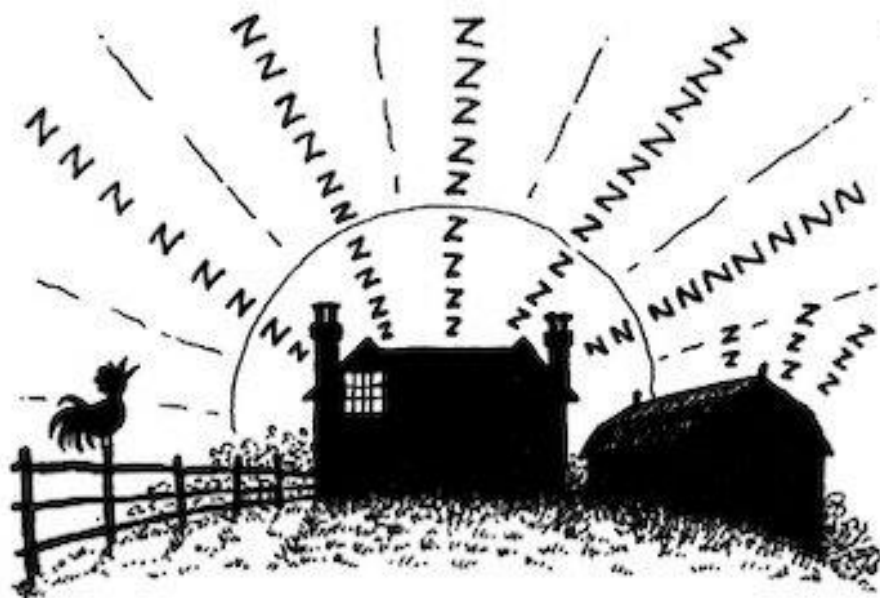


Chapter One

There was once a family of all sorts of animals that lived in the farmyard behind the tumble-down barn on Mudpuddle Farm.



At first light every morning Frederick, the flame-feathered cockerel, lifted his eyes to the sun and crowed and crowed, until the light came on at old Farmer Rafferty's bedroom window.



Mossop was a tired old farm cat who spent most of his day curled up asleep on the seat of Farmer Rafferty's tractor. Mossop paid no attention to Frederick – he got up when he pleased.



Farmer Rafferty was usually a kind man with smiling eyes, but like Mossop he was old and tired, and he ached in his bones in the wet weather. His animals were his only friends and his only family.



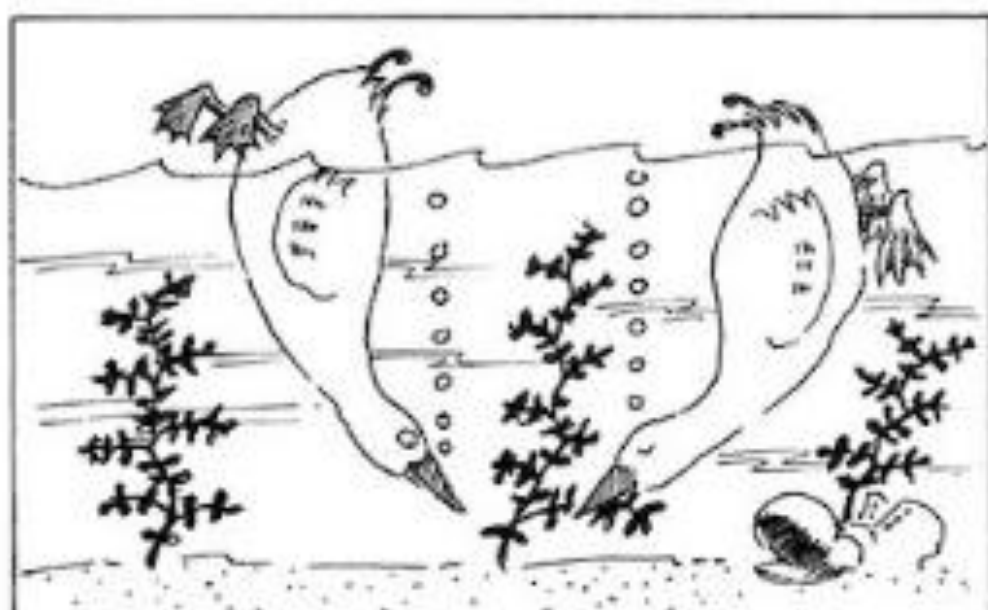
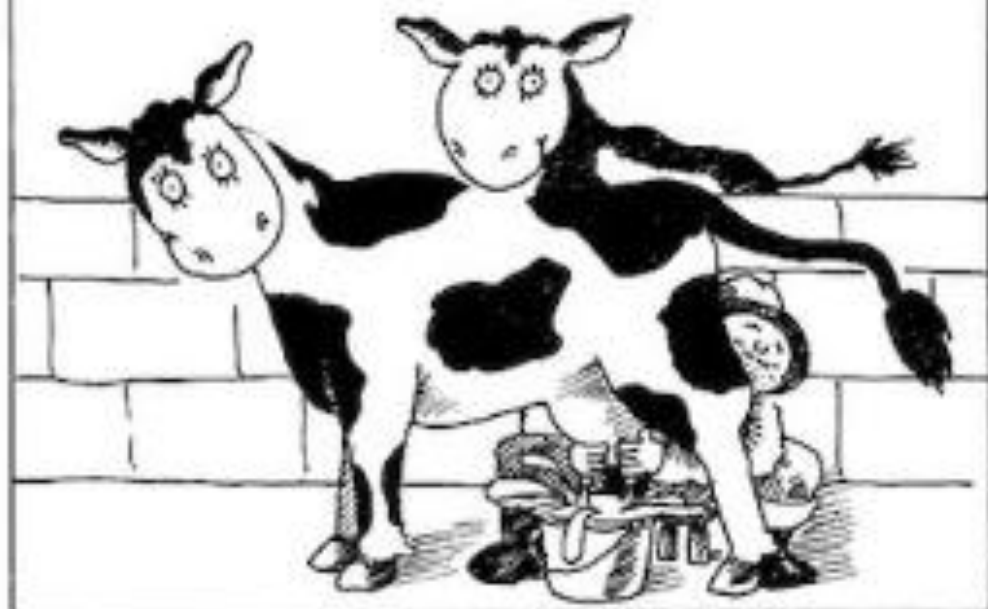
So, Frederick woke him up every morning.



Penelope and her speckled friends laid their eggs for him.

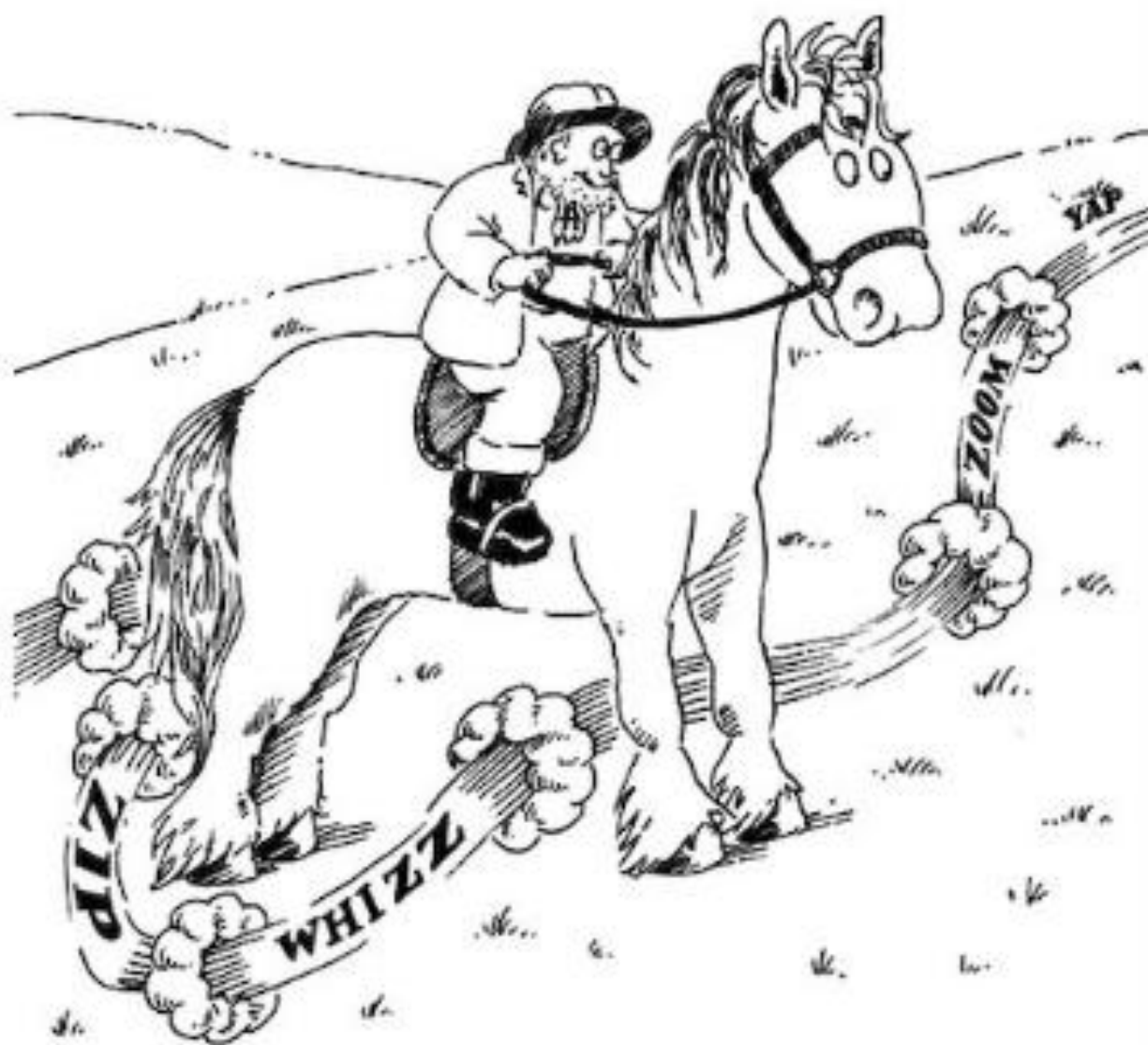


**Auntie Grace and Primrose let
down their milk for him.**



**Upside and Down kept the pond
clear of weeds.**

Captain carried him all around the farm to check the sheep.



Jigger, the almost-always-sensible
sheepdog, rounded up the sheep.

