

Polly's Farm

1.

"We're nearly there!" says Luke's Aunt Polly, as they drive down the lane towards the farm.

"I'll bet Nutmeg has been waiting for you."

Nutmeg is Aunt Polly's horse. Aunt Polly has brought the children out to the farm to see

Nutmeg and her new foal.

The children jump from the car as soon as it has stopped.

Suggested Questions

Why have the children gone to the farm?

What sort of place is a farm?

What happens there?

Who works there – what sort of jobs do the people do?

2.

The children race towards the stable where Nutmeg spends most of her time. "Isn't she lovely," sighs Luke, gazing at Nutmeg's creamy-brown coloured foal. "What are you going to call her, Aunt Polly?" he asks.

"We're not sure yet. Maybe you could help us choose a name," says Aunt Polly.

"Hmmm," says Luke. "That's going to take a bit of thinking."

Suggested Questions

What is a foal?

What do you think would be a good name for this foal?

Why?

3.

Later that day, the children go on a tour of the farm. Aunt Polly takes them to the orchard, where the apple trees are heavy with fruit. Lots of people are up in the trees carefully picking the apples. They pass them down to other people who gently place them in boxes.

Suggested Questions

What is an orchard?

Why are the people picking the apples?

What will happen to the apples when they've been picked?

4.

“I didn’t know you had so many people working for you, Aunt Polly,” gasps Luke.

“I don’t most of the time,” replies Aunt Polly, “but this time of the year is very busy. I have to pay lots of people to help me for a few weeks – I can’t do all the work myself.”

Suggested Questions

Why does Aunt Polly pay people to help her?

What time of year do you think it is?

5.

Then Aunt Polly takes the children to the fields to see an enormous machine that is cutting the golden wheat.

“What’s that?” asks Jordan in amazement.

“That’s a combine harvester,” explains Aunt Polly.

“It helps me to cut down the wheat really quickly. I sell the wheat to the people who make flour and flour is used to make bread.”

Suggested Questions

What do we use wheat for?

Does anyone know what important kinds of food we make with wheat?

6.

“Now I need your help in the hen house,”
says Aunt Polly. She leads the children
back to the farmyard.

Suggested Questions

Where do you think the children are going next?

7.

The children follow Aunt Polly into the dark hen house where Hannah bumps into a post. As their eyes grow used to the dark, the children see the shapes of hens all around them.

“What are we going to do?” whispers Jordan.

Suggested Questions

What do you think the birds are doing in the dark?

Why do the children need to be quiet?

What might happen if they make lots of noise?

8.

Very carefully and quietly, Aunt Polly shows the children how to feel in the straw to find the eggs that the hens have laid. She shows them how to gently place the eggs into the egg trays so that they don't crack. Jordan and Luke go further into the hen house together, while Hannah helps Aunt Polly.

Suggested Questions

What can we use eggs for?

What kinds of food do you think have eggs in them?

9.

All afternoon the children work, collecting and storing the eggs that the hens have laid. It is hard work in the warm darkness of the hen house, and the children are tired when Aunt Polly says it is time to stop.

“That was fantastic,” says Jordan. “Can I come and do it again sometime?”

Aunt Polly smiles. “Of course you can,” she says.

“We’ve collected eight trays of eggs. Do you want to come to the shop in the village with me to sell them?”

Suggested Questions

Why do the children feel tired?

What do you think Aunt Polly will do with the eggs?

10.

The children go with Aunt Polly down to the village. In the shop Mrs Grigson buys all of the eggs they have collected. Aunt Polly shows them the money. "I'd like to buy you an ice-cream as a thank you for all your hard work," she says.

Suggested Questions

What work did the children do to earn their ice cream reward?

What do adults receive when they work?

What would you do with money, if you worked?

11.

"There's one thing we've forgotten," says Aunt Polly. "A name for Nutmeg's foal." The children thought quietly. Suddenly a scoop of Hannah's ice-cream falls into her lap. "Vanilla!" says Hannah. "That's it!" cries Luke. "Vanilla! That's the colour of Nutmeg's foal. We should call her Vanilla."

"That's a lovely name," smiles Aunt Polly.

"We'll call her Vanilla."

Suggested Questions

Who can remember some of the different jobs that were being done on the farm?

Which looked like the hardest work? Why?

Which job would you most like to do on a farm?
Why?

Which job would you least like to do on a farm?
Why?