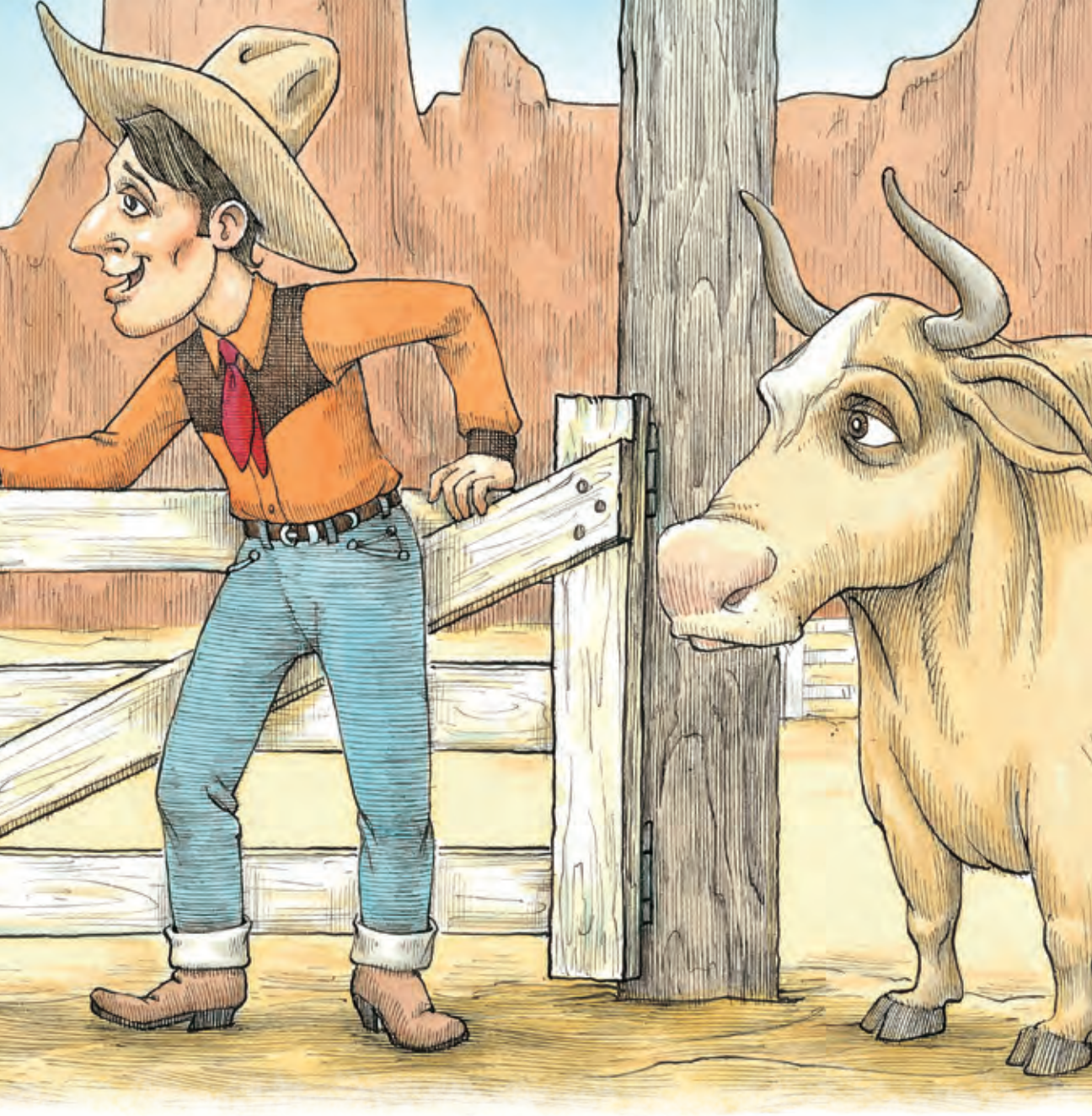
Roy Brown wanted to be a cowboy. He had books about cowboys. He had a cowboy hat and boots. But Roy had never seen a real cow.



So Roy went to a dude ranch. Here he could ride a pony and sleep outside. He could see a real cow!



Roy showed up at noon. A man named Hawk met him at the gate. Roy said to Hawk, "I want to be a cowboy!"



Hawk spoke with a Texas drawl.
"It takes more than a hat and boots
to be a cowboy."



Roy scowled. "I will make a good cowboy. Look!" Roy found a broom and said, "Pretend this is a cow. I will rope it."



The rope did not go around the broom. Then Roy saw a bale of straw. "Pretend it is a pony," he said. "I will mount it."



Roy ran to jump on the pony. He missed.
Hawk asked Roy, "Can you milk a cow?"
"Yes," said Roy.



Roy sat on a stool and did his best. It did not go well.



Hawk told Roy not to feel too bad.
"Soon we will take the herd out on the
trail," he said. "You will have fun."