SUMMARY:

Enjoy the comical adventures of a spirited young pig and his goofy sidekick, a sheep. Bacon and Wool are two of Farmer Bob’s goofiest animals on his strange farm. If you think the forgetful farmer has his hands full with these two, just wait until you meet the others!

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Bacon and Wool: Farmer Bob

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Farmer Bob was not the smartest man. In fact, he was downright forgetful. He would have forgotten which way to put on his shirt if he could button up the back of a shirt, but his arms didn’t reach that way very easily. So, when it came to his farm, he had trouble remembering what animals were good for. He came up with the surprisingly clever idea to name his animals after what he could get out of them!

His favorite animal was a pig, which he named Bacon. Bacon was his favorite pork product, even more than ribs or pork chops. Every time he saw that fat, pink pig, his mouth started to water, thinking about the delicious breakfasts he would be someday. Bacon was a large and energetic young pig, quick to run and play.

His sheep, he named Wool. It was fuzzy and sloppy-looking, with one ear that drooped. He never seemed to stop chewing grass or being stubborn. He liked to wander through tall grasses, eating the seeds off the top of the grass and the flowers, too. This had the unfortunate side-effect of getting every manner of grass, weed, and burr caught in his wool. It was not attractive.

Farmer Bob had other animals, too. Just like Bacon and Wool, he named them after what they were used for. The cow, he named Cheddar, because she made milk, and cheese came from milk. The horse was named Saddlebags, because he helped carry things. The chicken was named Drumstick, obviously, as that is the most fun part of a chicken to eat, or at least Farmer Bob thought so. Then there was a goat named Baaaad Boy, because he was horribly troublesome and had a tendency to try to head butt you with his horns. Finally, there was a big ole’ fish in the pond, which he’d named Fillet, because one day, he was going to be just that.

Farmer bob was a hungry and simple man. His animals were anything but simple. If only he knew the crazy things they could get up to on his farm, he might think of them differently. Would he ever find out?
Bacon and Wool: Farmer Bob

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Farmer Bob’s problem?
   A. He’s hungry.
   B. He can’t remember things very well.
   C. He’s cruel.
   D. He’s losing his farm.

2. How does he solve this problem on his farm?
   A. He made his animals wear nametags.
   B. He sold his animals.
   C. He hired a helper.
   D. He named the animals after what they are used for.

3. How did the pig get his name?
   A. Bacon is Farmer Bob’s favorite kind of pork.
   B. The pig saved his bacon once!
   C. The pig squeals and snorts and seems to say, “Bacon.”
   D. There is no reason for the name.

4. What did Farmer Bob name the sheep?
   A. Sheep
   B. Sheep #2
   C. Wool
   D. Fur

5. Which of these animals is not matched correctly with its nickname?
   A. Pig = Bacon
   B. Goat = Baaaad Boy
   C. Fish = Fillet
   D. Cow = Milk
Bacon and Wool: Farmer Bob

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

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Bacon the pig was up early, earlier than the other animals in fact. He liked to get up and smell the morning manure. He was that kind of guy, an early riser. His friend, Wool the sheep, was not much of a morning sheep.

Wool was a bit of a night sheep, able to stay up until any old hour, discussing politics, philosophy, and quantum physics. No, not really. Mostly he talked about grass and flowers, the things he wanted to eat. Wool’s lips smacked noisily, even in his sleep, as a leftover mouthful of grass from yesterday slowly dissolved into greenish paste that dripped from his sleeping mouth.

Bacon nudged Wool awake, and nodded toward the open barn door. Farmer Bob let the two of them out early in the morning. He believed in free range animals, and generally let them wander from pen to pen, so long as they didn’t escape or squabble with the other animals.

They stopped to see Baaaad Boy first. He was a grumpy Gus, always smacking his horns into fences or ramming his head into unprotected flanks and thighs. He was a mean old goat, and even Farmer Bob couldn’t quite figure out what the purpose of having him around was. He probably kept away wild animals, what with his noisy carrying-on and smashing into things. Currently, he was head butting an old rusty pail. Neither of them seemed to be winning.

Wool chewed thoughtfully as they watched, but Bacon shook his head (which was hard to tell with such a thick neck), and the two continued on to Cheddar’s pen. Cheddar was a kindly milk cow. She never gave anyone any grief, and was sweet as could be. She did chew her cud loudly, though, which Bacon found gross, but Wool found reassuringly familiar.

Drumstick was waiting in the chicken coop just down the path from Cheddar’s pen. She was hunched over a fresh egg, white and shiny. When she saw them coming, she started clucking wildly and flapping her wings. She had this thing about protecting her eggs, even though Farmer Bob stole them every day. Some people never gave up!

After that, they moved on to the pond, which was a small peanut-shaped affair complete with cattails and lily pads. Fillet the fish bobbed up at the surface as they approached, hoping for some sort of treat. They hadn’t brought anything, though. Wool cropped some of the grass at the edge of the pond, enjoying the moist greens immensely.

Their last stop in their social rounds was over at the stable, where Saddlebags the horse was tied up. He had a feedbag over his face, and was munching oats loudly. Bacon’s stomach growled jealously. He would kill for oats, something chewy between his teeth. All he ever got was mush and slops.

A feeding bell rang, and the two friends’ eyes widened. They made some tracks, rushing back to the barn, the safe old barn, where they were fed. It was a simple life, and it was nice to stretch their legs now and then and say hello to everyone. If only they could go somewhere else for a change, but where would they go? What would they see? More importantly, where were breakfast and dinner come from?
Bacon and Wool: On the Farm

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which animal wakes up first?
   A. Wool the sheep
   B. Bacon the pig
   C. Drumstick the chicken
   D. Fillet the fish

2. Which animal do Bacon and Wool visit first?
   A. a cow
   B. a goat
   C. a chicken
   D. a fish

3. Who is their second stop?
   A. Cheddar the cow
   B. Saddlebags the horse
   C. Drumstick the chicken
   D. Fillet the fish

4. Who is at their last stop?
   A. Cheddar the cow
   B. Saddlebags the horse
   C. Drumstick the chicken
   D. Fillet the fish

5. Which of these is not a question Bacon and Wool have about leaving the farm?
   A. Where would they get food?
   B. Where would they go?
   C. What would they see?
   D. How would they catch a bus?
Bacon and Wool: On the Farm

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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   C. Drumstick the chicken
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   A. Where would they get food?
   B. Where would they go?
   C. What would they see?
   D. **How would they catch a bus?**

Bacon & Wool Comprehension Pack – 3rd Grade
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Bacon and Wool: The Flood
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

One not so fine day, it was raining horses and cattle. It wasn’t raining cats and dogs, because Farmer Bob didn’t have any of those. Anyway, it was raining like crazy on the farm.

Bacon didn’t think much of it, because he was a pig. He liked the rain. It made mud. Mud was nice to roll in. If he did that, it kept him cool, and it coated his body so the flies and bugs couldn’t bite him! That was great. Wool stood around chewing wet grass. He was not a picky sheep. He was sort of simple, except the rain made him look like a wet cat. He looked funny with a big soggy coat of wool on.

It was much like any old storm, except it wasn’t. It kept raining, and then rained some more. It seemed as if it would never stop. In fact, it rained so much that the ditches filled up. The irrigation canal overflowed. It was getting very soggy out. Like a bowl of cereal left to sit, everything was turning mushy.

The floor of the barn was soaked. Hay and straw were floating, and the ground was more puddles than ground! Drumstick the chicken was clucking wildly in the coop as the water rose. She did everything she could to keep her eggs dry. Cheddar mooed with concern, and Saddlebags the horse moved away into the pasture to higher ground when his pen filled with water.

Things were looking bad, but Bacon still didn’t mind. He was chubby, and he could float quite well. Wool, on the other hand, struggled across the soggy ground to keep up with his chunky friend. While Bacon floated casually along in the cool summer rainwater, Wool was being dragged under by the weight of his soaked wool.

Baaaad Boy, the mean old goat, had the sense to climb up on his small house. Wool tried to get up there, too, since the water was high enough to get him over the fence and to the goat’s house, but that was as far as he got. As soon as he tried to scramble up on the small shed, the goat head butted him back into the water and stomped his feet. He wasn’t a nice animal.

Wool and Bacon made their way over to the pasture, where Saddlebags was standing high, if not dry. The rain continued to pour down, but at least up on that hill, the three of them didn’t have to swim. From there, they waited out the storm. It ended a few hours later, but the water lasted for days!

Of all of them, only Fillet seemed pleased with the situation. He got to swim all over the place. His little pond become like a lake for several days.

Farmer Bob sure had his work cut out for him. He had a lot of cleaning to do. His water pump ran from sunup to sundown to get the water out of the pens and into the canal. Everyone came out of the storm alright, but it was a close call for Wool. He decided he wasn’t going swimming again anytime soon.
Bacon and Wool: The Flood

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What situation do the animals find themselves in?
   A. a bad rainstorm
   B. a tornado
   C. a blizzard
   D. a heat wave

2. Whose house does Wool try to climb up on?
   A. Drumstick’s
   B. Farmer Bob’s
   C. Baaaad Boy’s
   D. Cheddar’s

3. Who do Bacon and Wool finally find a safe place to stay with?
   A. Cheddar the cow
   B. Saddlebags the horse
   C. Drumstick the chicken
   D. Fillet the fish

4. Who is the only animal that seems to benefit from the storm?
   A. Cheddar the cow
   B. Saddlebags the horse
   C. Drumstick the chicken
   D. Fillet the fish

5. What does Wool decide after the storm?
   A. He needs to get a haircut.
   B. He needs to stop being afraid of water.
   C. He needs to learn to swim.
   D. He needs to avoid swimming for awhile.
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Bacon and Wool: Winter is Here

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Snow was falling on the farm. Winter was here. Bacon the pig knew it, because his pink, fuzzy skin was turning blue! His nose was turning into an icicle, too. Nearby, his friend was not having the trouble he was.

Wool was a sheep, and he had a nice thick coat of wool to keep himself warm. He was wandering around like it was no big deal. He was having trouble finding green grass to chew on though. He normally never stopped chewing.

Like some people constantly chewed bubblegum, Wool loved to have a mouthful of grass. He’d chew it into green goop and swallow it. Then he’d go for more. Unfortunately, the cool fall weather had yellowed the grass. The snow was covering it now, and he had to use his nose to dig around for more. He didn’t like the hay and oats they were offered as much as he loved grass!

Bacon grunted coldly and shimmied into a pile of straw. He wiggled all the way in and slowly turned around. His curly tail began to thaw, and he poked his nose out into the cold air to watch his friend. From inside the haystack, he could see Wool, but the sheep did not see him.

When wool crept closer to sniff the straw, Bacon jumped out at him. Wool jumped straight up in the air and fell over. Sometimes, Wool forgot that he was not a fainting goat. Bacon snorted in laughter and nudged his friend. Wool got up slowly and gave Bacon a dirty look. He didn’t like to be surprised.

Bacon snorted another laugh and went back into the haystack to take a warm nap. Only, he woke up some time later with his tail freezing again. Wool had eaten the back of the haystack and left his tail out in the cold air!

It was going to be a long, cold winter!
Bacon and Wool: Winter is Here

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. THIS OR THAT: Which character seems to handle the winter better?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool

2. What is Wool’s biggest concern about winter?
   A. finding grass
   B. staying warm
   C. not freezing his tail
   D. eating healthily

3. Where does Bacon hide to stay warm?
   A. in the barn
   B. in the dog house
   C. in the haystack
   D. he doesn’t hide

4. How does Bacon startle Wool?
   A. He hides behind the barn.
   B. He runs around screaming.
   C. He pretends to be hurt.
   D. He jumps out of the haystack when Wool comes near.

5. How did Wool get his revenge for being scared by Bacon?
   A. He didn’t.
   B. He made Bacon apologize.
   C. He ate part of Bacon’s haystack to make him get cold.
   D. He had the ducks scare Bacon.
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Bacon and Wool: Escape from the Farm

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

On an otherwise normal day, something extraordinary happened... Baaaad Boy, the troublesome goat, was having a tantrum. He kicked and bounced and spun around. Then he kicked again. His hooves struck a loose fencepost, and the whole fence section fell apart!

Bacon and Wool looked at each other. Wool chewed his grass thoughtfully. Bacon snorted excitedly. The two of them bolted for the opening in the fence. Wool reached it first, on account of being closer to it. He stepped out into freedom!

Wool’s first act as a free sheep was to try the grass from the other side of the fence. He’d always wondered what it would taste like. He was amazed to find that it tasted JUST like the grass on the other side of the fence that he was used to. That was amazing to him.

Bacon snorted the air as a free pig for the first time. He grinned as best as his lips would let him. Pigs don’t really have mouths made for smiling, but he certainly tried! He put his nose to the ground and started snuffling along, looking for hidden acorns and mushrooms in the grasses. He rooted around and found himself some grubs and acorns to eat. It was his first meal as a free pig!

Suddenly, a car came hauling down the road. Gravel spit from under its tires and a hail of pebbles flew their way. A cloud of dust rolled over them. Wool found his eyes stinging and his grass tasted of dirt – not good dirt either. Bacon snorted in some dust and sneezed.

A dog howled in the distance. Wool and Bacon shuddered in fear. What strange beasts lurked beyond the safety of the fence? It was a terrifying idea. They looked at one another and made a momentous decision.

As one, the two of them bounded back into the safety of the fence. They headed straight for the barn, where they knew it was safe.

Watching the two, Baaaad Boy shook his head and ran out of the fence on his own. It took Farmer Bob all night to catch him.
Bacon and Wool: Escape from the Farm

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Who is making trouble in the beginning of the story?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Cheddar
   D. Baaaad Boy

2. What kind of animal is Baaaad Boy?
   A. a cow
   B. a chicken
   C. a goat
   D. a sheep

3. Who is the first one to cross beyond the fence?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Cheddar
   D. Baaaad Boy

4. What finally makes Bacon and Wool go back inside the fence?
   A. a dog howl
   B. an owl hooting
   C. a stranger walking up
   D. Farmer Bob’s yelling

5. What does Baaaad Boy do after Bacon and Wool run back to the barn?
   A. He follows them.
   B. He goes to sleep.
   C. He runs outside the fence.
   D. He kicks down more fence.
Bacon and Wool: Escape from the Farm

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Bacon and Wool: Down by the Pond

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

One fine morning, Drumstick was all aflutter. He was squawking and dancing and carrying on. Bacon wondered what was going on! He decided to investigate. Of course, he needed his friend Wool to tag along, because he wasn’t exactly the bravest pig in the world.

He wandered down toward the pond, where he found drumstick still dancing and prancing and making a great deal of racket. Pig grunted. Wool chewed his grass noisily. The both looked around for the source of the trouble.

They SAW it! Fillet the fish was swimming around a strange object. The goldfish swam around it carefully, examining it from a safe distance. Fillet was the best swimmer on the farm. Bacon suspected it had something to do with him being a fish and all...

Still, that didn’t answer the question about the strange object. It just bobbed along around Fillet, completely unconcerned by the larger fish. Why, Fillet might get it in his head to try to eat the weird thing. Shouldn’t it be concerned?

Fillet swam in for a closer look and gulped air near it. Still, the thing didn’t seem to care. It sat there all smug, half red and half white with its button nose. What a guy! And it had a strange shape, too. It was almost completely round. What sort of animal looked like that?

Wool watched with interest, working the grass in his mouth up to a green froth. He, too, wondered what the strange creature in the pond was. He noticed what the others had not: a string coming off of it. His eyes followed the almost invisible string across the surface of the pond over to a weird tree beside the pond. Wool went over to investigate. Only, when he got close, the long, skinny tree started to bend!

Fillet jumped and splashed out of the water, darting away from the strange red and white creature that had started to bob and bounce on the surface of the water. Oddly, the timing of the bending tree’s movements seemed to coincide with the bobbing of the red and white thing.

Suddenly, Farmer Bob came running down to the pond. He pulled the bending tree into his hands and began to make the thing move. The red and white object shot across the water, pulling a small fish along with it!

Fillet gasped, realizing that the red and white device was meant for catching fish! He could have been snagged and pulled from the water. He watched in fear as Farmer Bob smiled happily and took one of his neighbor fish away for dinner.

The mystery was solved, and Fillet knew never to trust the red and white bobbers again!
Bacon and Wool: Down by the Pond

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Who is making all the noise at the beginning of the story?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Fillet
   D. Drumstick

2. Where does Drumstick’s noise lead Bacon and Wool?
   A. to the barn
   B. to the farmhouse
   C. to the chicken coop
   D. to the pond

3. Why does Bacon want Wool to come with him?
   A. He’s hungry.
   B. He’s not very brave.
   C. He’s lonely.
   D. He wants to show off his swimming skills.

4. Who is in the pond?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Fillet
   D. Drumstick

5. What do they finally learn the strange object is for?
   A. for catching fish
   B. for swimming
   C. for decoration
   D. It’s actually alive!
Bacon and Wool: Down by the Pond
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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   A. for catching fish
   B. for swimming
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   D. It’s actually alive!
Bacon and Wool: Sheepdog

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Farmer Bob had a neighbor who was also a farmer. Farmer Randall had a lot of sheep. So, he kept a sheepdog named Patches. Patches was great at herding sheep, but sometimes he forgot whose yard was whose. He also got lost from time to time, which didn’t help.

On one occasion, Patches wandered over to Farmer Bob’s farm. He trotted up the driveway, starting to think something was amiss. Everything was similar to his own home but strangely different. Patches glanced back and forth, looking for something familiar, and he found it when he saw Wool.

Wool the sheep was minding his own business and chewing grass. He’d found a tasty patch of sedge grass that he was working on very happily. Without warning, Patches came howling up to him and started running around and barking in his face.

Wool blinked in astonishment. He’d never seen such manners before. Baaaad Boy the goat was pretty rude, but he wouldn’t just run up and shout in your face. Wool turned away from the dog, giving him the cold shoulder.

Patches followed him and started barking again. Wool found himself in an uncomfortable confrontation with this strange animal. He backed away, and before he knew it, the dog was barking and directing him to go this way and that.

Wool was halfway down the driveway, heading toward Farmer Randall’s farm, when Bacon caught him. Bacon came snorting and stomping up to the confused sheepdog. Patches didn’t know what to think of the pink pig. Farmer Randall didn’t have any pigs. Patches quickly assumed it was a strange sheep and tried to herd Bacon toward his home farm, too. The two found themselves marching in step all the way down the driveway and up the lane.

Later that night, Farmer Randall loaded Bacon and Wool up in a trailer and drove them back to Farmer Bob’s house. Patches sat in the truck, watching Bacon and Wool return to their pens. Farmer Bob wasn’t very happy with either of them. He was even less pleased a couple weeks later when it happened again.

What could Bacon and Wool do? They had to obey the sheepdog’s commands, right?
Bacon and Wool: Sheepdog

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What stranger comes onto Farmer Bob’s land?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Patches
   D. Drumstick

2. What does Patches not realize?
   A. that he is a dog
   B. that this is NOT his farm
   C. that he is a good dog
   D. that he is sick

3. Why does Wool go where Patches wants?
   A. He’s trying to avoid the dog and ends up doing what the dog wants.
   B. He’s trying to be nice.
   C. He’s lonely.
   D. He is scared.

4. Who tries to save Wool?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool saves himself.
   C. Patches
   D. Farmer Bob

5. Why does Patches try to make Wool and Bacon go to his farm?
   A. He is mean.
   B. He is crazy.
   C. He is trying to do his regular job, but he’s at the wrong farm.
   D. He is old and does not know what he’s doing.
Bacon and Wool: Sheepdog

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What stranger comes onto Farmer Bob’s land?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Patches
   D. Drumstick

2. What does Patches not realize?
   A. that he is a dog
   B. that this is NOT his farm
   C. that he is a good dog
   D. that he is sick

3. Why does Wool go where Patches wants?
   A. He’s trying to avoid the dog and ends up doing what the dog wants.
   B. He’s trying to be nice.
   C. He’s lonely.
   D. He is scared.

4. Who tries to save Wool?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool saves himself.
   C. Patches
   D. Farmer Bob

5. Why does Patches try to make Wool and Bacon go to his farm?
   A. He is mean.
   B. He is crazy.
   C. He is trying to do his regular job, but he’s at the wrong farm.
   D. He is old and does not know what he’s doing.
Bacon and Wool: Grandkids
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It was spring, and that meant one thing: Grandkids! Farmer Bob’s grandkids always visited for a few days during the spring. It marked a time of youthful energy at the farm.

Ellen was 6. She was pretty sweet, but tended to overpet Wool to exhaustion. She loved the feel of his wool fur and could pet him for hours. It was sweet, but he needed his alone time, too! Sometimes she collected balls of his wool and stuffed dolls with it. She liked to sew and make dollies, and wool made lovely stuffing, she said.

Thomas was eight. He was a bit of a terror. He loved to chase Drumstick and Bacon around the farmyard. He had boundless energy and would run Drumstick into terrified hiding. Even Bacon, spirited and friendly as he could be, got tired of chasing. Eventually, he’d bare his teeth at the boy, charge, and chase the boy up a tree. Once there, he could circle around and around, pawing at the ground to keep him scared and in the tree until everyone had caught their breath.

This year, Bacon and Wool watched the minivan roll up. Ellen and Thomas both looked taller than ever, but there seemed to be something different about them. The liveliness and energy seemed to have gone out of them. And, they constantly had their faces glued to some little black and silver boxes about the size of their palms. Whatever could they be doing?

Drumstick, who had resigned himself to a week of terror, was actually quite pleased with the changes. Wool found himself sad. Who else would groom him so carefully? Bacon had been doing wind sprints for weeks in preparation of the chasing, and he’d even packed on a few pounds – some of it muscle – to prepare a more fearsome appearance to strike fear in Thomas’ heart.

Instead, they found themselves standing at the edge of their pens, staring at the kids who sat unmoving at the edge of Farmer Bob’s porch. They grumbled when asked to do chores they used to love, like throwing cracked corn to Drumstick, giving Bacon his slops, and shoveling Cheddar’s cow pies.

Finally, on almost the last day of their visit, Farmer Bob took away their little devices and made the kids play in the farmyard. Suddenly, it was like old times! Ellen petted Wool and Thomas chased Drumstick and Bacon. Everyone had a great time for those last couple days.

Best of all, when the kids’ mother came to pick them up, they were all smiles and happy waves to the animals of Farmer Bob’s farm as they left. They’d be back next year.
Bacon and Wool: Grandkids

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Who is coming to visit the farm?
   A. Farmer Bob’s grandkids
   B. Farmer Bob’s friend’s kids
   C. Farmer Bob’s nieces and nephews
   D. Some neighborhood kids

2. Who does Ellen usually play with?
   A. Bacon
   B. Wool
   C. Drumstick
   D. Cheddar

3. Who does Thomas usually play with?
   A. Bacon and Wool
   B. Wool and Cheddar
   C. Drumstick and Bacon
   D. Cheddar and Wool

4. What’s different about this year?
   A. The kids are sad.
   B. The kids aren’t interested in playing at first.
   C. The kids are mean to the animals.
   D. Three kids show up this time.

5. What finally makes the kids play like they used to?
   A. They get bored and play.
   B. Farmer Bob spanks them.
   C. Farmer Bob takes away their phones and makes them play.
   D. They see how sad Wool and Bacon are.
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Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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   D. They see how sad Wool and Bacon are.
It was a special day on the farm for Wool the sheep. It was Shearing Day. That was the day he’d get a haircut. It only happened a couple times a year. Sometimes it was only once, but often it was twice a year.

Wool was excited! His fur had gotten all matted with dirt and grass lately, and it just seemed to drag at him. The curly fur was grey and discolored, not at all pretty. Not to mention, it was very warm! Try to imagine wearing a sweater all day that was several inches thick.

Farmer Bob had his shearing blades ready. They looked like funny scissors. Instead of opening and closing them with your hands like regular scissors, they were already open, and you squeezed them to shut them. Each time you squeezed, the blades slid together to slice along. The blades were also short, triangular, and very flat, so you could shear along the skin without cutting the sheep. That was very important!

Wool had a nice rinse in warm water, and then Farmer Bob started shearing. They followed along his belly, across his back, and down his legs. They cut off all of his fur in one giant piece! It looked like a dirty bathroom rug. If cleaned and combed out, the wool could be used to make things.

Nearby, Bacon snorted in laughter at his balding friend. Wool suddenly looked like half of his old size! Wool didn’t care. He was cool and clean. He took a run through the yard, shivering for the first time in months. He was never cold with all that fur. It felt good to be cool again.

Days later, the white, curly fur was already growing back. In a few months, it would be time to cut it again.
Bacon and Wool: Shearing Day

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Who is getting a haircut today?
   A. Bacon the pig
   B. Wool the sheep
   C. Cheddar the cow
   D. Saddlebags the horse

2. How did Wool feel about getting his hair cut?
   A. Sad
   B. Excited
   C. Tired
   D. Scared

3. What did Farmer Bob use to cut Wool’s fur?
   A. hedge trimmers
   B. children’s scissors
   C. shearing blades
   D. a razor

4. Who laughs at Wool for getting his haircut?
   A. Bacon
   B. Cheddar
   C. Saddlebags
   D. Farmer Bob

5. How many times a year does Shearing Day happen for Wool?
   A. two or three times
   B. one or two times
   C. only one time
   D. always two times
Bacon and Wool: Shearing Day

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

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Bacon and Wool: Dairy Time

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

There was a good chance that Cheddar the cow was Farmer Bob’s favorite animal. Drumstick the chicken was Farmer Bob’s alarm clock, which were useful, and Saddlebags the horse was fun to ride, but Cheddar was the most useful. Bacon mostly ate leftovers from the kitchen table and snorted a lot. Wool the sheep gave fur once or twice a year, but that wasn’t that big of a deal. Wool clothes made Farmer Bob all itchy and scratchy anyway.

Why was Cheddar so useful? Well, Baaaad Boy the goat could keep a field nearly as clear of grass and thistles as Cheddar, but he couldn’t make milk. Girl goats can make milk for certain, but the boy ones can’t. Cheddar, on account of being a girl, made milk. Milk meant dairy. Dairy meant lots of delicious stuff.

Farmer Bob would milk Cheddar every morning. He’d sit on a stool and collect her milk in a silver pail. Then he’d do a number of things to it. Raw milk could be heated up to kill any bad germs and drank, if wanted. Or, he could separate the cream out to get fresh cream. He could add cultures to it to make sour cream. Cream could also be churned into butter. That was a bit of a workout for the arms, though. The milk could be drank or cultured into yogurt, too. Ice cream was also a possibility. There were just so many delicious dairy products!

Farmer Bob loved his dairy foods. He was even known to make a bit of cheese from time to time, which was his favorite dairy food. And what was his favorite kind of cheese? Cheddar, of course. Cheddar the cow helped him make cheddar cheese.
Bacon and Wool: Dairy Time
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which of these characters is NOT mentioned in the story?
   A. Bacon the pig
   B. Wool the sheep
   C. Fillet the fish
   D. Saddlebags the horse

2. Which animal is Farmer Bob’s favorite?
   A. Baaaad Boy
   B. Bacon
   C. Saddlebags
   D. Cheddar

3. Why is this animal Farmer Bob’s favorite?
   A. She makes milk.
   B. He lays eggs.
   C. He is very cute.
   D. She is very sweet.

4. Which of these things does the story NOT mention Farmer Bob can make from milk?
   A. cheese
   B. yogurt
   C. pudding
   D. ice cream

5. What type of dairy is Farmer Bob’s favorite?
   A. cheese
   B. yogurt
   C. ice cream
   D. butter
Bacon and Wool: Dairy Time

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

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Bacon and Wool: You’re a Baaaad Boy

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

On Farmer Bob’s farm, every animal had their own personality. Some were adventurous or curious or shy, but only one was troublesome by nature. The goat, perfectly named Baaaad Boy, always seemed to look for trouble. This was different from Bacon and Wool, the duo of a pig and a sheep, that accidentally got into trouble.

Baaaad Boy started most days by kicking at his fence. As soon as he woke up, usually because of Drumstick the rooster’s squawking, he’d start kicking. Usually about once a week he could knock a board out of place and escape. Farmer Bob didn’t want to waste the money on a new fence, so he always fixed the old one after recapturing his mischievous goat.

After a good half hour of kicking at the boards, he’d go eat his food to get his strength up for more trouble. He would comb over the penned area, looking for tasty flowers and anything that wasn’t supposed to be in his yard. He particularly loved to eat paper. Whenever paper blew into his yard, he gobbled it down. Plastic he didn’t eat, but he’d chew it and spit it into a pile just over the fence row, so Farmer Bob would step on it.

Later in the day, Baaaad Boy would try to climb onto his house and making as loud of noises as possible. He had a small shelter he could get into to get out of the wind and rain. He could climb onto the rounded-roof building and bleat his heart out. He enjoyed singing, as he thought of it. All of the other animals in the yard hated his singing and would start shouting at him to be quiet. The ruckus this made was pretty overwhelming!

Before bedtime, Baaaad Boy liked to run around his pen making strange noises, like he’d once heard coyotes make. This startled Drumstick the rooster, and frightened Bacon the pig. The joke made the goofy goat bray with laughter, but the others didn’t much care for his routine.

A few more kicks at his fence and stomps on the roof of his house meant it was time to go to sleep. Except, even in his sleep he tended to cry out and make noise. He really was a noisy, troublesome goat!
Bacon and Wool: You’re a Baaaad Boy

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which of these characters is NOT mentioned in the story?
   A. Bacon the pig
   B. Wool the sheep
   C. Cheddar the cow
   D. Farmer Bob

2. Which two animals accidentally get into trouble sometimes?
   A. Baaaad Boy and Bacon
   B. Bacon and Wool
   C. Cheddar and Wool
   D. Baaaad Boy and Wool

3. What does Baaaad Boy do first when he wakes up?
   A. He eats.
   B. He kicks at his fence.
   C. He sings from the roof of his shelter.
   D. He makes coyote noises.

4. Which of these does Baaaad Boy NOT do?
   A. He chews on the tractor tires.
   B. He kicks at his fence.
   C. He sings from the roof of his shelter.
   D. He makes coyote noises.

5. How does the goat bother everyone even when he sleeps?
   A. He meows when sleeping.
   B. He cries out and makes noises in his sleep.
   C. He snores loudly.
   D. He wakes up early and bothers people.
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Bacon and Wool: To Each Their Own
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It was a regular old day at Farmer Bob’s farm. All the animals were out and about, doing their own thing.

Drumstick the chicken was pacing the yard, pecking at the ground. He was search for seeds, bugs, and worms. He hopped around and occasionally took to flight long enough to hop on top of the chicken coop. He never laid eggs though, on account of being a rooster.

Fillet the fish was paddling around the pond, swimming happily. Fillet took a lap or two to keep in shape. Then he looked for food but only found Bobber. Bobber floated along... like a bobber. Bobber wasn’t very good at holding a conversation.

Cheddar the cow was out in the pastures chewing grass. She wandered around the flowery fields, looking for the tastiest morsels of grass, all of which were kind of bland and sort of bitter. Food was not exciting for her, but she enjoyed looking. You never knew when the next tasty bite might come!

Saddlebags the horse was pacing up and down the fenced-in meadow. He strutted and trotted his way around the green area, looking fancy and majestic. He was the tallest and handsomest animal on the farm. Everyone knew it, and he wasn’t about to let anyone forget, even if he had to help pull wagons now and then.

Baaaad Boy the goat was looking for some sort of trouble to get into. At the moment, he was trying to figure out how to get onto Farmer Bob’s porch so he could eat some of his prized chrysanthemums. They sure looked tasty! He didn’t know if they were good to eat, but he certainly planned on eating a few to find out.

And what was our favorite duo up to? Wool was chewing grass and Bacon was planning their next big adventure. Between the sheep and the pig, they were certain to find something interesting. They were far too curious to stay out of trouble for too long!
Bacon and Wool: To Each Their Own

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which of these characters is NOT mentioned in the story?
   A. Bacon the pig
   B. Wool the sheep
   C. Fillet the fish
   D. Bark the dog

2. Which animal wants to eat the farmer’s flowers from his porch?
   A. Baaaad Boy
   B. Bacon
   C. Saddlebags
   D. Cheddar

3. Why doesn’t Drumstick lay eggs?
   A. He’s stubborn.
   B. He’s scared to try.
   C. He’s a rooster, not a hen!
   D. He is too old.

4. Which two characters are in the pond?
   A. Bacon and Wool
   B. Cheddar and Saddlebags
   C. Fillet and Bobber
   D. Drumstick and Baaaad Boy

5. Which type of animal is NOT mentioned in the story?
   A. a cat
   B. a sheep
   C. a cow
   D. a rooster
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