

# Bovine Oversteps Boundaries

## Newspaper Headlines, Captions and Stories

### Objective

Students will read a true story about Grady, the Silo Cow, from Yukon, Oklahoma. They will create newspaper headlines, captions, and stories.

### Procedures

1. Hand out copies of the newspaper account of Grady, the Silo Cow, included with this lesson.
  - Students will take turns reading from the account.
  - Stop periodically to discuss unfamiliar vocabulary.
  - Students will use context clues and dictionary definitions to find meaning of unfamiliar words.
2. Bring newspapers to class.
  - Students will examine newspapers and work in groups to discuss the purpose of a headline and what makes a good headline. Write the following examples on the chalkboard:  
Bovine Oversteps Boundaries  
“Moo—I Want Out,” says Grady  
Grady Wants Out—Now
  - Students will identify the main idea, key actions and main characters in the story before developing three headlines for the Grady story.
3. Students will look at photograph captions in the newspapers.
  - Hand out student worksheets and give students a chance to look at the photograph of Grady.
  - Students will write their own captions for the photograph.
4. Students will create cartoons illustrating the story of Grady, the Silo Cow.
5. Students will write newspaper stories of unusual things that have happened to them or their families, complete with headlines and photographs, if available.
  - Students should use the following questions as they write their stories:  
What happened?  
Who was involved?  
When, where and why did the event take place?  
How did it happen?
6. Use the student stories and photos to create a class newspaper.
7. Students will use online or library resources to research the story of the Chicago fire of 1871 and Mrs. O’Leary’s cow.
  - Students will choose from a variety of media to present their findings (PowerPoint, student skit, poster, etc.)
8. Students will use online search engines to find recent unusual news stories about farm animals.

### Oklahoma Academic Standards

#### GRADE 6

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and Writing Process: R.1,3; W.1,2,3,4. Critical Reading and Writing: W.1,2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3,4. Multimodal: R.2

#### GRADE 7

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and Writing Process: R.1,3; W.1,2,3,4. Critical Reading and Writing: W.1,2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3,4. Multimodal: R.2

#### GRADE 8

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and Writing Process: R.1,3; W.1,2,3,4. Critical Reading and Writing: W.1,2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3,4. Multimodal: R.2

**Materials**  
newspapers

# Grady, the Silo Cow

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*A good headline draws the reader in and makes him or her want to read the story. It should also summarize the main point of the story, or the reader will feel tricked. Read the actual newspaper story of Grady, the Silo Cow, below, then create three headlines of your own to fit the story.*

Bill Mach of Yukon and Mrs. Patrick O'Leary of Chicago have a lot in common. Both owe their fame to a cow. O'Leary's cow is credited with kicking over a lantern which started the great fire of October, 1871, which virtually destroyed downtown Chicago.

On February 22, 1949, Mach's cow, Grady, jumped through a small opening into a silo and became trapped. Her plight and how to get her out, caught the fancy of people all over the United States. She was featured in *Life* magazine and in countless newspaper stories across the nation.

At the time, Grady was a wild six-year-old Hereford. She was valued at \$500 and weighed a little over 1,200 pounds. Shortly before Grady bolted through the 17- by 25-inch door in the silo, she gave birth to a still-born calf. Because her labor was difficult Mach said he had called veterinarian D.L. Crumb to assist.

During the ordeal, Grady was tied to a post in a small shed next to the silo. When Crumb had completed his work, he told Mach to untie the cow.

When he did, the cow bolted. Mach said she made a "wild whirl" and chased him on top of a pile of cottonseed sacks.

The only light showing in the darkened shed was from the small opening to the silo.

Grady dove for the opening.

"The vet must have had his eyes closed. He asked me 'Where'd she go?'" Mach said.

The only evidence that the cow went through the door, other than the undeniable fact that she was inside the silo, was a few red hairs clinging to the beveled edge of the heavy steel silo door.

Word of Grady's plight got out, and the Machs began getting telephone calls, telegrams and letter. The curious arrived in cars and planes.

They lost count of the visitors and the phone calls, but the final tally of letters was around 5,400 and about 770 telegrams. Mach said he heard from people

in 45 states as well as Canada, Mexico and Germany.

Many offered suggestions on how to get Grady out of the silo. One person suggested tunneling under the silo. Oklahoma Governor Roy Turner, himself a Hereford man, said the cow should be given anesthetic. An officer at Tinker Field (now Tinker Air Force Base) said he knew of a helicopter that would lift 1,200 pounds but that it was in San Marcos, Texas. However, he wasn't sure the Army wanted to lift the cow out of the silo.

Three days after Grady's leap, Mach got a call from Ralph Partridge, the *Denver Post's* farm editor.

He told Mach he was coming to Yukon to get Grady out of the silo.

Partridge supervised while a ramp was built from the floor of the silo to the door. The door edges were coated with axle grease. Grady was then outfitted with two heavy halters, coated with axle grease and given two shots of Nembutal. While men outside the silo pulled on ropes attached to her halters, Partridge and J.O. Dicky Jr., a Yukon vocational agriculture teacher, pushed.

She slid right through the door with only a couple of scratches along her back to show for the trip and her five-day stay in the silo.

Once she was out, Mach shut the silo door.

Grady went on to become a mother several times, and she was such a tourist attraction that Mach put up a small sign on Route 66 noting her home. He kept Grady in a special pen by the road.

Grady, the cow, died in July, 1961.

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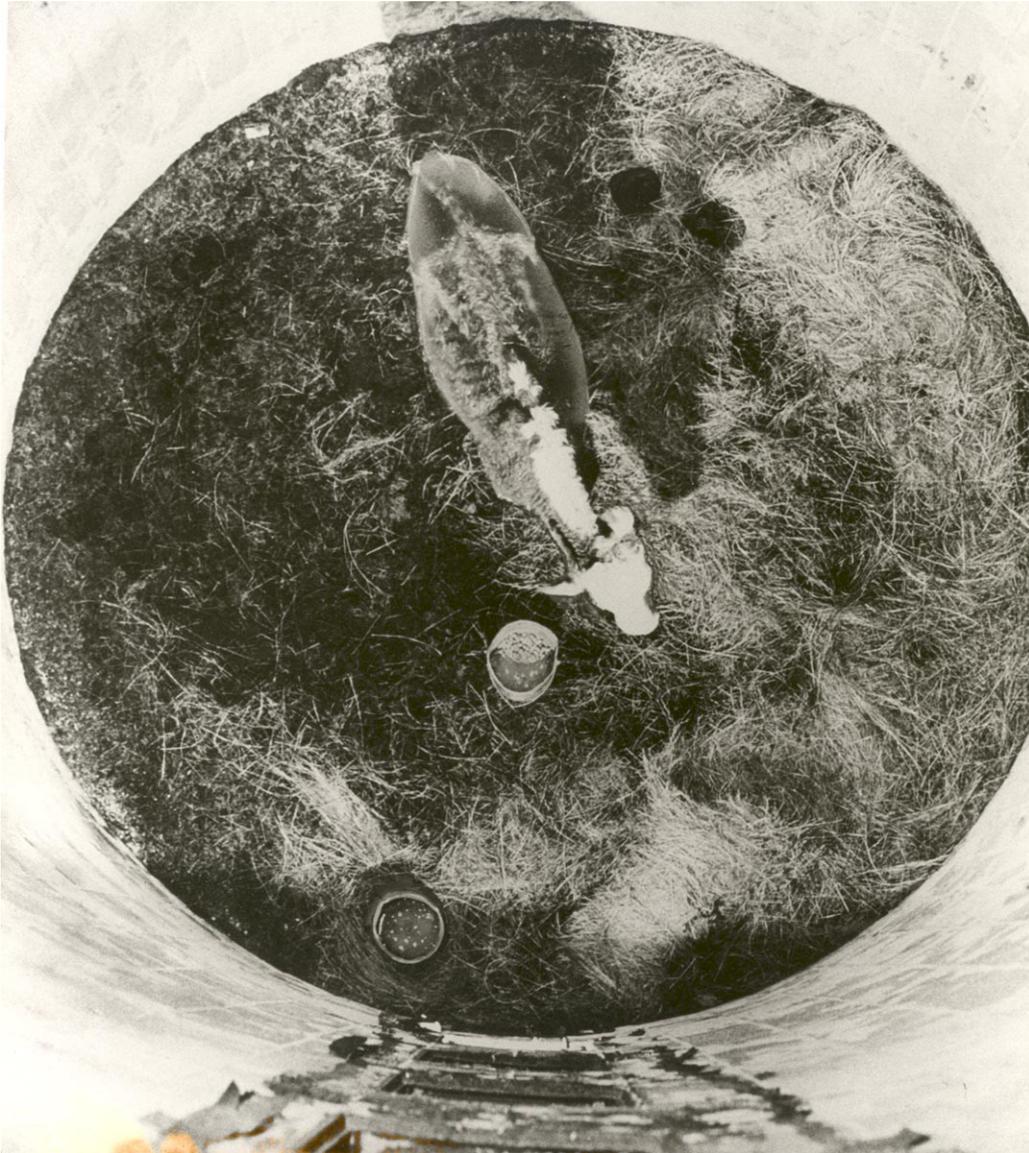
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Grady, the Silo Cow

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Write a caption for the photograph below.



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